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Commission Finds Non Compliance With Civil Rights Bill Rampant

WASHINGTON--A government survey of health and welfare service desegregation in the South has revealed widespread non-compliance with the law in federally supported programs, some of them run by state and local government.

The survey, made by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, was named "Title VI... One Year After."

The report disclosed "widespread segregation or exclusion of Negroes in federally-assisted programs at the state and local level in the areas visited" by commission personnel.

According to the survey, the majority of children in Operation Head Start were enrolled in segregated projects located in segregated schools and taught by teachers of their race.

"For the majority of the Negro children, in Head Start programs surveyed by the Commission, the program meant that their first educational experience was in a segregated setting, similar to that of their older siblings."

"THESE PUPILS were housed in Negro schools, taught by Negro teachers, and surrounded by Negro classmates."

"Similarly, more than 75 per cent of the white children participating in these projects had little or no contact with Negro children in the classroom."

The commission found "discernible patterns of noncompliance" with the anti-discrimination provisions of the 1964 Civil Rights Laws in two-thirds of the hospitals surveyed.

State hospitals and state institutions remained segregated, with the exception of mental hospitals, which "desegregated quickly."

The report singled out privately owned Selma (Ala.) Baptist hospital as an example of a hospital which "continues to exclude Negroes entirely from its services."

The hospital has refused to sign a non-discrimination agreement, the report said.

Vocational rehabilitation programs in the South remain as segregated as ever, the commission went on, noting that Texas was the only exception.

The commission cited Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act as authority for non-discrimination in federally-assisted programs.

Section 601 of that title says that "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

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