

data from any executive department or agency. It may be required to make interim reports pending completion of a comprehensive final report containing findings and recommendations.

The Commission will have authority to hold public hearings. It will investigate the allegations that certain citizens of the United States are being deprived of their right to vote or are being subjected to unwarranted economic pressures by reason of their color, race, religion or national origin. It will study and collect information concerning economic, social and legal developments constituting a denial of equal protection of the laws. It will appraise the laws and policies of the Federal Government with respect to equal protection of the laws under the federal constitution.

The need for more knowledge and greater understanding of these most complex and difficult problems is manifest. A full scale public study of them conducted over a two year period by a competent bipartisan commission, such as is recommended by the President, will tend to unite responsible people of good will in common effort to solve these problems. Such a study will bring clearer definition of the constitutional boundaries between Federal and State governments and will insure that remedial proposals are within the appropriate areas of Federal and State responsibility. Through greater public understanding of these matters the Commission may chart a course of progress to guide the nation in the years ahead.

