Civil Rights Issues in Northern and Western Cities

National Struggle for Equality

        National Scope of racial inequality-  revolution in Historiography-

                Thomas Sugrue in *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the*

*North*

                Serious challenge to old histories of "Southern Exceptionalism"

                Differences- northern blacks have access to the ballot box, black candidates, pressure

                        on city and state officials to pass legislation

        World War II as Turning Point

                        "A Segregated army "cannot fight for a free world"

                        Double V campaign

                        Efforts of NAACP and CORE during War

                        Impact of the war and black veterans

        Activism-

                        NAACP- court filings, lynching campaign- litigation and lobbying through LDF

                                        Legal Defense Fund

                        CORE- James Farmer, Bayard Rustin activities north and South!

                                Sit-ins integrate restaurants and businesses in Chicago

                                Journey of Reconciliation- multi-state integrated bus ride through south to

                                        test Supreme Court ruling against segregation in interstate travel

Activism- Who? Goals, Methods, Results

Public Accommodations

                Grassroots Activism

                        Mesa Better Community Council (1953-61)

                                Composition and approach

                                        Interfaith, white and black leaders

                                Goals

                                        promote justice and to bring all segments of the city into closer and

                                                more harmonious relationship

                                        READ from signed document

                                        Rendezvous pool use

                                        integrating Mesa's restaurants and motels

                                        employment

                                Method

                                        "Solve problems in a peaceful, dignified and orderly manner"

                                            Met with park officials board meeting minutes 1940-45, 1953

                                                 "there is apparently no written rule or law forbidding entrance  of

                                                        colored people in the pool." 1953

                                                "board would not change the rule unless proof can be furnished

                                                that such a move is desired by the citizens."

                                             Surveys to determine "Mesa's civic-minded people did not favor

                                                segregation"

                                                endorsed legislation

                                                Visited Businesses

                                Results

                                        1954- integrated both Rendezvous and Escobedo- 16 mo. fight

                                                        Built Escobedo pool after service clubs donated $2000

                                                got 2 motels to accommodate visiting teams with minorities

                                        1955- got 49 of 53 eating establishments to serve respectable people

                                        1959- 26 out of 37 motels signed favorably