

THE NEGRO'S HOPES

As the ink dried on a Senate subcommittee report showing Negro gains in the last 10 years (see charts), the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People laid plans for a new civil rights drive. From the new Republican administration and Congress, the NAACP wanted 1) a stronger curb on filibusters, 2) a compulsory FEPC law, 3) an end to segregation in Washington, D. C.

Clarence Mitchell, Jr., head of NAACP's Washington office, sought to persuade Sen. Irving Ives (R., N. Y.) to lead a fight for tighter curbs on filibusters — prolonged talk aimed at preventing action on bills.

GAINS IN ANNUAL INCOME



Ives, who wrote N. Y. State's FEPC law, has proposed that such debate be curbed by a vote of 49 Senators (a simple majority). Under present Senate rules, a vote of 64 Senators (two-thirds) is needed to end debate and force a vote. The present rules, moreover, provide unlimited discussion of any proposal to change this rule.

The Hoped-For Allies

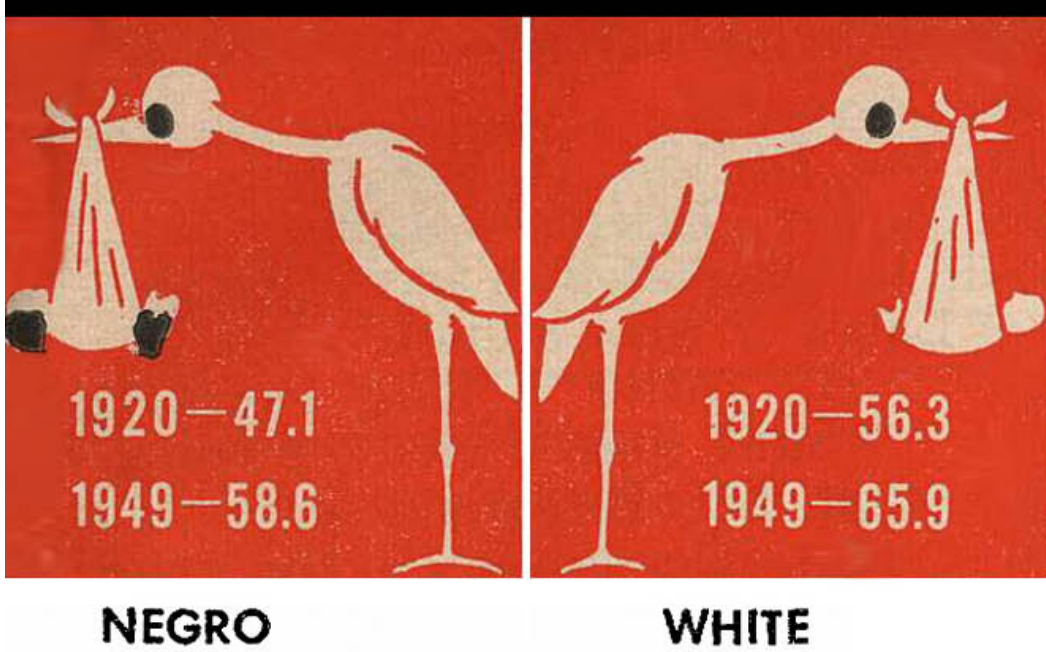
Mitchell says his group expects aid from Sen. Robert C. Hendrickson (R., N. J.) and Sen. Arthur Watkins (R., Utah) in the anti-filibuster fight. NAACP officials say Gen. Eisenhower, too, has promised support.

As for Fair Employment Practices legislation, Mitchell concedes "we have a mathematical chance; whether we have a policy chance is another question." Conservative Republicans and Southern Democrats, his group says, still can muster enough votes to prevent passage of a compulsory FEPC. Sen. Taft (R., Ohio), who will head the Senate Labor Committee, opposes a compulsory FEPC, but has promised full hearings—once proposals for changing the Taft-Hartley labor act are out of the way.

Eisenhower has backed State action to end job discrimination. Mitchell says he has the promise of Sen. Lodge (R., Mass.), who has represented Gen. Eisenhower

in relations with most Government agencies, that the new president will adhere to a policy of preventing racial discrimination in Federal employment, and will maintain pressure against discrimination in

LIFE EXPECTANCY - AT BIRTH



plants working on Government contracts.

NAACP officials say frankly, however, that the Eisenhower administration must "prove itself." They still regard Pres. Truman as their real hero for pressing anti-poll tax, anti-lynching, FEPC and anti-segregation programs in the face of heavy Southern Democratic opposition.

From FEPC and anti-filibuster moves, the new drive will fan out into attacks on alleged discrimination in interstate travel, housing, education, the military and other fields.

"Our only hope now is that Republicans have the responsibility and can no longer blame Democrats for failures on civil rights," Mitchell says.

Quick

December 22, 1952

p. 14