

Chville Ala St Clair County Hwyway 59
4th Congressional Dist.

Secession Meeting
April 15, 1964

RESOLUTION

Mr. Martin, Louis
Mrs. Payne Ethel

ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE, INCORPORATED
Birmingham, Alabama
October 6, 1963

WHEREAS: the gravity of the situation in Alabama, certainly in Birmingham, seems to worsen daily due to the deep sense of frustration brought about by the recent outrages of bombings, murders and continual harrassment of law-abiding citizens; and because Negro citizens neither receive nor can expect protection from the state and local law enforcement officers, who are indeed often party to the acts of brutality, it is imperative that the President of the United States now use his personal prestige to alleviate the tension and restore shattered morale. We respectfully remind the Chief Executive of his 1960 Campaign admonition that "the next President of the United States can not stand above the din of battle, but must place himself in the center of the fight."

We urge that he come, himself, to Alabama to speak to the troubled people of the state and to see first hand the problem, instead of relying on second reports or receiving delegations in Washington. We emphasize the immediate need for this action in light of potential further explosions.

The theory of race superiority was destroyed on the battle fields of Europe through the blood of Americans in World War Two. The rise of the Nations of Asia and Africa makes such a doctrine untenable.

The Constitution of the United States gives no superior or inferior status to the citizens on the basis of race. All citizens are equal, particularly at the polls.

In the face of current world history and constitutional reality, the State Democratic Party clings tenaciously to the decadent philosophy of white superiority as manifested in the emblem of the State Party. This emblem is embarrassing, humiliating, and frustrating to fellow members of the party, and injurious to the growth and development of an effective state organization.

WHEREAS, we of the Democratic Conference, Incorporated, consider such a policy reactionary and indefensible in light of the times.

BE IT RESOLVED, That we strongly urge the Alabama Democratic Party to declare the emblem void.

WHEREAS, the voting strength of the Negroes of Alabama is approximately 100,000 strong, and is still increasing by leaps and bounds, and, whereas, block voting by Negroes has a greater weight in any election, and, whereas, there are many Negroes of Alabama who have been schooled politically in some of the best colleges and universities

in the Country, as well as having held political positions in a smaller degree, many of them can and do use their influence effectively in the political field. We, the officers and members of the Alabama Democratic Conference, Incorporated, do petition to you and the National Democratic Committee, to place on your policy making committee, on the National level, Negroes who will serve the best interest of their people in any and all capacities.

Due to the prevailing attitude of some Alabamians toward President John F. Kennedy, and other liberal candidates seeking office in the 1964 National Election, "Be it resolved, that the Alabama Democratic Conference, Incorporated, seek ways and means to work with the Alabama Democratic Party in assuring that State and National Democratic Party Candidates' names appear on state ballot in the spring primaries.

Be It Resolved, that we establish Democratic Clubs in the Colleges and Institutions of higher learning, throughout the State, for the purpose of training our youth on/or in the implementation of the true fundamentals of the Democratic Party, both State wide and National.

Registration qualification being the number one requirement should be stressed, as well as demonstrated, as much as possible until fully understood by all. The application that must be made in order to make the above qualifications felt and respected is the follow-up by everyone going to the polls and voting for candidates who measure up to the high standards of the Democratic principles in all matters.

WHEREAS, the members of the Jefferson County Units of the Alabama Democratic Conference, Incorporated, the Smith and Gaston Interests, and various other citizens and residents of Jefferson County did all possible to make this Semi-Annual meeting of the Conference an outstanding success.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference extend a vote of thanks to them for the many courtesies shown us.

WHEREAS, Miss Ethel Payne, Mrs. Verda C. Welcome and Attorney Belford Lawson have made a singular contribution to the success of this session by their stimulating and informative presentations and by their provocative suggestions for action.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alabama Democratic Conference, Incorporated, express to them and to the National Democratic Committee our appreciation for their participation and interest in our plans.

Respectfully submitted,

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE:

Mr. Frank P. Thomas, Mobile, Alabama, Chairman

John Cashin, Huntsville, Alabama

W. H. Hollins, Birmingham, Alabama

Mrs. Amelia P. Boynton, Selma, Alabama

Milton Hurst, Talladega, Alabama

Wiley L. Bolton, Mobile, Alabama

Attorney Orzell Billingsley, Jr., Chairman,

Alabama Democratic Conference, Incorporated.