

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FILED

AUG 26 1959

Joseph L. Donovan
Secretary of State

A PROCLAMATION FOR "EQUAL OPPORTUNITY DAY"

WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers of this nation held that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;" and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln in his first message to the Congress defined the high purposes of our people as "a struggle for maintaining in the world that form and substance of government whose leading object is to elevate the condition of men, to afford all an unfettered start and fair chance in the race of life;" and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 1959, on the Ninety-sixth Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's memorable Gettysburg Address, the National Urban League will focus attention throughout these United States on positive efforts to insure fair and equal treatment to all citizens, regardless of race, color, religion or national origin; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 100th Anniversary of Lincoln's birth and the President of the United States calls upon all Americans to observe the year as the Abraham Lincoln Sesquicentennial Year; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to set aside a day to remind ourselves that the greatness of our country rests upon the principle of equal opportunity for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Orville L. Freeman, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim November 19, 1959 as

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY DAY"

and urge every citizen of the State of Minnesota to do everything in his power to advance this truly American cause of equal opportunity, so that all Americans will understand and appreciate the great advantages of our democratic way of life, and will also assume the responsibilities essential to the preservation of our freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this twenty-fifth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine and of the state, the one hundred second.

ATTEST:

Joseph L. Donovan
SECRETARY OF STATE

Orville L. Freeman
GOVERNOR

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