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Carr: FEDERAL PROTECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS: QUEST FOR A SWORD

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FEDERAL PROTECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS: QUEST FOR A SWORD. By *Robert K. Carr*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press. 1947. Pp. viii, 284. \$3.

This is the second volume in the Cornell Studies in Civil Liberties. Its author is Executive Secretary of the President's Committee on Civil Rights and Professor of Government at Dartmouth College. He presents a highly

readable review of the successes and failures of the little known Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice, which was established in 1939 by the Honorable Frank Murphy, then Attorney General. As his starting point, Professor Carr considers briefly the history of federal civil rights legislation from the Civil War to the present. The creation of the Civil Rights Section and the initial (and continuing) constitutional, statutory and administrative problems facing that agency are then outlined in detail, with considerable emphasis on the leading civil rights cases of the past decade. There follows a valiant plea for increased use of criminal sanctions by the federal government to suppress activities such as lynching, race riots, and "third-degree" methods. The ever-present thesis is that the Bill of Rights not only provides a shield for the individual against his government, but is also a sword in the hands of the government for the protection of the liberty of the individual from encroachment by his fellow man. The author recognizes that the ultimate solution of the civil rights problem cannot come through legislation alone. But the government's use of its "sword" can be a factor in the educational process reaching that solution. The constitutional problems in strengthening federal legislation are carefully examined. An appendix of the post-Civil War rights legislation and the present civil rights statutes is a valuable addition. This book will be of value to every person interested in the efforts of the federal government to augment local activities aimed at strengthening the individual's place in society.