Report on the Agnew committee

Little has been heard recently from the "Agnew Committee" and the talk around Washington is that the committee's activity has been quiet, too. As evidence of a lesser role for the committee, it has been noted that Vice-President Agnew has little to do with the committee now and the name has been changed from the Cabinet Committee on School Desegregation to the Cabinet Committee on Education. Departure of Robert Mardian as executive director (to become assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice) was believed to be another sign of change.

Committee staff members told RRIC that the agency currently is "involved in routine matters--nothing of a controversial nature." The primary function now, a staff source said, was continuing the relationship with the state advisory committees created in seven Southern states last summer (Race Relations Reporter, No. 13: Aug. 3). "They continue to make suggestions and advise on all kinds of matters--emergency school-aid funds and possible conflicts within the states," RRIC was told.

As for the vice-president's role, his "primary responsibility was to get the Cabinet Committee organized and functioning. The operational phase is the principal responsibility of the vice-chairman, George Shultz." Shultz is now director of the Office of Management and Budget in the White House. Mardian was replaced as executive director by Edward L. Morgan. With Morgan's appointment, the committee "was brought under the fold" of the Domestic Council of the White House, which he serves as assistant director. The administrative change, committee sources said, caused "no significant or major change in role or function for the committee," (Cabinet Committee on Education, Executive Office of the President, the White House, Washington, D.C.)

Over at HFW, the Office for Civil Rights has completed tabulation of the regional statistics on school desegregation for the 1970-71 year. However, the state-by-state figures are not expected until about June. The June announcement will include the information on the number of Negroes in segregated classrooms. The printed volume of school-by-school enrollment by race will not be available until during the next school year. 

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