

Editorial

A proud moment for mankind

The passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act was a moment of great optimism, not only for the black people of America, but for all mankind. True, the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the subsequent coverup, had created a mood of despair among the population; but still the United States was on track for a Moon landing within the decade.

The purposeful courage of the astronauts, and the purposeful courage of civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Rev. James Bevel, and Amelia Boynton Robinson, was outstanding, a model for young and old alike. The struggle to establish a new frontier in space, and to right the wrongs of the Jim Crow system of segregation, reasserted the values upon which the American republic was established.

This was not so, in the period before the Second World War, when Jim Crow reigned in the South, and few black people were able to walk the streets of places like Selma, Alabama without fear, much less to vote. A southern black person who exercised his right to vote then, would, at the least, suffer economic harassment.

Passage of the Voting Rights Act was the culmination of a struggle which developed in Montgomery, Alabama, in December 1955, with the boycott of segregated seating in city busses. The impetus for the action was the decision by Rosa Parks on Dec. 1, not to give up her seat to a white person; but, it was Dr. Martin Luther King who led the civil rights movement which was vitalized by Mrs. Parks's action.

Rev. James Bevel, who was one of Dr. King's right-hand men, encouraged Dr. King to go to Selma, to join Mrs. Robinson (then Mrs. Boynton) and her husband, Samuel W. Boynton, in their struggle to register black voters. It was ten years later, in January 1965, that King came to Selma.

More than 2,000 men, women, and children were imprisoned in Selma and adjacent counties, for their activities in support of what later became the Voting Rights Act. The right to vote was won by the blood of the civil rights fighters, white and black, who fought to ensure that America would remain a bastion of freedom for all mankind.

On Aug. 15 of this year, the U.S. District Court in

effect abrogated the Act, by its decision to uphold the disenfranchisement of LaRouche voters in the Democratic Party—voters heavily represented among the black population. The ban against seating LaRouche delegates, perpetrated by Democratic National Committee Chairman Donald Fowler, was upheld by the U.S. Court, thereby disenfranchising the 600,000 voters who had cast their ballots for LaRouche in the Democratic primaries. The technical rhetoric of the decision was to exempt the newly promulgated party Rule 11(K) from judicial review of changes in party rules, which is specifically required by the 1965 Act.

With Fowler's ruling that Lyndon LaRouche is not a legitimate Democratic candidate, the Democratic Party of Franklin Roosevelt is more and more being transformed back into the Democratic Party of James Buchanan, which was the treasonous party of the slaveryocracy, in the days before the Civil War.

America was built upon the fight to defeat British oligarchism. That fight reached a culminating moment with the passage of the Voting Rights Act. For this hard-won gain to be demolished by the arrogance of "Jim Crow" Fowler, with support from the U.S. courts, must not be tolerated.

Now that the Republican and Democratic national conventions have come to be shaped as spectacles, rather than serious forums for the debate of important issues, most Americans begin to look at the whole of the political process with cynicism and despair. Such a mood should not be tolerated. The tradition which our greatest leaders have always represented, whether from the White House, or on the battlefields and frontiers of mankind, was one of cultural optimism and love of humanity.

Let us remember the remarks by Franklin Delano Roosevelt during his second term in office: "Governments can err, Presidents do make mistakes, but the immortal Dante tells us that Divine Justice weighs the sins of the cold-blooded and the sins of the warm-hearted in different scales. Better the occasional faults of a government that lives in the spirit of charity, than the consistent omissions of a government frozen in the ice of its own indifference."