

JULY 2022

INDEPENDENCE

CONTINUE THE STORY

NO DISCUSSION OF INDEPENDENCE CAN BE COMPLETE, WITHOUT A DISCUSSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS.

President Biden invited a conversation on this topic when he asked on November 1, 2022, **“Do you want to be on the side of Dr. King or George Wallace? Do you want to be on the side of John Lewis or Bull Connor? Do you want to be on the side of Abraham Lincoln or Jefferson Davis?”** Just consider, Abraham Lincoln was the only Republican that was mentioned, Dr. King was a member of neither party, though his father was a Republican, all the others were Democrats. **What did each bring to the discussion?**

WHAT DID THE EARLIER CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1957 LACK?

Perhaps, the Act lacked the ability to discriminate. While the Act created an opportunity for more black people to register to vote, it did very little to prevent discrimination. By 1960, it seemed apparent that Voter registration rights needed to be improved. More would be done as 1964 approached.

WHAT WERE 3 THINGS THAT THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 ACCOMPLISHED?

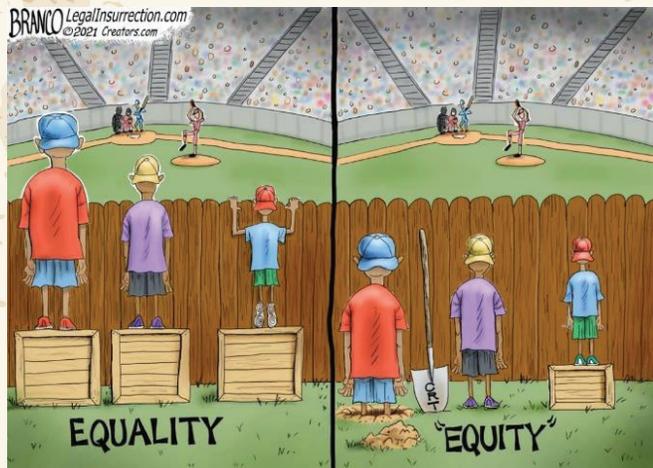
The crowning achievement of the 1964 act was the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This ensured participation in the election system, for the benefit of representation in the creation of laws or taxation. In addition, the Act clarified that discrimination was no longer to be allowed in the use of facilities, neither could a person be discriminated in their employment as it relates to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. These actions led to greater social and economic mobility for African Americans.

“A GREAT REVOLUTION HAS HAPPENED

— a revolution made, not by chopping and changing of power in any one of the existing states, but by the appearance of a new state, of a new species, in a new part of the globe. It has made as great a change in all the relations, and balances, and gravitation of power, as the appearance of a new planet would in the system of the solar world.”

- Edmund Burke (1782) (quoted in Armitage 2007:87)

THOUGHT: MLK stated **“I don’t think the Republican Party is a party full of the almighty God, nor is the Democratic Party. They both have weaknesses. And I’m not inextricably bound to either party.”**



Yet today, we are beginning to conflate the issue of gender identity with being a Civil Right. Should we?

Should Civil Rights be about Equality or Equity?