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ACTION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Last Day: August 9

August 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JIM CANNON *Jmc*
SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill H.R. 6219 - Amendments
to the Voting Rights Act of 1965

Attached for your consideration is H.R. 6219, sponsored by Representative Edwards and seven others, which extends and amends the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

A detailed description of the bill is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Lazarus) and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign H.R. 6219 at Tab B.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

The attached bill is to be
signed today - August 6th -
at 12 o'clock.

Signed 8/6



APPROVED

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

AUG 4 1975

AUG - 6 1975
Signed in Ceremony
Rose Garden - 8/6/75
Remarks Issued: 8/6/75

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

To Archive
8/7/75

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 6219 - Amendments to the Voting Rights Act of 1965
Sponsor - Rep. Edwards (D) California and 7 others

Last Day for Action

August 9, 1975 - Saturday

Purpose

To extend and amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Agency Recommendations

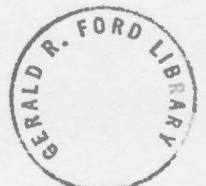
Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Department of Justice	Approval (Signing Statement attached)
Commission on Civil Rights	Approval
Civil Service Commission	Approval
Department of Commerce	Defers

Discussion

The Voting Rights Act expires August 6, 1976. This enrolled bill would extend the Act and amend it.

On January 27, 1975, you proposed a simple five-year extension of both the basic provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the temporary ban on literacy tests and other similar prerequisites to voting as set forth in the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970. The enrolled bill would go substantially beyond your January proposal; it would:

- extend for an additional seven years the special remedies of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which apply to certain States and political subdivisions with a history of voting discrimination;



- make permanent the temporary five-year ban on literacy tests and other similar devices which was introduced by the Voting Rights Amendments Act of 1970;
- expand the coverage of the Act beyond racial discrimination to language minorities, requiring both registration and voting materials in the minority language. The bill would require only oral instructions and assistance in jurisdictions in which the minority language is unwritten;
- require the Bureau of the Census to collect biannually in every statewide congressional election voting and registration statistics by race, color and national origin in those jurisdictions covered by the Act or designated by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights;
- authorize private persons to sue for application of the special remedies of the Act;
- update Section 10 and Title III of the Voting Rights Act to reflect the provisions of the 24th and 26th Amendments to the Constitution which deal with poll taxes and 18 year old voting; and
- make multiple voting in a single election a felony offense.

Discussion of the enrolled bill by Title follows:

Title I - Seven-Year Extension and Permanent Ban on Discriminatory "Tests or Devices"

This title would provide for a seven-year extension of the special remedies of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. The special remedies apply to jurisdictions which maintained literacy tests or devices as prerequisites to voting on November 1, 1964 or November 1, 1968 and in which voter registration or turnout in the 1964 or 1968 Presidential election was less than 50 percent of the voting age population. These special remedies would:



- authorize the Attorney General to dispatch examiners to register voters. These examiners prepare lists of applicants eligible to vote and State officials are required to register those on the lists;
- authorize the Attorney General to dispatch observers to monitor election day activities;
- require a "preclearance" process in which all proposed changes in State and local election laws and procedures must be certified by either the Attorney General or the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia as nondiscriminatory in purpose or effect prior to their enforcement.

The bill would make permanent the temporary nationwide suspension of literacy tests or similar devices as prerequisites to registration or voting in any Federal, State, or local election. In its June 10, 1975 report on H.R. 6219 to Mr. James Cannon, Director of the Domestic Council, the Department of Justice notes that this provision may be constitutionally infirm in that it does not require a prior finding of a denial of a constitutional guarantee. However, on this same issue of constitutionality, the May 8, 1975 House Judiciary Committee report on H.R. 6219 concluded that the Supreme Court has supported the authority of the Congress to make such a ban permanent, even in the absence of a judicial determination that the tests are a denial of equal protection or other constitutional guarantees.

Title II - Expansion to Minority Language Citizens

Title II of the bill would expand the coverage of the Voting Rights Act to include "language minority citizens." This expansion was recommended by the Commission on Civil Rights. The term "language minority citizens" refers to those persons who are Asian American, American Indian, Alaskan natives, or of Spanish heritage. This particular expansion of the Act would be of great symbolic value to Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans.

Specifically, H.R. 6219 would apply in any jurisdiction in which in the November 1972 general election greater than five percent of the voting age population were "language minority citizens"; the Director of the Census had determined that less than 50 percent of the voting age population were registered or had



voted; and there had been provided election materials only in English. Current data indicate that the States of Texas and Alaska and approximately 40 scattered counties in six other States would be brought within the coverage of the Act.

