



✓ 5  
*Civil Rights*

## Research and Reference Service

FOREIGN REACTION TO SENATE PASSAGE  
OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

R-89-64

June 25, 1964

This is a research report, not a statement of Agency policy

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

Bundy

To note Summary.

Senate passage of the civil rights bill, seen as tantamount to its final passage, drew extensive reporting and comment from the non-communist press. Editors universally acclaimed the event as marking an "historic" advance, but many foresee grave and continuing problems.

Commentators dwelt impressively on what they saw as the significance of the action on a number of levels:

- It was the most important step forward in the American Negro's struggle for equality since the Emancipation Proclamation.
- It was a "victory" that will "shape the future of the United States," a "turning point" in America's history and development, setting a "distinctive new course." As a "victory of America's conscience," passage of the bill "changed the contours" of America's most pressing domestic problem, and vindicated the U.S. democratic system.
- The Senate's action enhances the international influence of the U.S., especially among the non-white and newly-independent nations, and blunts a major Communist propaganda point. It "reinforces the moral authority of the United States" and its dedication to freedom and social justice becomes more convincing. The Senate "created a new picture of the U.S. which has none of the old black spots or smears."
- Passage of the bill is a victory for the general cause of freedom and human rights everywhere, that will "gradually exert an influence over the whole world." Occasional comment explicitly notes that discrimination is a universal problem, and U.S. civil rights legislation "could well be taken as an example by other countries of the world."

Acclaim is accompanied by warnings that passage of civil rights legislation will not bring equality for the Negro immediately or easily, and expectations of continued bitter strife and resistance are widespread.

Some see the problem as stemming from "powerful" minority opposition and regional feelings, but it is apparently more commonly viewed as a fundamental, "deeply-rooted social problem," which will require a long period of "time, education, and a change of heart."

Along with cautions against expectation of "over-night" results and transformations, however, are some hopes that strife will henceforth be moderated: "The civil rights bill will help to change a revolution into an evolution."

The long debate appears to have heightened suspense and attention, and thus increased the dramatic impact of the Senate's action, but does not seem to have greatly increased understanding of the legal and constitutional issues involved. These issues are not generally discussed except in the sophisticated press. A few European papers express concern over what they see as an extension of Federal power. The long drama of debate does, however, appear to have sharpened abroad the impression that support for racial discrimination stemmed primarily from a minority of Americans.

The bill as a monument to President Kennedy is a recurrent theme, with tribute paid to President Johnson's skill, courage, and authority in bringing about its passage.

Soviet treatment has sought to downplay the importance of the Senate's action on the bill, stressing the "immense distance" between legislation and its "realization in life," predicting the continuance of racial clashes, and highlighting current episodes. No comment from Peking and other Communist areas in the Far East is available.

## CONTENTS

Western Europe . . . . .	1
Africa . . . . .	4
Near East and South Asia . . . . .	7
Far East . . . . .	10
Latin America . . . . .	12
Soviet Union . . . . .	15

June 25, 1964

COPY  
LYNDON B. JOHNSON LIBRARY

## WESTERN EUROPE

Senate passage of the civil rights bill received prominent news coverage in Western Europe and, especially in Britain, Scandinavia and Austria, extensive editorial comment as well. Material currently available indicates that, with a few prominent exceptions, French and West German reaction has not been so extensive. Most see the Senate action as a turning point in U.S. history and give credit to Presidents Johnson and Kennedy. At the same time, the majority is either skeptical or pessimistic over prospects for peaceful and early acceptance of the measure.

### Turning Point

Phrases such as "turning point" and "milestone" were often found in editorial comment. Rome's Il Giorno and Brussels' Catholic De Standaard, for example, acclaimed passage of the bill as the most decisive action "since Lincoln" in the racial area. London's leftwing Sunday Mirror said: "It is a victory for the human race." Two Madrid dailies echoed this theme. And Vienna's independent center Die Presse heralded "the trend toward one world, the order of equality." Such liberal papers as Copenhagen's Aktuelt and the Frankfurter Rundschau (Social Democratic), as well as Vienna's pro-coalition Neues Oesterreich, speculated favorably concerning the effect of the action on the American image abroad. The latter asserted: "The nations of Asia and Africa can now be told convincingly that America takes the equality of all of its citizens seriously."

