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**REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

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**FOR RELEASE**

Immediate

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VAL J. WASHINGTON, DIRECTOR OF MINORITIES, REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO SENATOR LYNDON B. JOHNSON, DEMOCRAT OF TEXAS

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

August 6, 1957

Dear Senator Johnson:

In reading the morning papers I notice that you have attacked Vice President Nixon for expressing his honest conviction about the failure of the Senate to concur with the House and the President in formulating a decent and fair Civil Rights Bill.

This Bill, which was meant to protect the voting rights of many millions of Negroes in Southern states and to guarantee their rights under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, was emasculated by the adroit handling of you with the aid of other Democrat leaders.

To accuse Vice President Nixon of playing politics certainly is not in good taste coming from you. Your record is one of continuous voting against all Civil Rights during your terms in both the House and the Senate.

On this particular piece of legislation you registered these unfriendly votes: (1) On June 20 you voted to send the Bill to the Judiciary Committee headed by Senator Eastland. In his hands it would have died without ever having been considered. (2) On July 16 you voted again (on Senator Wayne Morse's motion) to send it to the Judiciary Committee which would not have acted on it. (3) On July 24 you voted to strike Part 3 of the Bill. This would have allowed Negroes to enjoy the same civil rights of all other American citizens under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. (4) On August 1 you voted for Trial by Jury in voting rights cases which would automatically eliminate any chance for Negroes to be protected in most Southern states.

If a Southern jury would not convict confessed kidnapers of Emmett Till after he was found murdered, why would they convict an election official for refusing to give a Negro his right of suffrage?

Friday, August 2, shortly after midnight, one of the blackest days in American history was recorded for Negroes and other dark races, not only in the United States, but around the world.

For over 80 years there has not been one civil rights bill seriously considered by the United States Senate. After over 50 years



of earnest effort on the part of Negroes and their friends we finally had our day before that great democratic body, the United States Senate.

Even though we have fought and died in every war in defense of our country, paid taxes for support of government institutions and have honored all other responsibilities expected of citizens, the Senate yielded to the dictates of 11 Southern states. These are the same states which kept Negroes enslaved for nearly 250 years. It was the same section of the country where the controlling politicians still try to operate under slave day philosophy that a Negro has no right a white man has to respect.

As a result of the 3 weeks deliberation in the Senate 5 million Negroes, or over 30 per cent of the population of these 11 states will still be deprived of their right to vote, in this, the greatest democracy in the world. The right to vote without coercion and humiliation would have been a very small concession to these millions of loyal Americans in their many years of struggle for first-class citizenship.

If the Senate had passed the Eisenhower Civil Rights Bill as the House did, it could have been pointed to as a beacon which would have cast its light over all the world. It would have been a signal to all darker races to rally to the cause of democracy and stand up against efforts to communize the world.

In the Senate, the drum beaters for democracy and constitutional government have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. They have joined in the greatest mockery and travesty on justice debated in the Senate in the past 80 years.

At the bar of world opinion the United States has lost one of the greatest sales points of a democracy for the recruiting of new advocates - Equality for all its citizens regardless of Race, Creed, Color or National Origin.

Since you have been so persistent in your anti-civil rights attitude, one would have to be suspect of your supposed change of heart. I am positive, Senator that neither you, nor any of your Southern colleagues would vote for this Bill unless you know it is meaningless and ineffective.

Most certainly the Vice President need not apologize for being disappointed in the Senate's action because his feeling is shared by many millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

/S/ Val J. Washington

Val J. Washington

