

PRESENTED BY

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS:
GOVERNOR BERT T. COMBS



Kentucky Historical Society collections

civil rights act, so he used his executive power to make changes where he could. His efforts paved the way for legislative action and helped moderate Kentucky's stance on civil rights and promote Kentucky as a progressive Southern state.

CLAY COUNTY — Gov. Bert T. Combs, a Democrat from Clay County, was elected governor in 1959. He created the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights in 1960 to ensure equality in Kentucky and foster mutual understanding and respect in the Commonwealth.

Combs used his executive power to desegregate public areas in the state by demanding desegregation in all businesses that required a state license to operate.

He knew he could not get the legislature to agree to a full

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

100 W. Broadway | Frankfort, KY 40601
502-564-1792 | www.history.ky.gov



The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the
Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at khscatalog.kyvl.org