individual." There still is some fear of being identified as a "white liberal." But it says, "I don't have to make a statement; I will just do; I will act.""

In the whole struggle, the federal government of the sixties played the role of "sympathetic referee," Lewis said. "Today, people—black and white—don't see the government as a sympathetic referee. Local people feel completely cut out of it as far as the federal government is concerned. The federal government is not responding."

The King and Kennedy assassinations also had their effect on the spirit of the people, Lewis believes. "The little people—again, black and white—identified with them. They had a greater degree of hope."

These developments and new conditions have some implications for Lewis's Voter Education Project and the emphasis will remain on the basic goal of local voter registration of blacks. VEP makes small grants only to local, indigenous groups across the South. "We probably have a greater degree of contact with local groups than any other organization and I see us as broadening that base of contact," Lewis said. VEP has funded its first Mexican-American group in Texas and is planning to help register some low-income whites in Tennessee.

Black television newsmen

There are, at the most, seven black reporters who appear on network television news broadcasts, network sources have informed RRIC. They are Bill Matney, Gordon Graham and Norma Quarles of NBC; Jim Giggins and Mal Goode of ABC; Hal Walker and Chance Williams of CBS. Matney is White House correspondent for NBC, and Gordon Graham also works out of NBC's Washington bureau. Norma Quarles, who works out of New York, is on the air about twice a month. Giggins is in Vietnam and Goode covers the United Nations for ABC. Walker is in Washington and Williams is in Los Angeles.

Ponchita Pierce, who had been with CBS in New York, was released on Feb. 19. Lem Tucker, formerly with NBC in New York, resigned some time ago to become news director of WOR-TV in New York. Tucker frequently substituted for Frank Blair as newscaster on NBC's Today show.

State advisory committees

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is planning a national conference for its state advisory committees—the first meeting of all the state groups in about five years. The National SAC conference will be held at Washington's Statler-Hilton on April 1-3. A commission spokesman in Washington said that the conference would "take a new look" at what the responsibility and continuing roles of the advisory committees should be during "the new era" of civil rights. Each state committee is expected to be represented by its chairman and at least one or two individual members. One of the special interests will be civil rights developments in the growing suburban areas of the nation. Two open meetings on this subject were held recently in Baltimore and St. Louis. Although the formal program has not been announced, it is anticipated that President Nixon will address one session of the national conference. ** *

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