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AFTER a long-drawn-out struggle, at the close of its 1957 session, Congress finally voted approval of a limited civil rights bill. Signed into law by the President on September 9, the measure became the first federal enactment since Reconstruction days of a measure designed to safeguard and give effect to the civil rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

While the new law falls far short of the legislative objective sought by the AFL-CIO of making enforceable the civil rights guaranteed to all Americans by the Constitution, the legislation is the first notable step in that direction in this century.

The new measure is essentially a "right to vote" law. The Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution makes unlawful the denial of the right to vote to any citizen on account of race or color. The primary purpose of the new Civil Rights Act is to provide additional procedures to protect the voting rights of Negro citizens, the denial of which has been widespread in the South.

How is the new law designed to accomplish this?

First of all, it establishes a Commission on Civil Rights. The commission is to consist of six members, to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Three are to be Democrats and three Republi-

If you know of an actual or threatened violation of voting rights and want to know how to prevent such a violation under the new law, write for advice on how and where to file charges under the Civil Rights Act of 1957 to Department of Civil Rights, AFL-CIO, 815 Sixteenth St. N. W., Washington 6, D. C.