

Civil Rights Listed Among Most Violent Of Controversies In Administration

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Editor's Note: This is the fifth in a series on the record of the Eisenhower administration.

Washington — The most violent controversies of the past four years have been raised over issues in the broad field of civil rights, from racial integration of the public schools to the administration's security program for weeding out federal employees suspected of being security risks.

Nothing has occurred more monumental in this period than the Supreme Court's decision striking down segregation in the schools, but it has fomented outcries from most politicians of the Deep South pledging to resist the implementation of the decision in order to preserve the historic southern pattern of racial

separateness. Because the high court is a branch of the government apart from the executive which President Eisenhower heads, and its makeup is bipartisan — seven Democrats and two Republicans when the school decision was handed down — the Eisenhower administration can hardly claim credit for this historic ruling. And yet it agreed entirely with the decision, as the arguments before the court of administration lawyers clearly demonstrated.

In the mounting furor over the court ruling, many have criticized the president for not exerting leadership to calm the troubled waters through a White House conference of reasonable

mind men of the South. Whether this "hands off" attitude will turn out to be best or not remains to be seen.

Defeat of Southerners
Legislatively, Eisenhower has proposed much the same civil rights bill that President Truman sent to Congress. And he met the same result—defeat at the hands of southern Democrats in the Senate who use the filibuster as their main weapon.

But, administratively, the administration has made advancements to further the rights of Negroes by pushing integration in the nation's capital's schools, hotels, restaurants, playgrounds; ruling by the Interstate Commerce commission that segregation on buses and trains is il-

legal; ending segregation in veterans' hospitals; carrying through with integration of the armed forces; fostering greater employment of Negroes in government.

Because of the heavy fire by Republicans against the Truman administration over charges of Communists-in-government, the Eisenhower administration was in office only three months before it issued a tough security program which applied to all government employees, whether in sensitive jobs or not.

Employees Dismissed
In his 1954 state of the union message, Eisenhower reported that 2200 federal employees had been dismissed under this program. Subsequently, this figure was raised to 6926, then 8008, and finally 9600—figures which GOP politicians were quick to put to use. Vice President Nixon, in a 1954 campaign speech, claimed:

"We're kicking the Communists and fellow-travelers and security risks out of the government not by the hundreds but by the thousands."

But since then, the administration has conceded that these figures were misleading or false

in almost every respect, as follows:

1. Over 90 per cent of those numbered as "security risks" actually left government by regular civil service procedures without a test of their case, many without knowing any charges had been lodged against them.

2. Through last Sept. 30, only 1016 employees actually had been charged under the security program—and of these, only 342 were dismissed.

3. Over half of the 9600 employees listed as having been weeded out had been hired by the Eisenhower administration. The cases of several individuals aroused general public attention. An air force lieutenant, Milo J. Radulovich, was branded a security risk because of suspicions concerning his father and sister. He was later restored to his initial status.

form expert—was let out by the State Department when it shifted that program to the Agriculture Department. State had cleared him, but Agriculture dismissed him as a security risk. Then another agency, Foreign Operations Administration, hired him after agreeing with State that he was not a risk.

Navy Employee Suspended

Abraham Chasanow, a navy employee, was suspended without pay for 14 months while his case was determined by a hearing board, which ended by clearing him. Then an assistant secretary of the Navy summarily dismissed him, despite the board's ruling. When the press championed Chasanow—in stories that won a Pulitzer prize for Anthony Lewis of the Scripps-Howard Washington Daily News—he was finally restored to duty.

Much of this administration confusion over who was or was

not a real security risk came during the period when Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.) was still riding high as chairman of the Senate committee on government operations, investigating the International Information Administration, which then ran the Voice of America and overseas libraries.

The Eisenhower administration instructed its officials to cooperate with McCarthy, for the president, while despising the senator's tactics, decided not to tangle with him. McCarthy, as a result, summoned regiments of government officials to Capitol Hill and conducted open warfare against various administration programs with the clear implication that he considered the Eisenhower administration "soft on Communism."

McCarthy Lowered

McCarthy was finally brought to his present low estate by two

almost simultaneous circumstances: in the elections of November, 1954, Democrats won control of the Senate, thereby removing McCarthy from his seat of power as chairman of the investigating committee; the Senate convened shortly after that election in special session as a climax to the Army-McCarthy televised hearings of that spring, and in the end voted to censure the senator for his conduct.

On the whole, the administration has operated a tough security program to restore public confidence in the integrity of government employees, although this has worked hardships and unfairness on those wrongly accused. And the administration has used misleading figures about the program for political purposes.

(NEXT — What's happened to natural resource development?)