Jurisdictions covered by the operation of the Title II trigger are required to provide registration and election materials printed in the language of the applicable minority and are subject to the preclearance, examiner, and observer provisions contained in Title I.

These newly qualifying jurisdictions may be exempted from coverage if they can sustain a "bail out" action by establishing before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia or the Attorney General that English-only election and registration procedures or any other "tests or devices" were not used for the purpose or with the effect of discriminatorily denying the right to vote to such language minority citizens during the ten years preceding the filing of the bail out action.

Title III - Illiteracy Among Minority Language Citizens

Title III would ban English-only elections for ten years in States or political subdivisions in which more than five percent of the voting age citizens are members of any single "language minority" and in which the illiteracy rate of that minority is greater than the national illiteracy rate ("illiteracy" is defined as the failure to complete the fifth primary grade). All jurisdictions in which the ban is applicable, as determined by the Director of the Census, would be required to provide election and registration materials in the language of that minority. Where the minority language is unwritten or oral, the affected jurisdiction would be required only to furnish oral instructions and assistance.

A qualifying jurisdiction could bail out by bringing suit in any U.S. District Court and successfully demonstrating that the illiteracy rate of the applicable minority is equal to or less than the national rate. If the jurisdiction successfully bails out, it might then conduct English-only elections without violating Title III. Whether such English-only elections would violate other provisions of Federal law or the Constitution would be left to the courts for determination. The Attorney General is given authority to enforce this Title.



Title IV - Private Suits, Biannual Census Surveys, 18-year Old Vote, Poll Tax, and Making Multiple Voting a Felony

Private Suits Authorized. Section 401 of this Title would amend the Voting Rights Act to allow private parties to bring suit to enforce the voting guarantees of the 14th or 15th Amendments and seek the special remedies afforded in Title I. Specifically, this would authorize courts to grant relief to private parties in suits brought to protect voting rights in both covered and noncovered jurisdictions. This section would also amend the existing Act to allow a court, in its discretion, to award attorney's fees to prevailing parties.

In reviewing these provisions, the Department of Justice stated in its June 10, 1975 report to Mr. James Cannon, that it would have preferred the bill be limited to provide:

- that private actions be limited to suits involving systematic denial of 15th Amendment Rights;
- that notification be made to the Attorney General that special remedies are being sought in a suit by a private party and to afford the Attorney General the right to intervene in the suit; and
- that suits to enforce the guarantees of the 14th or 15th Amendment be limited to invoking the special remedies of the Voting Rights Act.

Biannual Election Census Surveys. Title IV would also amend the Act to require that the Bureau of the Census conduct bi-annual election surveys in all jurisdictions covered by the special provisions of the Act following each congressional election beginning with the 1974 elections and report its findings to Congress. These surveys would include a count of citizens by voting age, race, color, or national origin, and a determination of the extent to which such persons are registered to vote and have voted in the elections surveyed. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 directed the Bureau of the Census to conduct surveys of voter participation in primary and general elections in those jurisdictions designated by the Civil Rights Commission. Although the Commission has made such designations, Census surveys have not been conducted because funds have not been authorized. The Department of Commerce estimates that the cost of an effective survey under the new provision would total between \$100 million and \$200 million over the next seven years. We estimate that these responsibilities will cost approximately \$50 million in fiscal year 1977.



Eighteen Year Old Vote, the Poll Tax, Felony Offense for Multiple Voting. The bill would amend Title III of the Voting Rights Act (eighteen-year-old voting age) to remove provisions made superfluous by the ratification of the 26th Amendment. The enforcement authorities of the Attorney General contained within the Act regarding the 26th Amendment would be unaffected. Finally, denial of any right secured under the 26th Amendment would be made a felony offense punishable by a maximum of five years imprisonment or a maximum \$5,000 fine or both.

Section 10 of the Voting Rights Act regarding the Poll tax would be amended to reflect the provisions of the 24th Amendment which prohibits denial of rights to vote in Federal elections for failure to pay poll or other taxes.

Finally, voting more than once in any general, special, or primary Federal election would be defined as a felony offense punishable by up to five years imprisonment or a \$10,000 fine or both.