### Credit

Most papers gave President Johnson primary credit for the Senate passage of the civil rights bill, but acknowledged his predecessor's courage in sponsoring the measure. The conservative Yorkshire Post referred to President Johnson's long Congressional service as "the most telling factor in [his] dexterous steering of the Bill." The liberal Journal de Geneve found his determination all the more exceptional in the light of his Texas origin. Sweden's most influential daily, Dagens Nyheter, referred to the realization of Kennedy's aspirations and efforts.

### Pessimism over Short-Term Prospects

Probably a majority of European commentators, including some of those cited above, foresaw a long and possibly violent struggle to achieve real acceptance of the Bill. Undoubtedly the long European experience of bitter colonial and ethnic strife blended with widespread awareness of current violence in the US to promote skeptical and often pessimistic views of the short-term prospects. Such pessimism was by no means confined to the conservatives, but included a number of influential papers of the moderate left. In Paris, influential Le Monde headlined: "Toward a Harder Struggle," predicting an intensification of both the Negro revolt and white reaction, while Combat feared that "the American racial drama may lead to the most tragic developments." Germany's pro-Socialist Neue Rhein-Ruhr Zeitung (Cologne) asserted: "The seeds of evil are continuing to grow" and asked whether civil rights would be effectively realized -- a question, it added, which was "becoming a touchstone of American democracy." Right-center German papers echoed the theme that the Bill "might open the sluices to another wave of unrest" (Handelsblatt, Duesseldorf) and that "rights which exist only on paper do more harm than good" (Muenchner Merkur).

By contrast, an optimistic and long-range view was expressed by some liberal papers. Stockholm's Dagens Nyheter spoke for many Swedes when it asserted: "It is this modern USA which is the greatest -- and which in the long view will be the only American community we know."

### British Papers See Major Changes in US System

Two leading British papers saw in the Senate action the jettisoning of much of the traditional U.S. political theory and practice, but viewed this projected development with different eyes. The conservative Sunday Telegraph referred to the great increase in governmental power "to interfere in a whole host of ways with the lives and property of the individual ... The tragedy is that the Negro problem has proved so intractable that it has defeated the American political system." The editorial thrice used the word "tragic" and bitterly regretted that "justice for the Negro can be achieved only by un-American methods." The liberal Guardian also saw, as a result of civil rights and the war on poverty, a "sweeping extension of federal power into areas from which they were previously excluded altogether." In the paper's view this was a good thing. Since "welfare liberalism has failed," it added, American liberals may now be compelled to question the basis of the American capitalistic system and "move beyond the limits" of the New Deal. In an earlier comment, the London Times

had in contrast looked forward to the bill as a reversion to Congress of the legislative function: "Because of the paralysis of Congress" the Supreme Court has had to legislate -- "not a particularly healthy development."

### Goldwater

Senator Goldwater's vote against the bill attracted widespread attention everywhere, and in France evidently attracted more attention than passage of the bill itself. Milan's influential conservative Corriere della Sera was one of a number of papers feeling that the Senator had hurt his chances for the Republican Presidential nomination. Liberal Politiken of Copenhagen agreed and further saw bad omens for Republican unity. Finland's independent Helsingen Sanomat found Goldwater's failure to oppose the principle of civil rights a tribute to the growing power of the idea. Some French and German papers, underlining the dangers of white reaction in North and South, implied that Goldwater might profit therefrom. Against these voices must be set the affirmation of Copenhagen's Aktuelt:

"The enactment of the Civil Rights Bill has made it clear to 'the wondering world that has been watching Goldwater's campaign' that the moderate people in the US are in an overwhelming majority."



## AFRICA

The African press has responded to Senate passage of the civil rights bill with prominent coverage and enthusiastic comment. Papers in seven African countries described the bill as a major step forward in the Negroes' drive for equality but recognized that the bill's passage did not mean the end of racial discrimination in America. While editors censured Messrs. Goldwater, Faubus, and Wallace for impeding racial progress, they praised the American people, the US Senate, and Presidents Kennedy and Johnson for their combined efforts in achieving victory. The US was seen as implementing its democratic principles.

