

459 House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D.C.

Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Jr  
Democrat, 16th District, New York

August 30, 1957

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. cabled the following message from Berchtesgaden, Germany on August 30, 1957, following the passage of the Civil Rights bill by the Senate:



"This completely vindicates my support of President Eisenhower regardless of what may happen to me. Personally, I am proud to have campaigned for one who has kept every word to me. After 80 years of political slavery, this is the second emancipation.

"On October 11, 1956, President Eisenhower promised me, first, he would call for this bill in his State of the Union message; second, he would spell it out specifically; third, his Attorney General would press for early consideration of the bill; fourth, his Congressional leaders would fight for early passage.

"He kept his word to me 100 percent. Under Adlai Stevenson this would not have happened as indicated by the votes to weaken the bill of pro-Stevenson senators, both North and South.

"My congratulations also go to Representative Emanuel Celler for his leadership in the fight for a meaningful Civil Rights bill at this session of Congress.

"I endorse 100 percent Martin Luther King's registration drive in the South to place on the books one million Negro voters. I will assist him by sending in expert political workers to aid in this effort. I, personally, will come South anywhere and at anytime as needed as I did to spark the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

"Negroes must not ally themselves with or think in terms of either party, but should concentrate on the issues and the position of the candidates in relationship to these. This should be the signal for the North to register now as never before. On September 17, 1957, I am returning to the United States to exert all effort toward such registration.

"It is time now for the big city Northern Democrats to do some painful soul-searching."