

President John F. Kennedy:



“Difficulties over segregation and discrimination exist in every city, in every state of the union, producing in many cities a rising tide of anger and discontent that threatens the public safety. In a time of crisis, men of good will and generosity should be able to unite regardless of party or

politics. This is not even a legal or legislative issue alone. It is better to settle these matters in the courts than on the streets, and new laws are needed at every level, but law alone cannot make men see right. I ask every American to stop and examine his conscience about this and other related incidents. When Americans are sent to fight in Vietnam or West Berlin, we do not ask for white only. It ought to be possible for every American to enjoy the privileges and responsibilities of being Americans without regard to his race or his color. Everyone should have the right to be treated as he would wish to be treated, as one would wish his children to be treated. But this is not the case.

Are we to say to the world — and much more importantly to each other — that this is the land of the free, except for the Negroes; that we have no undesirables, except Negroes; that we have no class or class system, no ghettos, no master race, except with respect to Negroes?”

Alabama Governor Wallace:



“White and colored have lived together in the South for generations in calm peacefulness. They each prefer their own pattern of society, their own churches and their own schools — which history and experience have proven are best for best for both races. This is true and applies to other areas as well. People who move to the south from sections where there is not a large negro population

soon realize and are most outspoken in favor of our customs once they learn for themselves that our design for living is the best for all concerned.

I believe in segregation of the public-school system in Alabama. I believe that's the best school system for the people of Alabama. I think it is better for both races in Alabama. But I recommend no sort of school system for South Carolina or North Carolina. I recommend only that the people from each individual state decide the kind of school system they want, and if they want this kind of school system they should have it. But today we have officials from Washington that are determining where a child can go to school and who can teach that child and what books that child can use, and that is something that the American people are sick and tired of. . . . I believe in states' rights."

Martin Luther King, Jr:



“My friends, we are certainly very happy to see each of you out this evening. We are here this evening for serious business. We are here in a general sense because first and foremost we are American citizens, and we are determined to apply our citizenship and exercise our Constitutional rights to the fullest extent possible. We love for democracy love America.

But we are here in a specific sense because of the bus situation in Montgomery. We are here because we are determined to get the situation corrected. This situation is not at all new. On so many occasions, Negroes have been intimidated and humiliated and oppressed because of the sheer fact that they were Negroes.

And we are not wrong; we are not wrong in what we are doing. If we are wrong, the Supreme Court of this nation is wrong. If we are wrong, the Constitution of the United States is wrong. If we are wrong, God Almighty is wrong. If we are wrong, justice is a lie, love has no meaning.

We are here, we are here this evening because we are tired now. And I want to say that we are not here advocating violence. We have never done that. I want it to be known throughout Montgomery and throughout this nation that we are Christian people. We believe in the Christian religion. We believe in the teachings of Jesus. The only weapon that we have in our hands this evening is the weapon of protest. That's all.

Unit 9: Post-War Domestic Policies
Voices of Segregation Worksheet

Name _____
Period _____

President John F. Kennedy

1. According to President Kennedy, what is happening as a result of the disagreements over segregation?
2. What are two things President Kennedy feels must happen to solve the crisis?
3. Why does Kennedy bring up Vietnam and West Berlin?
4. Why does Kennedy use the terms “ghettoes”, “master race”, and “undesirables”?

Alabama Governor George Wallace

1. Why does Governor Wallace feel both whites and blacks support segregation?
2. According to Wallace, what do outsiders experience when they move to the South?
3. Who should decide what type of school system exists in a state, according to Governor Wallace?
4. What part of Governor Wallace’s argument is absolutely, positively false?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

1. According to Dr. King, why is everyone gathered on the evening of December 5th?

2. Why would Dr. King state, "if we are wrong the Supreme Court of this nation is wrong. If we are wrong, the Constitution of the United States is wrong"?

3. What is it Dr. King states must NOT happen during the crisis in Montgomery?

4. Other than being a Baptist Minister, why would Dr. King support a Non-Violent solution to the problem in Montgomery?