The Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights will commence a survey of the extent to which the constitutional rights of the people of the United States are being respected and enforced. This survey will be in addition to the routine work of the committee in respect to bills or other matters which are referred to it, and is undertaken under the authority of U.S. Code Title 2, Chapter 6; Standing Rules of the Senate, Rule XXV, 1 (k); Resolution of Senate Judiciary Committee of June 20, 1955 creating Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights; and Senate Resolution 94 of April 25, 1955.

The survey shall be conducted under the following instructions:

1. The subcommittee will seek to examine the whole field of contemporary constitutional rights. As far as practical, the examination will proceed in the following order:
   a. The rights as they are set forth in the Bill of Rights, in the order of their appearance there, article by article and clause by clause.
   b. Under Articles IX and X, the reserved rights not expressed in the previous articles.
   c. The rights expressed in the body of the Constitution, and not expressed in the Bill of Rights.
   d. The rights expressed in the later amendments to the Constitution, especially the Civil War amendments.

2. In general, the plan of the subcommittee in examining one of the rights will be to hear the opinions of witnesses interested in that field as to whether there may be need for congressional action with respect to that right, and if some area for such action shall be revealed or shall otherwise come to the attention of the subcommittee with respect to which there shall be insufficient public information to determine the need or nature of such action, the subcommittee may then call witnesses to obtain it.

3. The particular right under examination shall be announced at the commencement of any session at which a witness may be interrogated, and also shall be stated within the subpoena or invitation pursuant to which he shall testify. Any member of the subcommittee, the subcommittee counsel, and any witness personally, or through counsel, may in good faith raise the
question of the relevance of any question to the examination announced, and
the presiding member of the subcommittee shall rule thereon, subject to
reversal by a majority of the subcommittee members present.

4. Notice of any meeting of the subcommittee at which a witness
shall be interrogated shall be given in writing to the office of each
subcommittee member not less than 16 hours prior to holding of such meeting
if the meeting is to be held within the District of Columbia; otherwise, not
less than 96 hours prior thereto.

5. Because hearings will commence in Washington while the Senate
is not in session, and because the subcommittee consists of only three
Senators, each of whom lives at some distance from Washington, and because
provision has been made to protect witnesses from irrelevant
interrogation, the subcommittee in its judgement authorizes a quorum of
one Senator for the purpose of taking testimony.

6. Witness fees need not be tendered at the time of service of
subpoena, but shall be paid to witnesses in accordance with the provisions
of U.S. Code, Title 28, Section 1321.

7. Section 133 (e) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 is
applicable to this subcommittee:

"Each such standing committee shall, so far as practicable,
require all witnesses appearing before it to file in advance
written statements of their proposed testimony, and to limit
oral presentations to brief summaries of their argument.
The staff of each committee shall prepare digests of such
statements for the use of committee members."

8. A verbatim stenographic transcript shall be made of all subcom-
mittee hearings. The official stenographer is authorized to sell to any
interested persons copies of the transcript of any public session, and to
any witness a transcript of his own testimony in any executive session.

9. Having in mind the principle of separation of governmental powers,
the subcommittee in this survey will not concern itself with problems capable
of full solution in due course by the courts, nor with individual cases which
are not indicative of some policy or rule of law or practice which in itself
constitutes an infringement on some constitutional right.
10. The public is to be invited to bring to the attention of the subcommittee current violations of constitutional rights into which it may examine under these principles, bearing in mind that neither time nor the public interest can permit it to use the hearings to vindicate individual positions or to right personal wrongs not giving rise to constitutional questions of general application.

Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights
Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., Chairman

July 30, 1955