

This is a group that can add a third phase to the investigation, not possible heretofore. They can summon wit-

people involved—such a thorough probe by such an appropriate body needs to be made to clear the air one way or the other.

## Education The Negro In Peoria

We have at hand a letter from a woman who signs herself only, "housewife." Her letter deals with the Negro situation in Peoria and it makes a good deal of sense.

The letter writer says she is "appalled at the low number of Negro graduates each year from our public schools—the total is less than 15." She attributes this to a lack of ambition on the part of the students ("they realize that no matter how hard they apply themselves, Peoria holds no future for them") and to lack of interest by the parents ("They don't even go to the schools to talk with teachers or principals").

While the writer probably errs a little on her figures (she estimates that Peoria has 30,000 Negroes, while the Census shows fewer than 10,000, and school officials believe the average number of Negroes graduating each year must be twice the 15 she estimates), her basic point is valid: Ne-

groes aren't completing high school, and it is a shame.

We are not trying to place the blame for this situation on anyone—indeed, as in most problems, we are all somewhat to blame. And one of the difficulties in improving the situation is that people have stereotyped reactions to it, the first of which is to assign the blame to one side or the other, thus creating only more animosity in the process.

It may be worthwhile to examine the problem without trying to place the blame. The facts are that many Negro youngsters in our community who need education perhaps more than the next youngsters are not getting it. Anything that can be done to encourage these children to continue their education at least through high school will be a meaningful contribution to them and to society. It is by no means a simple problem, but often just recognizing the problem and forming a desire to understand it, is the biggest step in solving our most complex problems.

### Battling Over The Bare Facts Of Education

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