### An Historic Achievement

Editorials viewed the event as an historic act of major importance crediting it to "the American people."

The Nairobi Daily Nation (European-controlled) described passage of the bill as a "major milestone in the long struggle for civil liberties," while the Northern Rhodesian News (European-controlled) called it an "historic enactment." The Johannesburg Star (European-owned) called the bill a "landmark in the history of human rights legislation comparable with the Supreme Court's integrated education decision of 1954." Liberia's daily Listener (semi-official) said the bill "was the greatest act of the American people in the last 100 years." "With the passage of the civil rights bill," said the semi-official Voice of Ethiopia, "we are now pretty sure that the American people are 'highly' resolved that Lincoln and Kennedy shall not have died in vain." The East African Standard (European) expressed agreement with President Johnson's statement that "the terms of the bill go further to protect the rights of man under the law than any legislation this century." Nigeria's Daily Telegraph, (Eastern Region Party organ) said, "by passage of the bill, the American people have shown in strong terms that when the choice is between honor and infamy, they will choose the cause of honor, the only one worthy of those who claim they hold the key to democracy."



### Education and Time Needed to End Discrimination

Some papers expressed the view that while the bill represented significant gains for the Negro community, much remained to be done to eliminate racial discrimination. The Northern Rhodesian News said that "education, familiarization, and a change of heart are all necessary, and these take time." Nairobi's Daily Nation (pro-Government) commented that the bill "will not change overnight the discrimination and prejudice which so long has been the lot of the Negro in America," but "may mark the beginning of the end of racial discrimination in the US" since the bill has "adequate provisions for enforcement." A Sudanese paper, Al Ayyam (independent) editorialized that the civil rights bill "does not finally solve the racial discrimination problems in the US, but is a major step forward."

### Bill Enhances Negroes' Influence

The East African Standard expressed the opinion that the bill had provided Negroes with an important tool for commanding attention to their grievances. "It is likely," the paper commented, "that the guarantee under the bill of uniform standards for the registration of voters in elections will prove to be the American Negroes' real admission card to equality." The voting provisions of the bill, it continued, will enable the Negro to speak with "a voice to which politicians of the Faubus, Wallace, and Goldwater camp will have to pay heed." Monrovia's Listener observed that Faubus and Goldwater "did nothing less than try to trail their country's great standards in the dust." Sudan's Al Ayyam contended that US Negroes "through their efforts and the support of liberals among the whites have been able to gain many of their rights." It asserted that "this effort will not end until Negroes in the US enjoy all the privileges enjoyed by whites."

### Johnson, Kennedy, and US Senate Applauded

Several papers commented on the difficulties of securing the bill's passage and the tremendous energies that were expended to achieve it. The Voice of Ethiopia described the bill as "outliving a horde of Senatorial filibusters." Of President Kennedy's role, the Daily Nation said, "though a great President, Kennedy found it increasingly difficult in his last days in office to get legislation through Congress." "His tragic death is, in a way, part of the price America had to pay to pass this bill." A Sudanese paper, Al Ayyam, described the US Senate "as deserving our warm congratulations." "Part of the credit for passage," said Nairobi's Daily Nation, "must

go to President Johnson who used his great influence in the Senate to ensure that the bill came through Congress as intact, and as quickly as possible." "Johnson's tenacity made passage of this great bill possible" commented Monrovia's Listener.

#### US Foreign Relations Improved

Three African papers commented on the bill's effect on US foreign relations. An editorial in the Johannesburg Star said that "in President Kennedy's historic words, the US has made this commitment 'not merely for reasons of economic efficiency, world diplomacy, and domestic tranquility, but above all because it is right.'" "However much the cynic may demur," the Star continued, "it is against the background of such thinking that honest American criticism of South Africa must be judged." The East African Standard commented that "endorsement by the Senate of the bill must have been welcomed with relief not only by the majority of Americans at home but also those whose job is to project American policies and influence abroad." In the opinion of Monrovia's Listener, "only as of last Friday can the world say that the US is truly a great nation."

