

tion puts into the labor market millions of young persons unable to cope with the needs of modern society. The Attorney-General must be empowered to institute civil action in behalf of school segregation victims. He must also have the right, not only to intervene in suits involving the denial of civil rights in other respects, but also to initiate such suits. In short, the Attorney-General must be able to act on his own initiative, when he is satisfied of the need, to enforce the letter and spirit of the law, even when there are no individual complainants. This somewhat unusual power is justifiable because the atmosphere in some communities is such that the filing of an individual suit is a feat of heroism, likely to lead to economic and even physical retaliation.

There is a further need—proposed by the then AFL Executive Council in 1954 and embraced by the pending bill—for a system of financial rewards for school systems willing to desegregate. And federal aid should properly be withheld from recalcitrant school districts.

★ HOUSING

All Americans must be free to buy or rent any home they can afford. The AFL-CIO supported ban on discrimination in federally-financed and federally-insured housing will have long-range effect toward this end. Meanwhile, a program of federally-supported middle income housing—essential in itself—would make substantial inroads in segregated neighborhoods and help to do away with de facto segregated schools.



★ PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

The AFL-CIO believes that every place of public accommodation should be exactly what the name implies. Among other things, it involves the surrender of “freedom of association” with respect to the race or religion of patrons. A man who sets up a place of public accommodation has, by that action, voluntarily surrendered one segment of his right of “freedom of association.” During business hours, within the framework of whatever uniform and equally-applied rules he may devise, he must “associate” with whatever members of the public choose to patronize his establishment. If he cannot accept this requirement he should stop pretending to run a public place, and go into some other occupation.