



# Activity Cues

DATE: April 19, 1965

TO: Public Affairs Chairman  
Vice President of Education

RE: Legislative Alert

VOTING RIGHTS: The next few weeks will be critical for the passage of an effective voting rights bill. Already the less committed Senators and Congressmen are probing for weaknesses among the supporters of civil rights. The climate of public opinion must be favorable if a good bill is to be adopted.

Action: The attached fact sheet from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights gives an analysis of the current status of the legislation and its prospects in Congress. Use it as your guide to immediate action.

"MEDICARE." An extensive and complex bill to provide hospital insurance for the elderly under social security, as well as voluntary insurance for medical care has passed the House of Representatives. It is now before the Senate Finance Committee where it is not expected to encounter serious opposition.

Action: The enclosed statement to the Committee expresses Council's views. A letter to your own Senator will help to reinforce this position.

FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION: Beginning with the next school year there will be millions of additional federal dollars available for education throughout the country. The passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is a milestone in our educational history. The arena of action now shifts to the States and local school districts.

Here there are two major objectives for Council action:

1. To see that sound educational programs are developed to take advantage of the federal funds available.
2. To minimize, to the extent possible, the amount of public funds used to support parochial and other non-public education.



As beginning steps we suggest the following:

1. Letters from state legislation chairmen to the State Commissioner of Education asking for information about state plans. This could then be circulated to all Sections in the state.
2. Requests by Sections for information from local school boards for their plans for new or expanded programs. Here it is important also that Council Sections, and other groups interested in strengthening the public schools, be prepared to support educationally sound and productive proposals and to oppose those which would fragment public education.
3. Assign a Section Public Affairs Committee member to attend Board of Education meetings regularly as a "watchdog" to keep alert for developments.

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