

P E T I T I O N

TO: Lyndon Baines Johnson, President of the United States

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED AMERICAN CITIZENS, urge you to take immediate executive actions to support Negro Americans of the North and the South as they seek rights already guaranteed them by our constitution and laws.

ATROCITIES COMMITTED against Negro citizens in this nation still continue at a shameful rate. In the North problems of housing, education and unemployment, although more subtle, have damaging effects. In the South - particularly in Mississippi - murders, bombings, church burnings, and unlawful arrests go unpunished. Severe economic sanctions are taken against Negro citizens who participate in the civil rights movement, and against whites who show overt sympathy for it. Since local officials will not protect citizens engaged in the civil rights movement, and will not punish the perpetrators of these deeds, the responsibility is the federal government's.

YOU, AS THE PRESIDENT OF THIS UNION, can immediately take certain steps to commit your administration to an active, thorough defense of civil rights throughout the country, and thereby commit this nation unalterably to full and equal citizenship for all.

WE THEREFORE PETITION YOU to take the following steps:

1. Issue to the FBI explicit instructions to make on-the-spot arrests for federal crimes relating to civil rights. Too long has the FBI stood by taking notes and exercising an "investigative" function while violations are committed. We ask immediate enforcement of sections 241 and 242, Title 18, of the U.S. Codes.

2. Exercise your powers to create a special force of federal agents who would protect civil rights workers in Southern states and those Negro citizens who are seeking their constitutional rights. These powers are contained in sections 332, 333, Title 10, U.S. Codes.

3. Urge that the Civil Rights Commission hold open hearings immediately in Mississippi to determine the extent of violations there.

4. Appoint as federal judges in the South only those men who pledge to uphold the standard that all are equal before the law, particularly in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit - which includes Mississippi and Alabama - where a vacancy exists.

5. Appoint a new director of the FBI who will pledge the Bureau to active concern with and enforcement of civil rights.

Name

Address

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Note: partial list of sponsors on reverse side