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Clinton, Tenn.—(U.P.)—Assistant Police Chief Joe Wilson on the shower of tin cans and tomatoes loosed by white students in front of Clifton High school where the integration of Negro students in the school has created great tension:

"They even threw a policeman. We almost had a riot when they started throwing tomatoes and everything else."

Chicago—Psychologist Edward M. Bennett describing the conduct of a "deputy survey" on the relationship between personality traits and political persuasion that showed Republican women more self-centered and Democratic women more unhappy:

"Naturally, some of our interviewees got thrown out on their ear."

Knoxville—Democratic presidential nominee Adlai E. Stevenson attacking this country's progress in development of atomic energy for peacetime uses:

"It has become increasingly apparent that, under the Eisenhower administration's go-slow policies, we are lagging seriously in the development of nuclear energy for peacetime purposes."

New Delhi—Touring Chief Justice Earl Warren turning aside a suggestion his wife should join him in broadcasting a speech over the Indian radio network:

"I do all the talking for the family in public. Mrs. Warren does all the talking at home."

Washington—Miss Bertha Adkins, chairman of women's activities of the Republican National committee, on whether President Eisenhower noticed her "I Like Ike" silk stockings when she visited his office:

"I don't think he looked at them."

Forest Park, Pa.—AFL-CIO President George Meany underlining the "definite progress" the union's executive council has achieved against racketeering in organized labor at a summer session here:

"We are not ever going to be satisfied with the answer that the autonomy of individual unions can be used as a cover-up for corruption practices."

Cutter Laboratories

Named in New Lawsuit

Oakland, Calif.—(U.P.)—A Modesto, Calif., couple's suit for \$100,000 against the Cutter Laboratories, Inc., has brought to \$3,468,773 damages sought from the Berkeley firm in connection with polio vaccine it manufactured last year.

It was the 26th suit against Cutter and it was filed by Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon M. Smith in behalf of their four-year-old daughter, Cindy Lee Smith. They said she contracted polio 10 days after she received an injection of Salk Vaccine manufactured by Cutter April 18, 1955.

Newark, N. J.—(U.P.)—Louis West's number was up because it was too easily recognized. West, 30, was arrested at a check cashing firm when he tried to pass a bad check for \$58.58. He was sentenced to 16 months in prison Wednesday after admitting he cashed three other bogus checks this month, each for \$38.58.

Damage Suit Filed In Mt. Hood Tragedy

New York — (U.P.) — A \$500,000 damage suit has been filed in federal court against Youth Hotels, Inc., for the injuries received by a 16-year-old girl when she fell with a party of teenagers down the slopes of Mount Hood, Ore., last month.

One girl was killed in the accident.

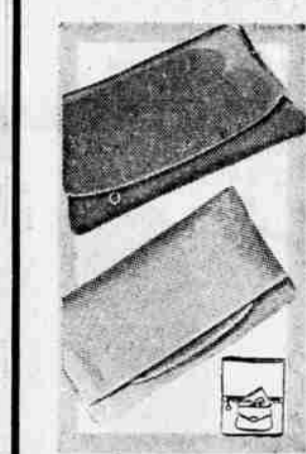
The suit was filed by Herbert Blum, of Baldwin, N. Y., on behalf of his daughter, Suzanne. It asked \$450,000 for damages and \$50,000 for medical and other expenses.

Blum charged that the company was negligent in failing to prevent the fall and had not advised parents of the teen-aged tourists that mountain climbing would be involved in their \$430 cross-country tour.

The National Safety Council said past records indicate accidents are killing, on the average, about 40 farm residents each day and injuring one farm person about every half-minute.

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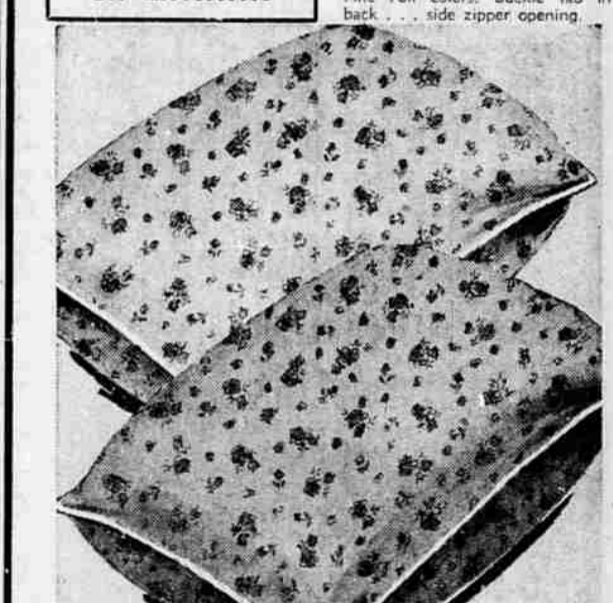
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