

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO ACCOMPANY VOTING MESSAGE
Draft 1 Goodwin 3/15/65

I speak tonight for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy.

Join me in that cause.

At times history and fortune meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama.

There, brave and long-suffering men and women peacefully protested the denial of their rights as Americans. Many were brutally assaulted. Some were beaten. One good man -- a man of God -- was killed.

There is no cause for pride in what happened in Selma.

There is no cause for self-satisfaction in the long denial of equal rights to millions of Americans.

But there is cause for hope and for faith in our democracy in what is happening here tonight.

For the cries of pain, the sound of clubs, the protests of oppressed people -- like some giant trumpet -- have summoned into convocation all the majesty of the government of the greatest nation on earth.

Our mission is at once the oldest and most simple of this country: to right wrong, to do justice, to serve man.

In our time we have come to live with moments of great crisis. Our lives have been marked with debate about great issues -- issues of war and peace, of prosperity and depression. But rarely, in any time, does an issue lay bare the secret heart of America itself.

Rarely are we met with a challenge, not to our growth or abundance, our welfare or security, but to the values and the purpose and

religion or the place of his birth -- is not only to do injustice, it is a denial of America and an offense to freedom.

I ask you

this bill. For outside this nation, the demanding voice of our heritage, and the harsh judgment of history on our acts.