

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

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