Budget Impact

The Department of Commerce estimates a required increase of \$100-200 million over the next seven years in the Bureau of the Census budget. The Department of Justice estimates that this expansion of the Voting Rights Act will require a modest personnel increase (between five and ten attorneys and five to ten non-attorneys) in order to enforce Titles II and III. The Civil Service Commission notes that its continuing responsibility to provide examiners for the registration of voters and poll observers to oversee the balloting process could require additional personnel and budget, but CSC is unable at this time to estimate the amount.

James M. Frey
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

AUG 4 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 6219 - Amendments to the Voting Rights Act of 1965
Sponsor - Rep. Edwards (D) California and 7 others

Last Day for Action

August 9, 1975 - Saturday

Purpose

To extend and amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Department of Justice	Approval (Signing Statement attached)
Commission on Civil Rights	Approval
Civil Service Commission	Approval
Department of Commerce	Defers

Discussion

The Voting Rights Act expires August 6, 1976. This enrolled bill would extend the Act and amend it.

On January 27, 1975, you proposed a simple five-year extension of both the basic provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the temporary ban on literacy tests and other similar prerequisites to voting as set forth in the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970. The enrolled bill would go substantially beyond your January proposal; it would:

- extend for an additional seven years the special remedies of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which apply to certain States and political subdivisions with a history of voting discrimination;



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: August 4

Time: 230pm

FOR ACTION: Jim Lynn
Dick Barsons
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Jim Cavanaugh
Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:

August 5

Time: 200pm

SUBJECT:

H.R. 6219 - Voting Rights Act
(enrolled bill and signing statement)

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CAVANAUGH
FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *MF*
SUBJECT: H.R. 6219 - Voting Rights Act

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs with the agencies
that the subject bill be signed.

Attachments



Date: August 4

Time: 230pm

FOR ACTION: Jim Lynn
 Dick Parsons
 Max Friedersdorf
 Ken Lazarus
 Paul Theis

cc (for information): Jim Cavanaugh
 Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:

August 5

Time: 500pm

SUBJECT:

H.R. 6219 - Voting Rights Act
 (enrolled bill and signing statement)

ACTION REQUESTED:

<input type="checkbox"/> For Necessary Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Your Recommendations
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Agenda and Brief	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft Reply
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

No objection. -- Ken Lazarus 8/5/75



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Special Agent in Charge
 for the President

Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

JUL 31 1975

Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management
& Budget
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Lynn:

In compliance with your request, I have examined a facsimile of the enrolled Bill H.R. 6219, "To amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to extend certain provisions for an additional seven years, to make permanent the ban against certain prerequisites to voting, and for other purposes."

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Justice recommends Executive approval of this Bill.

SUMMARY

I. Major Provisions

- A. Title I: Extends the special provisions of the Act, including the requirement of preclearance of voting changes, and the authority to use federal examiners and observers in covered jurisdictions for an additional seven years (Sec. 101). Makes permanent the nationwide ban on literacy tests and devices in voting (Sec. 102).
- B. Title II: Expands the special provisions of the Voting Rights Act to states and political subdivisions in which: 1) on November 1, 1972 more



than five percent of the citizens of voting age were members of a "language minority" (Sec. 202);1/ ii) less than 50 percent of the citizens of voting age were registered on November 1, 1972, or less than 50 percent of such persons voted in the Presidential election of November, 1972 (Sec. 202); and iii) certain enumerated election and registration materials were printed only in the English language (Sec. 203(f)(3)).

Determinations as to coverage under Title II are to be made by the Director of the Census and the Attorney General. Jurisdictions covered by operation of the Title II trigger are required to provide the enumerated election-registration materials printed in the language of the applicable language minority (Sec. 203(f)(4)) 2/ and are subject to the preclearance (Sec. 204) and examiner and observer provisions of the Act (Sec. 206). Unlike jurisdictions covered by operation of the two previous triggers, which can bail out in another seven years, jurisdictions covered by the Title II trigger have a ten year bail out provision.

- C. Title III: Bans for ten years English-only elections in states and political subdivisions in which greater than 5 percent of the voting age citizens are members of any single "language minority" 3/ and in which the illiteracy rate of that minority is greater than the national illiteracy rate (Sec. 301(b)). Illiteracy is defined as failure to complete the fifth primary grade (Sec. 301(b)). Political subdivisions within

1/ Defined by the Act as "persons who are American Indians, Asian American, Alaskan Natives, or of Spanish heritage" (Sec. 207).

2/ If the language minority's language is oral or unwritten the covered jurisdiction is required to provide oral assistance (Sec. 203(f)(4)).