A Ugandan cabinet member declared: "We shall watch with interest and concern to see how speedily the bill passes through its other stages and how peacefully it is implemented. Only then can the US fairly lay claim to be among the leaders for human rights."

## NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Commentators in widely separate centers in both the Near East and South Asia generally regard the passage of the Senate civil rights bill as an historic turning point in the battle for equal opportunity in the United States. Some papers see the measure as a memorial to the late President Kennedy, while others credit the Johnson Administration. Most temper their praise, however, by warning that enforcement problems are apt to dilute the full effect of the legislation.

### Historic Turning Point

In Cairo, al-Ahram called the Senate bill "the most important decree issued in the United States in a long time," and concluded that it marked a "turning point in the history of the United States." Equally enthusiastic was al-Akhbar, which observed that the occasion was "an historic day in the life of U.S. Negroes. Justice triumphed in the USA 101 years after the liberation of the Negroes in the Abraham Lincoln era and seven months after the death of Kennedy." Al-Gomhoria said that "those who believe in the freedom of man and his right to life and work" were jubilant at the Senate's endorsement of the civil rights bill.

Extensive comment from the Israeli press also interpreted the Senate vote as an historic one. Pro-government Jerusalem Post declared that the passage of the civil rights bill "has changed the contours" of the United States' most pressing domestic problem: "Now Americans are no longer being called upon to search their souls over racial equality, but to abide by the law of the land." Davar, the socialist labor organ in Tel Aviv, remarked that "all friends of the United States and all lovers of righteousness and justice rejoice together" at the victory in the Senate. President Johnson's plan to sign the bill into law on July Fourth, the paper noted, was most appropriate since the day is "America's national holiday which symbolizes the zest of the American people for assuring the freedom and dignity of man." Hamodia, a religious Jerusalem daily, wrote of "the great fundamental importance of the law from the viewpoint of American history."

In Beirut, while the press gave full coverage to the Senate's action, independent as-Safa enthusiastically declared that "Yesterday a new America was born!" In approving the rights bill, the paper said, the Senate created "a new picture of the US which has none of the old black spots or smears."

South Asian comment echoed Arab and Israeli sentiments. Bombay's Free Press Journal, often critical of the United States, wrote that the passage of the Senate version of the civil rights bill "is the first major breakthrough in a hundred years after Lincoln and the Civil War in the task of translating the principles of the American Constitution -- as they apply to a tenth of the population -- into reality." In Colombo, the Ceylon Daily News warned that there are "obvious limitations" to the bill. But it concluded on a positive note. "This much is clear. Authority has taken an unequivocal position from which it cannot back out. That is as heartening as it is hopeful. There is a lesson in this for all of us."

#### Kennedy and Johnson Credited

Several papers saw the Senate bill as a fitting memorial to the late President Kennedy. The Ceylon Daily News said that the Senate has accorded "a profound posthumous reward to the late President." For civil rights were the "thaws and sinews" of the new liberalism to which Kennedy and his admirers subscribed. In Cairo, where sole credit was given to President Kennedy, al-Akhbar said that "Kennedy's spirit was hovering above the Senate when the voting on the civil rights bill was taken." The paper quoted Senator Mansfield as having said after the vote: "This is the hour Kennedy had waited for." In Israel, the Jerusalem Post said that the Senate had met "the late President Kennedy's challenge" when it passed the bill.

Other commentators laid the victory squarely at President Johnson's feet. Independent Maariv in Tel Aviv described the Senate vote as "a personal achievement for President Johnson" and said that it strengthened his position "as one of America's greatest Presidents." In Madras, the English-language Mail declared that "the Johnson administration can justifiably congratulate itself on its success against the Senate opposition."

#### Peaceful Social Revolution

A theme repeated in much area comment -- and particularly in Israel -- was that the Senate's passage of the civil rights bill reflected an underlying social revolution in the United States. In Israel, the Jerusalem

Post said that the Senate's action "reflects the resiliency inherent in the American political system." Independent Maariv wrote that it should be regarded as "a revolution in the social order ... a revolution which has taken place not through fighting at the barricades but by the raising of hands in the U.S. Senate." In a similar vein, leftwing Lamerhav saw the passage of the bill as "evidence of a social revolution such as America has not known since the Civil War days."

