

Quotes in the Fight for Social Justice (1960-1965)

1. "I think we just delivered the South to the Republican Party."
2. "All of this is on account we want to register, to become first-class citizens, and if the Freedom Democratic Party is not seated now, I question America . . ."
3. "It is therefore a cruel irony that the President of the United States has only yesterday signed into law the most monstrous piece of legislation ever enacted by the United States Congress. It is a fraud, a sham, and a hoax."
4. Neshoba County has had a reputation for being so volatile that it has been nicknamed "Bloody Neshoba," and many experienced civil rights workers, for very good reason, declined to work in that territory."
5. "This is why I say it's the ballot or the bullet. It's liberty or it's death. It's freedom for everybody or freedom for nobody."
6. "The workshops in nonviolence made the difference... the philosophy... the tactics, the techniques, how to... take the blows and still respond with... dignity."
7. "First of all, Mayor West, do you feel that it's wrong to discriminate against a person solely on the basis of his race or color?"
8. "For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with a piercing familiarity. This "wait" has almost always meant never."

9. "I was hit in the head by a state trooper with a nightstick... I thought I saw death."
10. "We preach freedom around the world . . . but are we to say to the world, and much more importantly, to each other, that this is the land of the free except for Negroes?"
11. "We intend to make it difficult, if not impossible, for a Negro who advocates desegregation to find and hold a job, get credit, or renew a mortgage."
12. "THIS IS SELMA, ALABAMA. THERE ARE MORE NEGROES IN JAIL WITH ME THAN THERE ARE ON THE VOTING ROLLS."
13. "But this differences in leadership then led to differences in style or work."
14. "My wife died for a sacred battle, the rights of humanity. She had one concern and only one in mind. She took a quote from Abraham Lincoln that all men are created equal and that's the way she believed."
15. "Strong people don't need strong leaders."

16. "Tell them about the dream, Martin!"

17. "Through those songs, I learned things about the history of black people in this country that the historians in school had not been willing to tell us about or had lied about."

18.

**"You don't have to live next to me
Just give me my equality
Everybody knows about Mississippi
Everybody knows about Alabama
Everybody knows about Mississippi Goddam"**

19. "Freedom has never been free . . . I love my children and I love my wife with all my heart. And I would die, and die gladly, if that would make a better life for them."

20. "The best thing you can do is to be a woman and stand before the world and speak your heart."

21. ". . . Every person in this community who has in any way contributed during the past several years to the popularity of hatred, is at least as guilty, or more so, than the demented fool who threw that bomb."

22. "I am sick and tired of being sick and tired."

23. *"We've had a great change. Dr. King saw to that. I was so grateful to see the 'colored only' signs come off the water fountains and bathrooms in the south. But the struggle lives on."*
24. *"The most powerful person in the struggle of the sixties was Miss Ella Baker, not Martin Luther King."*
25. *"We can't count on adults. Very few . . . are not afraid of the tremendous pressure they will face. This leaves the young people to be organizers, the agents of social and political change."*
26. *"By appealing to conscience and standing on the moral nature of human existence, nonviolence nurtures the atmosphere in which reconciliation and justice become actual possibilities."*
27. *"These children—unoffending, innocent, and beautiful—were the victims of one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity."*
28. *"Our bodies, numbering over 100,000 will bear witness— will serve historic notice that Jobs and Freedom are needed NOW."*