3/ Defined as in Title II, supra, n. 1 (Sec. 301(e)).



states which are covered by this Title but in which there are less than five percent voting age citizens of the applicable language minority are not subject to the provisions of Title III (Sec. 301(b)). The Director of the Census is required to certify which jurisdictions are covered by Title III (Sec. 301(b)).

Jurisdictions covered by the Title III ban are required to print certain enumerated election and registration materials in the language of the applicable language minority (Sec. 301(c)). 4/

Title III provides that a jurisdiction subject to the requirements of Title III may bail out by bringing suit in Federal District Court. The court shall grant the declaratory judgment if it determines that the illiteracy rate of the applicable language minority group within the jurisdiction is equal to or less than the national illiteracy rate (Sec. 301(d)). The Attorney General is given authority to enforce this Title.

II. Miscellaneous Provisions

- A. Section 401 allows private parties, in addition to the Attorney General, to seek the remedies provided by Section 3 in a voting rights suit.
- B. Section 403 requires the Bureau of the Census to conduct biannual election surveys in all jurisdictions covered by the special provisions of the Act following each Congressional election beginning with the 1974 election. Such surveys are to include a count of citizens of voting age by race, color or national origin, and a determination of the extent to which such persons are registered to vote and have voted in the elections surveyed.

4/ Subject to the same proviso as is contained in Title II.
See p. 2 supra, n. 2.



- C. Sec. 402: provides for the award of attorney's fees to the prevailing party (other than the United States) in suits brought to enforce the voting guarantees of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.
- D. Sec. 405: Codifies 28 C.F.R. 57.22, which allows the Attorney General to give expedited review of Section 5 submissions.
- E. Sec. 407: Amends Title III of the Voting Rights Act (Eighteen Year Old Voting Age) to remove provisions made superfluous by the ratification of the 26th Amendment. The Section retains Title III's enforcement provisions, but modifies them to authorize Attorney General enforcement of the 26th Amendment.
- F. Sec. 408: Amends Section 10 of the Voting Rights Act (The Poll Tax) to reflect the provisions of the 24th Amendment.
- G. Sec. 409: Provides for criminal penalties for persons who vote more than once in a single federal election.

DISCUSSION

On July 28, 1975, the House concurred in the Senate version of the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1975, and forwarded the enrolled Bill to the President for his signature. The enrolled Bill is virtually identical to H.R. 6219, which was passed by the House on June 4, 1975, by a vote of 341 to 70. 5/ The enrolled Bill extends for seven years the

5/ The Senate vote was similarly lopsided: 77 voted in favor and 12 against H.R. 6219.



special coverage of the Act, including the requirements that covered jurisdiction get preclearance of voting changes, and the authority of the Attorney General to appoint Federal examiners and observers. 6/ In addition the Bill makes permanent the nationwide ban on voting literacy tests and devices. 7/ Two major provisions have been added to the Act by the Bill: i) Title II expands the coverage of the special provisions of the Act to jurisdictions with substantial language minority populations, including persons of Spanish heritage, Asian Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, and with low voter participation in 1972; ii) Title III bans for ten years English-only elections in jurisdictions with substantial language minority populations, where those groups also have an illiteracy rate greater than the nationwide illiteracy rate.

The enrolled bill constitutes an appropriate extension and expansion of the Voting Rights Act, has received overwhelming support in both Houses of Congress, and is virtually identical to H.R. 6219, which the President indicated he could support in his letter of July 18, 1975, to Senator Hugh Scott.

We estimate that the bill would require a modest personnel increase (between five and ten attorneys and five to ten non-attorneys) in order to enforce Title II and III. Title IV may require further expenditure by the Census Bureau. The total economic impact will be slight.

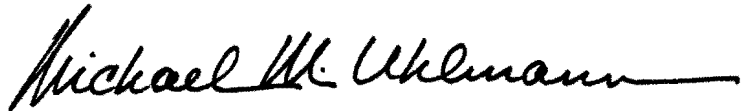
6/ The President had proposed that the special provisions of the Act be extended for five years.

7/ The President had proposed a five year extension of this provision.



For the foregoing reasons the Department of
Justice recommends Executive approval of this Bill.
Attached is a proposed Presidential Statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael M. Uhlmann". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line at the end.

Michael M. Uhlmann
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs



STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT

On January 25, 1975, I forwarded to the House of Representatives a Bill which provided for a five year extension of the basic provisions of the Voting Rights Act. In my letter to the Speaker of the House I stated that:

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 has been an extremely effective statute. Since its enactment, substantial progress has been made in safeguarding and furthering the right to vote. Nonetheless, our experience indicates the need to extend once more the key sections of the Act.

