

1B) Long Islanders Recognize the Problem of Racial Discrimination

80 LIers Will Parade For Integration Unit, *Newsday, November 7, 1958*

Huntington -- More than 80 Long Islanders are expected to take part in the Oct. 25 "Youth March for Integrated Schools" in Washington D.C. Mrs. Richard L. Rhodes of Tall Tree Ct., Huntington, said yesterday that at least two bus loads of Long Island residents would join 41 bus loads from New York City for the afternoon march past the Capitol. She said the marchers "will demonstrate our unity with the embattled children of the south who strive heroically to defend democracy in education."

Nassau Sets Up Rights Unit, *New York Times, May 10, 1962*

Mineola, L.I., May 9 -- The formation of a twenty-seven member Nassau County Committee on Human Rights "to guard against conflicts arising from discriminatory practices," was announced today by County Executive Eugene H. Nickerson. He said the advisory committee, which will serve without pay, would survey existing and anticipated conflicts in the county and make recommendations.

Long Beach Pledges Fight On Race Bias, *New York Times, June 1, 1963*

Long Beach, L.I., May 31 -- City officials here declared their intention today to "work unstintingly and constructively to remove all forms of racial discrimination from the City of Long Beach." The statement was issued after a three-hour meeting with representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Congress of Racial Equality. The meeting had been called in an attempt to ease tensions that grew out of sit-ins started last March by the civil rights groups to protest sub-standards housing.

The Struggle for Civil Rights, *Hempstead Beacon, August 14, 1963*

Pastoral letter of the most Reverend Walter P. Kellenberg, D.D., Bishop of Rockville Centre, read at all the masses throughout the diocese (Nassau and Suffolk Counties) on Sunday, August 11, 1963.

Dearly Beloved:

The principal and most difficult problem facing our Country and each of its citizens today is the struggle for civil rights. As your Bishop, it is my duty to remind you of certain facts that sometimes become obscured with the rapidly changing news of the day. The Declaration of Independence states what is also an incontrovertible fact of Christian teaching--that all men are created equal. All men come from God, and all are equally called by God to salvation.

Because pride, prejudice and selfishness have closed the minds and hearts of so many to the truth, efforts have been made to pass legislation which will help make men equal. Law is a necessary cure of those evils which for so long have deprived minority groups of their rights in American life and society.

But the problem of unequal treatment amongst men is really a moral one, and each individual conscience must recognize it as such. For this reason it is necessary that each individual examine his own conscience in matters of interracial and social justice. It means also, that each individual must study and acquaint himself with the facts about discrimination and the harm it does to all. It is further necessary that each of us by private and public prayer beg the Good God, unceasingly, to teach Americans that only equal opportunity for all can make the American dream of justice a reality for all of our citizens.

Questions:

- 1- Why was the Nassau County Committee on Human Rights established?
- 2- Which organizations led the campaign against racial discrimination in Long Beach?
- 3- Why does Reverend Kellenberg believe he must challenge racial discrimination?
- 4- Write a letter to Reverend Kellenberg explaining your reaction to his statement.