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The 'Republican' passed 1964 Civil Rights Act

Politics/Elections Opinion (Published)

Source: [Toogood Reports 'SPOTLIGHT Column'](#)

Published: August 10, 2000 Author: Michael Zak

Posted on 08/10/2000 11:00:13 PDT by [Starmaker](#)

During the Kennedy administration, the Republican minority in Congress introduced many bills to protect the constitutional rights of blacks, including a comprehensive new civil rights bill.

In February 1963, to head off a return by most blacks to the party of Lincoln, Kennedy abruptly decided to submit to Congress a new civil rights bill. Hastily drafted in a single all-nighter, the Kennedy bill fell well short of what our Party had introduced into Congress the month before.

Over the next several months, Democrat racists in Congress geared up for a protracted filibuster against the civil rights bill. The bill was before a committee in the House of Representatives when **John Kennedy** was murdered in November 1963.

Invoking his slain predecessor, **Lyndon Johnson** made passage of the bill his top priority, and in his first speech to Congress he urged Representatives and Senators to do "more for civil rights than the last hundred sessions combined". Though he shared Johnson's convictions on safeguarding the constitutional rights of blacks, if **Nixon** had been in the White House then instead, Democrats in favor of segregation and those unwilling to see a Republican achieve the victory would have blocked his legislative initiative in Congress.

The 1964 Civil Rights Act was an update of Republican Senator **Charles Sumner's** 1875 Civil Rights Act. In striking down that law in 1883, the Supreme Court had ruled that the 14th amendment was not sufficient constitutional authorization, so the 1964 version had to be written in such a way as to rely instead on the interstate commerce clause for its constitutional underpinning.

Mindful of how Democrat opposition had forced the Republicans to weaken their 1957 and 1960 Civil Rights Acts, **President Johnson** warned Democrats in Congress that this time it was all or nothing. To ensure support from Republicans, he had to promise them that he would not accept any weakening of the bill and also that he would publicly credit our Party for its role in securing congressional approval. Johnson played no direct role in the legislative fight, so that it would not be perceived as a partisan struggle. There was no doubt that the House of Representatives would pass the bill.

In the Senate, Minority Leader **Everett Dirksen** had little trouble rounding up the votes of most Republicans, and former presidential candidate **Richard Nixon** also lobbied hard for the bill. Senate Majority Leader **Michael Mansfield** and Senator **Hubert Humphrey** led the Democrat drive for passage, while the chief opponents were Democrat Senators **Sam Ervin**, of later Watergate fame, **Albert Gore Sr.**, and **Robert Byrd**. Senator Byrd, a former Klansman whom Democrats still call "the conscience of the Senate", filibustered against the civil rights bill for fourteen straight hours before the final vote.

The House of Representatives passed the bill by 289 to 124, a vote in which 80% of Republicans and 63% of Democrats voted "yes".

The Senate vote was 73 to 27, with 21 Democrats and only 6 Republicans voting "no".

President Johnson signed the new Civil Rights Act into law on July 2, 1964. Overall, there was little overt resistance to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The struggle was not yet over, however, as most southern state governments remained under the control of segregationist Democrats.

1 Posted on 08/10/2000 11:00:13 PDT by **Starmaker**
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To: **Starmaker**

>> the chief opponents were Democrat Senators **Sam Ervin**, of later Watergate fame, **Albert Gore Sr.**, and **Robert Byrd**. Senator Byrd, a former Klansman whom Democrats still call "the conscience of the Senate", filibustered against the civil rights bill for fourteen straight hours before the final vote.<<

Whattttttt???? These democRATic heros were RACISTS that tried to block the most important anti-discrimination bill of the 20th century?! Can't be. 'Everyone' knows the Democratic party has ALWAYS stood for the rights of minorities while those silly Republicans are 'right wing confederate flag wavers', as the son of Albert "white power" Gore Sr. has told us. While, I bet those "Republicans" from Illinois-- Abe Lincoln and Everett Dirksen-- didn't even exist. The VRWC will stop at nothing to "smear" great heros to history.

Just getting everyone ready for the type of responce you'll get if you show this article to braindead liberals. ;-)

2 Posted on 08/10/2000 11:14:01 PDT by **BillyBoy**
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To: **Starmaker**

It wasn't too difficult to vote for the bill if you didn't live in a state or municipality with OVER 20% Black population. These states and municipalities were in exclusively Southern areas. I think Federal Registrars were sent in immediately.

3 Posted on 08/10/2000 11:33:19 PDT by **OldAtlanta**
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To: **Starmaker**

I meant to include that I think the Civil Rights law only applied to States or Municipalities with 20% or more Black population.

4 Posted on 08/10/2000 11:36:46 PDT by **OldAtlanta**
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To: **Starmaker**

bttt

5 Posted on 08/25/2000 15:37:24 PDT by **dead**
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To: **Starmaker**

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Starmaker, I need the same kind of info on the 1965 Voting rights act, but I can't find the actual vote count. Any help?

Thanks,
JWinNC

6 Posted on 12/20/2000 10:13:36 PST by **JWinNC**
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