

The Vice President
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vice President:

At a time when many Americans are separated by deep emotions as to the rights of some of our citizens as guaranteed by the Constitution, there is a constant need for restraint, calm judgment and understanding. Obedience to law as interpreted by the courts is the way differences are and must be resolved. It is essential to prevent extremists from causing irreparable harm.

In keeping with this spirit, President Eisenhower, in his State of the Union Message, said:

"It is disturbing that in some localities allegations persist that Negro citizens are being deprived of their right to vote and are likewise being subjected to unwarranted economic pressures. I recommend that the substance of these charges be thoroughly examined by a Bipartisan Commission created by the Congress. It is hoped that such a Commission will be established promptly so that it may arrive at findings which can receive early consideration. ***

"We must strive to have every person judged and measured by what he is, rather than by his color, race or religion. There will soon be recommended to the Congress a program further to advance the efforts of the Government, within the area of Federal responsibility, to accomplish these objectives."

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The right to vote is one of our most precious rights. It is the cornerstone of our form of government and affords protection for our other rights. It must be safeguarded.

Where there are charges that by one means or another the vote is being denied, we must find out all of the facts -- the extent, the methods, the results. The same is true of substantial charges that

