

Chville Ala St Clair County Hwy 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.

RESOLUTIONS

ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE, INCORPORATED

MOBILE, ALABAMA

NOVEMBER 7, 1965

THE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE OF THIS CONVENTION MET WITH MR. ISOM CLEMON OF MOBILE IN CHARGE, AND AFTER DISCUSSION, MADE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WHICH IS HEREBY SUBMITTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS BODY:

WHEREAS, NO STEPS HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN IN ALABAMA ON DIRECT RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AT THE 1964 CONVENTION, THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT ALL LEVELS OF THE ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY BE INTEGRATED, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR PARTICIPATION BY THE PARTY IN THE CONVENTION AND AFFAIRS OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT THE STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BE OFFICIALLY REQUESTED BY THE ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE, INCORPORATED, TO MAKE TO ADCI AND TO THE DEMOCRATIC VOTERS OF THE STATE, A PROGRESS REPORT ON WHAT SPECIFICALLY HAS BEEN DONE IN THIS REGARD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF ADCI BE EMPOWERED AND TOLD TO MAKE THE REQUEST FOR SUCH A REPORT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE SECRETARY OF ADCI BE REQUESTED TO SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION, AND A COPY OF ANY REPORT WHICH COMES FROM THE STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, TO ALL MEMBERS OF ADCI, ALL MEMBERS OF THE STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

WE HEREBY CALL UPON THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO INSTRUCT THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE THE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS THAT ARE ON THE BOOKS NOW, WITH REGARDS TO PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS FROM ILLEGALLY CONSTITUTED JURIES IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA, AND TO SEND FEDERAL REFEREES IN VOTER REGISTRATION TO ALL COUNTIES IN ALABAMA WHERE THEY DO NOT NOW EXIST.

VICE CHAIRMAN
Peter Hall
Birmingham, Alabama

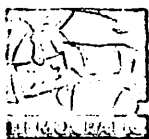
SECRETARY
Beulah Johnson
Tuskegee, Alabama

ASST. SECRETARY
O. F. Frazier
Evergreen, Alabama

TREASURER
Isom Clemons
Mobile, Alabama

CHAPLAIN
C. H. Montgomery
Mobile, Alabama

PARLIMENTARIAN
Joe L. Reed
Montgomery



Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc.

RUFUS A. LEWIS, Chairman

801 Bolivar Street Phone 262-1784
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BUDGET COMMITTEE
Rufus Huffman
Union Springs, Alabama

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Arthur Shores
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Montgomery, Alabama

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Rev. Frederick D. Reese
Selma, Alabama

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McKinley Kolb
Birmingham, Alabama

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM
Joseph Bradford (Federal)
Wetumpka, Alabama

Rev. William Branch (State)
Forkland, Alabama

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE
James Hall
Dothan, Alabama

July 24, 1968

Mr. John M. Bailey, Chairman
National Democratic Committee
1730 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Bailey:

We submit the following resolution adopted by the Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following be and is duly adopted by the Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc., at its semi-annual meeting assembled:

The Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc. hereby petitions the Democratic National Committee that it seat those regularly selected members of the delegation of the Democratic Party of Alabama who affirm that they will abide by the results of the convention and support the national nominee, but that it be made an absolute condition of seating of individual delegates and alternates that each of them so affirm.

RESOLVED further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Duly Adopted this 30th day of June, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, by the Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

Resolutions Committee

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A Sounding Into Politics

ALMOST WITHOUT notice last week, the leading political action organization of Negroes in Alabama—the Alabama Democratic Conference Inc.—announced that it would send “observers” to the National Democratic Convention next year.

This disclosure is full of grave political implications and is a good starting point to take some tentative soundings in the murky waters of next year's politics.

First off, we interpret the ADCI plan to send “observers” to the convention as a subtle warning to the traditional Loyalist Democrats that Alabama Negroes are ready to strike out on their own and form an authentic political party if they are not brought forthwith into the fold of the regular Democratic Party. Such a step would not be difficult, since ADCI is already structured as a party.

The Negroes have made it clear that they still prefer to work within the existing state party if possible. This preference is implied in their expressed hope that Negroes will be included in the regular convention delegation.

Further, the Loyalists, who now numerically control the state committee, have made a couple of halting steps toward this kind of coalition — first, by removing the “White Supremacy” label from the party emblem last year, and second, by sending State Chairman Robert Vance to make a personal appeal to the ADCI for Negroes to vote the straight Democratic ticket, including Wallace - for -Governor. (The appeal was largely successful.)

But can the Loyalists now risk including Negroes in the convention delegation for the first time? Can they send up delegates who might vote for the nomination of Lyndon Johnson at best, and maybe even Bobby Kennedy? Our guess is that the regular Democrats aren't bold enough to make such a step in such emotional times.

Very likely they will continue Alabama's traditional unique system of electing delegates instead of appointing them. Electing delegates, in practical terms, will mean an all-white delegation.

