

April 10, 1968

STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD W. BROOKE REGARDING HOUSE
PASSAGE OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968

America has taken a mighty stride forward. Today's action by the House of Representatives, concurring in the civil rights legislation passed by the Senate, is a landmark in our national history.

The fair housing provisions of this Act will go far toward making the United States a more open and equitable society. By establishing the fair housing principle in federal law, this legislation will make an immeasurable contribution to the nation's capacity to cope with the domestic crises now wrenching our social structure.

The ghetto will not disappear overnight, but this legislation is a positive declaration that the American people will no longer tolerate the rigid practices which make urban captives of a disadvantaged minority. By removing the barriers to freedom of choice in housing, this Act will also facilitate more effective programs in employment and education, for many of our most critical problems in those fields stem directly from the extreme concentration of our most deprived citizens in segregated ghettos.

The Congress has made a noble beginning. It has kept the faith which gave birth to our free institutions. It has strengthened the faith of those millions of Americans who are determined that social justice under law will prevail. It has voiced the faith which will sustain our nation through the difficult transition which lies ahead.