Congress has now acted, and has forwarded to me for my signature the Voting Rights Amendments of 1975. This Bill will extend the special coverage of the Act for an additional seven years, and will permanently ban the use of literacy tests and devices nationwide. In addition, the amendments will extend the special coverage of the Voting Rights Act to jurisdictions with substantial language minority populations which had low voter participation in the 1972 Presidential election, and will require jurisdictions with substantial language minority populations which have illiteracy rates higher than the nationwide illiteracy rate to conduct bilingual elections and registration.

It is my belief that this Bill accomplishes two important goals: First, and of great importance, the Bill extends the much needed provisions of the Voting Rights Act for an additional seven years. Great strides have been made in the ten years in



which the Voting Rights Act has been enforced. Literally millions of Americans have been enfranchised. The job has not yet been completed, but the progress which has been made during the past ten years warrants considerable optimism that we would complete it within the next seven years. The second important contribution which this Bill makes is to expand the protection of the Voting Rights Act to jurisdictions with large concentrations of persons of Spanish heritage, American Indians, and Asian Americans, who have yet to fully participate in the political process. This Bill takes steps toward the accomplishment of the goal of assuring all citizens an equal place in American politics.

The right to vote is the foundation of freedom. Today, in signing the Voting Rights Amendments of 1975, I am proud to join with the Congress of the United States in assuring that this most precious right be guaranteed to every American.



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20425



STAFF DIRECTOR

JUL 31 1975

Mr. James M. Frey
Assistant Director
for Legislative Reference
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503


Dear Mr. Frey:

This letter is in response to your request dated July 29, 1975 inviting our views and recommendations on HR 6219, a bill which expands and extends the Voting Rights Act of 1965 for an additional seven years. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has taken an active role during the past year with respect to Congressional consideration of the Voting Rights Act, and the Commission is pleased that many of the recommendations which first appeared in our publication The Voting Rights Act: Ten Years Later are included in HR 6219, now before the President for his signature.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has long felt that the right of every person to vote is each citizen's most important civil right. It is unfortunate that legislation like the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was necessary at all, but abuses documented in the 1960's left the Federal government with no other alternative. Since its enactment, the Voting Rights Act has proven to be the most successful of all the civil rights acts. It has addressed itself to voting problems not only in the south, but all over the nation. We are pleased that this new extension of the Act will expand its coverage to include language minorities, especially Mexican Americans.

Pursuant to our recommendation in The Voting Rights Act: Ten Years After, we would have preferred a 10 year extension as originally passed by the House of Representatives. At the same time, however, we are anxious to see the Act extended and its protections continued for many Americans who still must have their right to exercise the franchise safeguarded.

Sincerely,


JOHN A. BUGGS
Staff Director





UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20415

CHAIRMAN

August 1, 1975

Honorable James T. Lynn
Director
Office of Management and Budget

Attention: Assistant Director for Legislative
Reference

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in response to your request for a report on enrolled bill H.R. 6219, "To amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to extend certain provisions for an additional seven years, to make permanent the ban against certain prerequisites to voting, and for other purposes."

The subject bill would extend the operation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, for an additional seven years, and would bring within the coverage of the Act those States or political subdivisions in which more than five percent of the voting-age citizens, as determined by the Director of the Census, are members of a single language minority group. For purposes of the bill, "language minority group" means American Indians, Asian Americans, Alaskan Natives, or persons of Spanish heritage.

The bill further provides that in States and political subdivisions in which more than five percent of the voting-age citizens are members of a single language minority group, and the illiteracy rate of such persons as a group is higher than the national illiteracy rate, all registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials or forms which are provided relative to the electoral process, including ballots, must be provided in the language of each applicable minority group as well as in English.

In view of the Commission's continuing responsibility to provide Examiners for the registering of voters, and poll observers to observe the balloting process, upon request of the Attorney General, we anticipate that implementation of the provisions of the subject



bill could have a significant future impact in terms of personnel and budget. It is impossible at this time to assess what the extent of that impact might be. The Commission has no basis for objection, and accordingly recommends that the President sign the enrolled bill.

By direction of the Commission:

Sincerely yours,

Robert Hampton
Chairman





**GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUL 31 1975

Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Attention: Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in reply to your request for the views of this Department concerning H. R. 6219, an enrolled enactment

"To amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to extend certain provisions for an additional seven years, to make permanent the ban against certain pre-requisites to voting, and for other purposes."