And that's where the ADCI “observers” come into the picture. What if the National Convention refuses to seat Alabama's all-white delegation? What if some type of loyalty oath is required, similar to the one which caused most of the Alabama delegates to bolt the convention in 1964? In such a case,

the ADCI representatives might cease to become observers and take their seats as delegates on the convention floor.

Radical as it may seem on the surface, such a comeabout probably would have little effect on Alabama politics. After all, Alabama attitudes on Presidential politics are pretty much in concrete already and nothing can be foreseen to alter this.

The really big question about next year's politics centers around the Presidential electors. For the past five elections, selection of Democratic Presidential electors has been a quadrennial bloodbath between the Loyalists and States Righters which has been satisfactory to no one. Twice in those five elections the Loyalists prevailed and twice the States Righters prevailed in accomplishing their ludicrous purpose of preventing Democrats from voting for the Democratic nominee. In the fifth case we reached an absurd climax by electing a mixed group of Loyalists and States Righters which meant that the voter was voting for John Kennedy and Harry Byrd for President at the same time.

But now there are strong indications that we will have no more of this. There is considerable sentiment in the State Democratic Committee for discontinuing the election of Presidential electors in the primary. Instead, the committee is inclined to put off until next summer the elector selection, which will mean appointment by the committee.

But will the committee appoint electors pledged to Johnson, electors pledged to Wallace, or electors pledged to no one?

Since no one can know the answer to that question, undoubtedly the ADCI will qualify a slate of Presidential electors pledged to the national Democratic nominee; if the committee appoints Loyalist electors, then the ADCI can withdraw its slate. Likewise, the Wallace-for-President people will play safe and qualify their own set of electors who can be pulled out if the Democratic committee appoints electors pledged to Wallace.

In any case, it now appears that in November of 1968, Alabamians for the first time will be afforded a choice between the regular Republican and Democratic nominees as well as a third-party Conservative. And this will be a modicum of progress in the can of worms known as Alabama politics.

ADCI Doesn't Mention You-Know-Who

BY ROBERTA REISIG

MONTGOMERY -- From the sound of things at the semi-annual convention of the Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc. (ADCI), you might never have guessed that George C. Wallace is running his wife for governor.

During the Negro political group's two-day meeting here in the Jefferson Davis Hotel, no speaker mentioned the governor or his wife, Lurleen.

Instead, the Negro Democrats pointed to the dozens of Negroes holding public office in Alabama, and heard friendly messages from two white politicians.

Delegates to the convention received a warm greeting from J.B. Sullivan, Montgomery's commissioner of public safety and one-time enemy of civil rights groups. Sullivan hailed the group as "fellow Democrats."

On Sunday afternoon, Robert Vance of Birmingham became the first chairman of the Alabama Democratic Executive Committee ever to speak to a Negro audience. The head of the state Democratic party told the ADCI members: "The time is past when you take one message to one group of people, and another message to another group." Vance took the Negro Democrats a message of the state



ADCI HEAD TABLE: ROBERT VANCE AT LEFT, PETER HALL AT RIGHT

party's accomplishments in education, highways, industrial expansion, and tourist business. He said the Democrats had an "umbrella" party that excluded no one.

Some listeners thought Vance's praise of "our present Democratic administration in Alabama" was a quiet way of asking the ADCI to support Mrs. Wallace in November. But

the name Wallace never passed the chairman's lips.

Saturday night's guest speaker, E.T. Kehrer of Atlanta, Ga., Southern director of the AFL-CIO's civil rights department, didn't talk about Wallace, either. But he said Lester Maddox, the Democratic candidate for governor in his state, "has one foot in a strait-jacket."

Kehrer noted that the choice in Georgia is between Maddox and U.S. Representative Howard "Bo" Callaway, a conservative Republican. "Between whom do you choose?" he asked. "A Kluxer in a bedsheet or a Kluxer in a tuxedo?"

Kehrer claimed that the "so-called riots" in Atlanta last month "were stimulated by agent provocateurs to influence the election." The resulting "white backlash" gave Maddox the Democratic nomination, Kehrer said.

But the ADCI delegates seemed not to be bitter about the nominations of Mrs. Wallace and Maddox. Many speakers re-affirmed their belief in working within the Alabama Democratic party structure.

"We're moving," said Peter Hall of Birmingham. "It may be at a snail's pace, but that turtle, he got there faster than the hare."

It was announced that more than five dozen Negro Democrats hold elective and appointive city and county offices in Macon, Mobile and Jefferson counties.

"To those who would start a third party, I say 'Farewell.' History's overloaded with failures of this sort," said Joe L. Reed of Montgomery. "If you don't like what's going on in the Democratic party, the only way to change it is to work within the framework of it."

"We're Democrats. We've got to support the Democratic party and the Democratic candidates," said Hall. That was as close to an outright election endorsement as the convention ever came.

THE SOUTHERN COURIER