

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Stop Racist Attempt To Overturn Voting Rights Act

November 10, 1999

To: The Hon. Ed Rendell, Chairman, Democratic Party

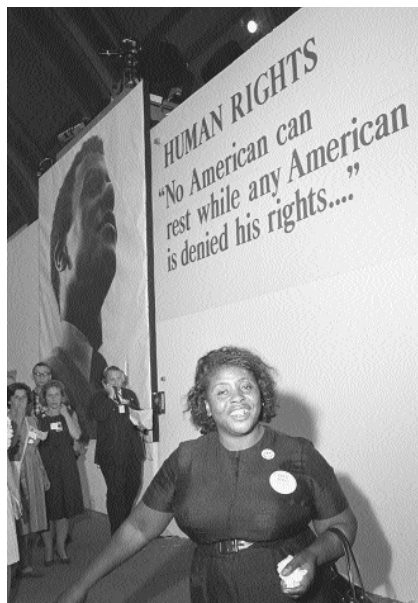
The Hon. Joe Andrew, Chairman, Democratic National Committee

Gentlemen:

We were shocked and disgusted to learn that on August 16, 1999 the Democratic National Committee (DNC), through its attorney, John C. Keeney, Jr., submitted a plainly anti-civil rights, implicitly pro-racist argument before a Federal district court panel, which concluded with a call for nullification of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The argument was made in the course of a hearing on a DNC motion to dismiss a lawsuit brought by Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and Democratic voters from Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, and Arizona. The lawsuit, which was filed in 1996, charges that Donald Fowler, then Chairman of the DNC, violated the Voting Rights Act, when he ordered state Democratic parties to disregard the votes of thousands of Democrats in the 1996 Democratic Presidential primaries and caucuses, who had cast their votes for Lyndon LaRouche. Ironically, Mr. Fowler justified his outrageous behavior by lying that Lyndon LaRouche was a racist!

First, let it be said that Lyndon



Civil rights heroine Fannie Lou Hamer en route to the Democratic Party National Convention in August 1964. Hamer led the fight to seat the integrated Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party delegation, representing 80,000 black Mississippians, against the decision by the Party Credentials Committee and other Party officials to seat an all-white delegation.

LaRouche does not have to defend his qualifications as a "bona fide" Democrat. It was the LaRouche faction of the Democratic Party that took the point against Newt Gingrich and his "Contract on America," when some of us were busy "triangulating." And, it is well known, that when President Clinton came under attack by Ken Starr, while some Democrats—cowards and traitors—called on the President to resign, the LaRouche faction of the Party mobilized support for the President, and initiated Amer-

icans to Save the Presidency.

Let it also be said, that the stink of racism in this action by attorney Keeney is, unfortunately, consistent with the racism shown by his father, John C. (Jack) Keeney, who, as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, has been a key figure in the illegal targeting, persecution, and prosecution of African-American public and elected officials.

Gentlemen, we understand that these acts of gross injustice occurred before your terms of office began. Be that as it may, it falls upon you to effect an immediate, public repudiation of this racist policy. It is our firm position, that this must be done, not only to protect the personal honor and integrity of the Democratic Party leadership, but also because the failure to do so will surely have disastrous consequences: We will lose the Y2000 elections, including the Congressional elections; the Democratic Party, as the party of FDR and JFK, will be destroyed; and, we will be in danger of losing all that we hold dear as Americans.

Yours,

Hon. Theo Mitchell, Esq.,
Democratic Senator (ret.),
South Carolina State
Legislature,
Former Democratic Party
Nominee for Governor,
South Carolina

(continued)

The following is a partial list of endorsers of the above letter. Affiliations are for identification purposes only.

**Indicates former office-holder*

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JL Chestnut, Civil Rights Attorney, Selma, Ala.

Ben Chaney, Jr., President, James Earl Chaney Foundation, New York, N.Y.

A.M.E. Logan, Jackson, Miss.

Avon Williams Rollins, Sr., Co-founder, SNCC, Memphis, Tenn.

Hollis Watkins, Southern Echo, Jackson, Miss.

Matthew Fogg, President, Congress Against Racism & Corruption in Law Enforcement, U.S. Marshal, Washington, D.C.

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Rev. C. Blakley, National Congress of Black Churches, Los Angeles, Calif.

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Rev. Robert L. Davis, Vice President, Eastside Ministers Union of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif.

Rev. C.E. Kelly, Vice President, Eastside Ministers Union of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif.

Ron Meyers, President, Meyers Foundation, Tchula, Miss.

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Rev. R.N. Gooden, SCLC National Board, Tallahassee, Fla.

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Rev. Nelson H. Smith, SCLC National Board, Birmingham, Ala.

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Benny Roundtree, State President, SCLC, Greenville, N.C.

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Colonel Stone Johnson, V.P., SCLC, Birmingham, Ala.

Rev. Robert J.N. Jones, Virginia Board of Directors SCLC, Richmond, Va.

Raymond Scott, National Board, NAACP; President, NAACP, Port Arthur, Tex.

Rev. Morris Shearin, President, Washington, D.C. NAACP; National Board, NAACP

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(continued)

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- Independent Ministers Conference of Pennsylvania and Vicinity, Dr. J.J. Smith, Moderator, Philadelphia
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- Robert Gaines, founder and CEO, Victorville African American Chamber of Commerce, founding and Exec. Bd. member, California Black Chamber of Commerce
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