The concerns of this Department with this legislation are confined to sections 202, 203, and 301, which require the Director of the Bureau of the Census to make certain determinations with respect to the voting characteristics of states and political subdivisions, and section 403, which directs the Bureau of the Census to conduct surveys to compile registration and voting statistics in certain states and political subdivisions in connection with the statewide general elections for members of the United States House of Representatives.

The determinations required to be made under sections 202, 203 and 301 can be made using available information and would require no additional appropriations to the Department for their implementation. However, the surveys directed under section 403 would require expenditures by this Department estimated at between \$100 million and \$200 million over the next seven years. As you know, the Department has previously brought to the attention of the Office of Management and Budget and of the Committees of Congress considering H. R. 6219, our concern with the magnitude of the expenditures which would be involved if section 403 were enacted.



2.

We would defer to the views of the agencies more directly concerned (including your office with respect to the expenditures involved) as to whether the President should approve or veto H. R. 6219. In the event that the President does determine to approve the legislation, it might be desirable to couple his approval with a request to the Congress that section 403 be modified either to eliminate the survey requirement or to reduce its impact upon federal expenditures.

Sincerely,

Karl E. Bakke

General Counsel



Final

I am pleased today to sign H.R. 6219, which extends and broadens the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The right to vote is at the very foundation of our American system of government -- and nothing must interfere with this precious right.

Today is the 10th Anniversary of the
~~One of the most effective pieces of civil rights legislation~~
signed by President Johnson of ~~which I~~
~~ever enacted~~ *the Voting Rights Act of 1965, was signed into law*
supported in the past decade,
~~ten years ago today.~~ ~~Because of this act,~~ the voting rights of millions of Americans have been protected and our system of government has been strengthened immeasurably.

The bill I am signing today ~~not only~~ extends the temporary provisions of the act for seven more years ~~and~~ ^{and} broadens these provisions to bar discrimination against Spanish-speaking Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Asian-Americans. Further, this bill will permit private citizens, as well as the Attorney General, to initiate suits to protect the voting rights of citizens in any state where discrimination occurs.

There must be no question about the right of each eligible citizen to participate in our elective process. The extension of this act will help to ensure that right.

#



(R. D. PARSONS)

Cannon

August 4, 1975

OK / 1975

*Female
D. Parson*

STATEMENT UPON SIGNING OF VOTING RIGHTS BILL

I am pleased today to sign H.R. 6219, which extends and broadens the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The right to vote is at the very foundation of our American system of government -- and nothing must interfere with this precious right.

One of the most effective pieces of civil rights legislation ever enacted, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, was signed into law ten years ago today. Because of this ~~act~~, the voting rights of millions of Americans have been protected and our system of government has been strengthened immeasurably.

The bill I am signing today not only extends the temporary provisions of the ~~act~~ for seven more years, but it broadens these provisions to bar discrimination against Spanish-speaking Americans, ~~American Indians, Alaska Natives~~ *American Indians, Alaska Natives* and Asian-Americans. Further, this bill will permit private citizens, as well as the Attorney General, to ~~commence~~ *initiate* suits to protect the voting rights of citizens ~~in any state where the special provisions are not now in force~~ *in any state where discrimination occurs*. ~~This will help to ensure that the important protections of the Act may be applied wherever discrimination in voting occurs anywhere in the nation.~~

There must be no question about the right of each eligible citizen to participate in our elective process. The extension of this ~~act~~ will help to ensure that right.



[Handwritten mark]

[Handwritten mark]

(Rousek)

August 4, 1975

STATEMENT UPON SIGNING OF VOTING RIGHTS BILL

I am pleased today to sign H. R. 6219, which extends and broadens the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The right to vote is at the very foundation of our American system of government -- and nothing must interfere with this precious right.

One of the most effective pieces of civil rights legislation ever enacted, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law ten years ago today. Because of this Act, the voting rights of millions of Americans have been protected and our system of government has been strengthened immeasurably.

The bill I am signing today not only extends the temporary provisions of the Act for seven more years, but it broadens these provisions to bar discrimination against language minorities. Thus, protection of the Act is extended from the present seven states to fifteen.



As I made clear to the Congress, I would have preferred to see this protection extended to the citizens of all fifty states -- for the denial of the right to vote in any state in the Union is totally unacceptable.

Nevertheless, I am pleased that the Congress did not permit the Act to lapse and did broaden its provisions to protect the voting rights of Spanish-Americans, Native Americans, and Asian-Americans.

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There must be no question about the right ~~each~~ eligible citizen to participate in our elective process. The extension of this Act will help to ensure that right.

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