Bombay's Free Press Journal declared that "the passage of the bill undoubtedly indicates a growing trend in progressive thought in the country as a whole." Cairo's al-Akhbar wrote: "The new law abolishes racial barriers restricting the freedom of American Negroes.... There will be no more signs reading: 'Dogs and Negroes Forbidden to Enter'."

#### Enforcement Problems Seen

All editorials applauded the bill, but not all comment was enthusiastically uncritical. Many warned that the worst was yet to come when the bill had become law and had to be enforced. In Cairo, al-Akhbar predicted that "these rights will remain ink on paper for a long time." The paper declared that only "time, experience, and co-existence" -- and the inevitability of history -- could change the position of the Negro in the US. Al-Gomhoria concurred, reporting that "observers believe there will be long battles before these laws can be enforced."

The Ceylon Daily News reserved judgment after having noted "obvious limitations" in the bill. It agreed with Martin Luther King that "it remains to be seen whether every American community will respect the letter and the spirit of the new legislation."

In Israel, Hamodia (Jerusalem) foresaw a vigorous minority fight against the civil rights law and declared that "there is still no certainty that economic and social discrimination will be immediately eliminated in either the South or the North.... Who is going to gain the upper hand in that coming struggle is as yet unclear."

The Mail of Madras said that the Johnson administration was well aware that implementing the rights laws "will be an uphill task, involving much time and money and endless litigation." Bombay's Free Press Journal noted that almost one-third of the Senate had opposed the bill and said that it is a "paradox of American democracy" that powerful voices can still be raised against the concept of equality.



## FAR EAST

The Far East press\* enthusiastically applauded the Senate passage of the civil rights bill. Editorially, the action was welcomed as certain to improve the U.S. image abroad and as a badly needed answer to Communist charges of officially-sanctioned racial persecution in the United States. While only a few editorialists in the area expressed fear that the bill might lead to increased civil rights strife, a number noted that the legislation in itself was not enough and needed popular support and co-operation. The bill was generally described as a monument to the late President Kennedy and a political triumph for President Johnson.

### Good for U.S. Image

The civil rights bill passed by the Senate was heralded by a number of newspapers in the area as a dramatic counter to Communist propagandistic exploitation of racial discrimination in the United States--one that was certain to strengthen the U.S. position on the international scene. The English-language Japan Times (Tokyo), for example, noted that the alleged TASS charge that the adoption of a civil rights law in the United States "is a far cry from its realization" was likely to be refuted. The editorial concluded with the hope, expressed by editorialists elsewhere, that the Senate's decision "will be an example for other countries to follow."

In Saigon, the Chinese-language daily Luan Dan proclaimed that the bill has deprived Communist propagandists of their "base of maneuvers for dividing the American people." The editorial added that the action stands in sharp contrast "to the high-handed manner with which the Communists treat people under their domination."

Taipei's independent Cheng Hsin Hsin Wen Pao declared that the bill "will gradually exert an influence over the whole world, just like the declaration of human rights." While from Seoul the Korea Times noted that the bill will "help allay to a considerable degree the anxiety of many millions of people, Americans and non-Americans, who have wished only well for the image of America and her justice."

---

\* Comment from Peking and other Communist countries in the area was not available by press time.



## Democratic Justice

Interspersed with this comment was the expressed view that the Senate action was an excellent testimonial of justice under the American form of government. From the Philippines, where the bill was warmly welcomed, the Manila Times concluded its editorial with the observation that "the law will be a triumph for the Negro cause, but no less for the American people as a whole and for their federal system of government." The Korea Times, meanwhile, observed that the bill "brings the three branches of the Federal Government to formal and solemn repudiation of racist dogma."

