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## Rights Bill's Dangers Cited In New Dixie Manifesto Text

From The Commercial Appeal, Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, July 12. — The text of the new Dixie Manifesto opposing pending civil rights legislation, signed by 83 Southern representatives, and released Thursday:

### "WARNING 'OF GREAT DANGER'"

"Whereas, under the guise of pious language the Civil Rights Bill, H. R. No. 627, proposes to establish a Commission on Civil Rights, and to provide for an additional assistant attorney general, and further purports to strengthen the civil rights statutes and protect the right to vote; and

"Whereas, the truth is that these combined proposals if enacted into law would constitute a flagrant violation of states' rights; would result in further concentration of power in the Federal Government and vest unprecedented powers in the hands of the attorney general, and would intrude the authority of the Federal Government into matters which under our Constitution are expressly reserved to the states and the people.

### 'Unqualified Opposition'

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we, the undersigned members of the United States House of Representatives, conscious of the grave and far-reaching consequences involved in it, hereby pledge our unqualified opposition to this iniquitous legislation and, confident of the soundness of our position, express the following cogent reasons that impel us to take this united stand.

"The bill authorizes the commission, with the aid of paid investigators and 'voluntary' pressure groups and professional informers, to launch a sweeping 'investigation of allegations' which might lead them to believe that 'unwarranted economic pressure' is supposedly being exerted by private individuals over others, because of their religion as well as their race.

"In addition, and wholly unrelated to race or religion, the commission is directed to 'study and collect information concerning economic, social and legal developments' and 'to appraise the laws and policies of the Federal Government' in the entire field of so-called civil rights.

"The term 'civil rights' itself is not defined, and what would constitute unwarranted pressure, economic, social and legal developments, and the scope of the appraisal and investigation, are left to the whim of the commission.

"And through the power of subpoena the commission could compel any person to testify and open his books to public inspection.

### 'Would Be No Redress'

"The proposed additional assistant attorney general would be in charge of a special Civil Rights Division to be created and which would be manned by a vast horde of lawyers and investigators.

"A politically minded attorney general could subject the governments of states, counties, towns and localities and the officials and citizens of the same to insults, intimidation and terror, against which there would be no redress.

"Armed with the power which this legislation would expressly confer, the attorney general, even without the consent of the plaintiffs, could file purely private law suits by and for private citizens against their neighbors.

"In no case would it be neces-

sary to prove the commission of any overt act, and under the bill the attorney general could obtain an injunction on a simple allegation that the defendant 'is about to engage in an attempt' to do something that the lawyers in the Civil Rights Division conceive to be objectionable.

"All actions would be tried in the Federal courts and tried without a jury, and Congress, for the first time in history, would specifically permit the attorney general to by-pass state law and ignore available local remedy.

"This device to concentrate more power in the Federal Government and to flout states' rights is an insult to all liberty loving American citizens.

### 'States Are Sole Judges'

"Under the Constitution the states are the sole judges of the qualifications of voters and throughout the long history of the United States the manner in which our elections are held has been a time-honored function of the states.

"The broad language of the bill would open practically the entire field of elections, including state primaries, to Federal intervention.

"The intrusion of the Federal Government into this field has not heretofore been permitted or even considered, except in precise instances clearly defined by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

"If additional powers in matters of elections are deemed to

be necessary to be vested in the Federal Government, then Congress should attack the problem squarely by proposing an amendment to the Constitution.

"No one has the wildest idea of the purpose for which the extraordinary powers created by this legislation will be employed and to grant them by such vague language as is contained in the bill approaches recklessness.

"The people in the United States who entertain notions that the so-called racial issue is paramount in the sum total coverage of these proposals are due for a rude awakening when their own real civil rights will be invaded if this legislation should be adopted.

"Our real civil rights spring from the Bill of Rights which, among other things, provides that all matters not prohibited to the states nor delegated to the Federal Government are re-

served to the states or the people.

### 'Further Fuel And Flame'

"It is an unfortunate fact, however, that this bill will add further fuel and flame to discord engendered by certain agitators and if adopted could only result in deterioration of the good will and the harmonious relations existing between the races and grievous injury to the steady progress and advancement of the very people whom the proponents profess to assist.

"Be it, therefore, further resolved that we invite and urge every member of like mind in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, where the rules of procedure are more flexible, to join with us in the employment of every available legal and parliamentary weapon to defeat this sinister and iniquitous proposal."