The Civil Rights Commission Backslides

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The Civil Rights Commission Backslides

By Ron Davies

In one of the final acts of its tenure, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, chaired by Charles E. Burton, last week issued a report that is likely to contribute to the continuing social and legal battle over civil rights in the United States.

The commission's report, which was released after a year of deliberation, was widely criticized by civil rights leaders and observers. The report, which was expected to provide a blueprint for civil rights policies in the 1980s, was instead seen as a retreat from previous efforts to advance civil rights.

The report's main weaknesses were identified as a lack of clear goals and a failure to address the root causes of discrimination. The commission's emphasis on incremental reforms and a reliance on voluntary compliance were seen as inadequate to deal with the complex challenges of the 1980s.

The report's failure to address the issue of race and the role of the federal government in enforcing civil rights laws was also criticized. The commission's recommendations were seen as too weak to effectively challenge the power of the federal government to enforce civil rights laws.

The report was also criticized for its lack of specificity and for not identifying specific remedies for the problems it identified. The commission's failure to provide concrete recommendations was seen as a missed opportunity to address the pressing issues of the 1980s.

The report was widely seen as a setback for the civil rights movement and a missed opportunity to address the pressing issues of the 1980s.