## Bill Alone Not Enough

Notwithstanding the widespread and effusive endorsement of the civil rights bill as an eloquent reaffirmation of the maxim that "all men are created equal," editorial comment also contained the sobering note that legislation alone is no panacea in this instance. Rather, public backing, it was contended, was needed to put teeth into the bill. The Canberra Times, for example, declared that enforcement of the bill "will have to be done by private citizens, both white and black, who are determined that justice prevails." The influential Straits Times in Kuala Lumpur suggested that in the short term the bill "will turn racial clashes, seemingly inevitable within the next few weeks, from gestures of protest into tactics of advance."

The Hong Kong China Mail, observing that the U.S. government "cannot arbitrarily impose change upon the country as a whole" through legislation, voiced the hope that the bill "will not spur the Negro on to extremes" and awaken segregationist groups to the injury their position does to the U.S. image abroad. Tu Do, in Saigon, predicted that opposition to the Senate action was certain to provoke "important" incidents and "have great repercussions in the coming November elections."

## Kennedy Memorial

Passage of the bill in the Senate was labelled an historic achievement in the memory of the late President Kennedy, the author of the legislation. In a typically-worded editorial, Saigon's Tu Do commented that the bill "must be recognized as a tribute to the work initiated by the late President Kennedy." In Taipei, Cheng Hsin Hsin Wen Pao observed that in submitting the original bill, President Kennedy was determined "to complete Lincoln's work."

In a reference to the present Administration, the Canberra Times described the legislation as a "triumph for President Johnson's political skill and authority."

## LATIN AMERICA

The Latin American press has given wire service news treatment to the Senate's passage of the civil rights bill. In addition there was substantial editorial comment for a few days. The tone of the comment was almost universally favorable and laudatory. The principal theme has been the resultant enhancing of the international prestige of the US and the influence the law-to-be will have on the rest of the world.

### General Praise

El Nacional (conservative) of Buenos Aires declared editorially: "The US Senate has approved one of the most glorious pages in the history of the American people. The US nation may not have the time to appreciate the dignity it has won in the eyes of the whole world. In this century it the US has been the standard-bearer of great transformations which were achieved after victories over great obstacles." El Pueblo (liberal), also of Buenos Aires, said the passage of the bill "deserves the approval and plaudits of men of good will throughout the world." The daily paid tribute to the "assistant majority leader, Hubert Humphrey, when he urged his colleagues to show by example that they were capable of debating without rancor, of winning without pride, and, on occasions, of losing without bitterness." The English-language Buenos Aires Herald noted that the "vote was tantamount to an overwhelming victory in a campaign that will shape the future of the United States. It may be fairly said that the Senate vote reflects the sense of responsibility of the nation as a whole. The civil rights bill will help to change a revolution into an evolution." The Buenos Aires Cronica (Peronista) declared that "men, women and children are celebrating the North American Senate's approval of the civil rights law, after 83 days of debate, the longest that has been recorded in the history of the US Senate."

A bill was introduced in the Brazilian Senate on June 22 declaring that the "Brazilian Senate manifests its joy at this historic decision, transmitting this fact to...the US Congress." Brazil's Ultima Hora (leftist) said that the US Senate approval of the bill was a "cause for jubilation not only in the United States, but throughout the world." Quito's El Comercio (moderately conservative) hailed the "evolutionary trend of democracy in the United States" which is a "civilization dedicated to the individual and his spiritual dignity." In

conclusion El Comercio said that the "new law will have a decisive influence in the building of a world truly equal for all citizens." The Trinidad Guardian (pro-US) observed that the US was ahead of other countries in the field of social justice. "Whereas the US has begun to set its house in order, other houses are burning down, notably in small countries like British Guiana and Cyprus. The US bill has advanced the cause of civil rights for men everywhere. It reinforces the moral authority of the United States and encourages those who are still oppressed to press forward." Mexico City's influential daily Excelsior lauded the bill in an editorial that stressed that the "North American authorities now have the legal means to end discrimination against the Negroes."

El Comercio (ultraconservative) of Lima carried a political cartoon, under the caption of "The Law of Racial Equality," which showed Uncle Sam balancing equally two plates labeled Whites and Negroes. Another Lima daily, La Tribuna (liberal), noted that "all men of the Western World who categorically repudiate discrimination due to race or color of skin or for whatever other prejudice are gladdened by the step that has been taken."

