

000 acts set apart.

NATIONAL—LOCAL

President Truman recently issued an executive order by which a committee was to be formed for the purpose of eliminating discrimination by those persons who accept government contracts.... This committee would operate along the lines of a Fair Employment Practices Commission such as exists in New York State.

This latest action by the President is only a drop in the bucket. Continuous appeals have been directed to the President urging that a Fair Employment Practices Commission be established by an act of Congress. In his first term in office the President's supporters sponsored an FEPC bill.... Due to a Dixiecrat filibuster, the measure was finally dropped. Since that time no further attempts have been made to secure such legislation.

If as alleged, most Democratic and Republican legislators are interested in advancing the cause of civil rights; why has the following suggestion never been tried? At the end of this present term, why doesn't the President and his administration supporters reconvene both Houses into special session, and introduce a Fair Employment Practice Act?

The argument would probably follow that a ~~Senate~~ filibuster would kill such an attempt. ~~In this instance~~ however, the strategy would be to allow the filibuster to continue ad infinitum. A further tactic would be to televise such a Senate filibuster on a nation-wide hook-up. There being not many more than a dozen Dixiecrats ~~in the~~ these gentlemen would in short time be afflicted with severe cases of laryngitis, or else public opinion would silence them. FEPC legislation could then be enacted in short order.

Some persons would quickly squelch such a proposal or even the motivating ideas behind it. The claim would be that a Fair Employment Practices Act isn't of paramount importance in these trying times. To such argument let it be noted that fifteen million persons comprise this country's largest minority group, and they are not the only ones who are discriminated against in the matter of job applications. Can it be denied that the acquisition or denial of a job to one-tenth of this country's population is not of prime importance to each and everyone of us?

This matter of a Fair Employment Practices Act assumes local prominence when it is remembered that such a statute has yet to be enacted in the State of Pennsylvania.