

than the criminal sanctions which are the only remedy now available.

V. Comment on Other Proposals Relating to Civil Rights Now Pending Before this Committee.

There must certainly be grave doubt as to whether it is wise to propose at the present time any further extension of the criminal law into the extraordinarily sensitive and delicate area of civil rights. Because of this doubt and because of my conviction previously expressed as to the importance of civil remedies in this field, the Department of Justice is not proposing at this time any amendments to sections 241 and 242 of Title 18, United States Code, which are the two principal criminal statutes intended for the protection of civil rights. Whether the present moment is appropriate for such legislation is, of course a question for the Congress to determine.

Nevertheless, it must be conceded that all question of timeliness aside and considered strictly from a law enforcement point of view both statutes have defects. I have observed that H.R. 627 would amend them both and, if they are to be amended, I have a few comments and suggestions to offer.

First: Section 241 of Title 18, United States Code, makes it unlawful for two or more persons to conspire "to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same." The statute