#### Lincoln, Kennedy, and Johnson

Bolivian President Paz greeted the bill as "a magnificent victory and a recognition of the memory of President Kennedy," and Foreign Minister Iturralde Chinel declared that the news should "please all nations. By this, the United States demonstrates that it is at a great stage of democracy." The La Paz daily, La Nacion (pro-US), declared that "today the US can be said to be truly on the democratic path and democracy has been purified in the hands of Democrats and Republicans in the spirit of Lincoln and Kennedy." The Lima morning daily Expreso (left-of-center) noted that the "most eloquent tribute" to the passage of the bill were the "words of President Kennedy in recommending approval of the bill." The English-language Buenos Aires Herald pointed out that "the late President Kennedy began this evolution. It is his achievement that yesterday's vote was possible. It is President Johnson's achievement that it was a sound, strong and confident 'yes' to the concept that the law must legislate equal opportunity for all people." Lima's ultraconservative El Comercio praised the law and noted that President Johnson will sign the bill on the same desk President Lincoln used to sign the Emancipation Proclamation.

### Reservations

A note of caution was struck by Jornal do Brasil (nationalist) which pointed out that prejudice is a deeply rooted social problem and that the law itself may not succeed in eliminating prejudice. The Venezuelan daily La Republica (semi-official government organ), while noting that the law will not end entirely racial discrimination, declared that "it is, however, a legal base with which to fight prejudices that have kept 20 million colored citizens in inferior positions."

### Communist and Cuban Reactions

The opposition has so far paid little attention to the passage of the bill. Mentioning the bill and linking it to the disappearance of the three civil rights workers in Mississippi, Chile's Socialist and pro-Communist Ultima Hora declared that the reaction of the "racist sector has been tragically violent."

From Cuba, Prensa Latina distributed to Latin America an item which appeared in a Revolucion commentary. The piece declared that the Senate had passed the civil rights bill despite "unenthusiastic" support by the Johnson "Texanocracy." The paper said the law is to Afro-Americans what the Alliance for Progress is to the aspirations of Latin American peoples--"a plaster that covers the sore but does not eliminate the purulence."

## SOVIET UNION

Senate passage of the civil rights bill drew a considerable volume of Soviet commentary attempting to minimize the importance of the legislation, although Pravda and several other newspapers have ignored the event. Moscow Radio immediately broadcast a brief, factual account of the vote to both foreign and domestic audiences. The follow-up TASS dispatch from Washington outlined the many hurdles the bill had overcome before passage and concluded that while "racists" had suffered a defeat in Congress, they would continue to struggle in their home states against implementation of the law. Occasionally conceding that passage of the civil rights bill marks "a certain success" for the struggle of American Negroes for equal rights, the Soviet press and radio have continued to spotlight incidents such as those in St. Augustine.

Izvestiya concluded that the century "delay" in passage of the bill will have a lasting influence in the South where "racial clashes do not cease for a minute, where racists attack those who favor civil rights for Negroes." Trud asserted that, while passage of such a law is a notable event, "such laws have long existed in New York and other northern states, but this hasn't prevented the flourishing of discrimination in employment, unions, schools, and housing."

"The new civil rights law does not look bad on paper," Literary Gazette admitted. "It increases the rights of Negroes to take part in elections (although it preserves the humiliating procedure of a "literacy test" for Negroes)...and formally prohibits racial discrimination in employment, hotels, restaurants, schools, theaters, stores, and public parks." According to Literary Gazette's New York correspondent, Negroes greeted Senate passage of the bill with "reserve and extreme watchfulness." "While the "battle in the capital" is over, one may say that only now has the struggle really begun for genuine and not just nominal equal rights and freedom for 20,000,000 Negroes in the US," he concluded.

"Racists do not intend to lay down their arms," was the thesis of a commentary in Komsomolskaya Pravda. "Having suffered what they consider to be a temporary defeat, the racists are now transferring the struggle to the streets in order to hinder the practical carrying out of civil rights legislation.... From adoption by the Senate of the civil rights bill to its realization in life is an immense distance," the commentator concluded.