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STATEMENT BY SENATOR RICHARD NIXON
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Civil rights, as an American ideal and American heritage, are too sacred a subject to be bandied about as a mere political issue. Yet that is what the problem of civil rights, and how to meet it, has become in this critical year 1952 as the result of irresponsible promises by the present Administration. I say the time is ripe for some honest talk on this complex, vital matter.

Here are five highly important phases of civil rights as we view them today:

1 -- The McCarran-Walter Bill, lengthy, doubtless imperfect, but amendable, codified and improved the hodgepodge of existing immigration law. It removed discrimination against our Asiatic friends which was hurting our cause in the Far East. Under an Eisenhower Administration, after a fair trial, this measure will be reviewed and its inequities removed, particularly where we find that discrimination exists. For discrimination in any form is un-American. We do not condone it. We will not permit it.

2 -- Requiring designation of religion on visas of persons immigrating to the U. S. certainly was not intended under this law, nor does the act specify such discriminatory action. State Department officials, deliberately playing politics with the McCarran Act, claim such religious designation is necessary to conform with "ethnic data" requirements of the measure. That simply is not true. We oppose discrimination against persons of the Jewish faith, just as we would oppose similar discrimination against Protestants or Catholics. If legislation is necessary to accomplish our historically American objective, then I favor such legislation.

3 -- My own record as a fighter against bigotry is clear. I oppose would-be tyrants, greatly bad or meanly little, of the Gerald L. K. Smith, Joseph P. Kamp, or Gerald B. Winrod stripe. In Los Angeles, I am proud to say, I actively supported a young Marine veteran in his Republican primary contest against a State Senator who had Gerald L. K. Smith's backing. I am confident my active assistance helped defeat the Smith-endorsed candidate.

4 -- I believe the innocent must be given protection in hearings held by authorized Congressional committees, just as I believe the public welfare is served by the proper functioning of such legislative bodies. Right of counsel, of cross-examination by witnesses through queries submitted to the committee, of witnesses' making statements in their own behalf, all should be preserved and encouraged.

5 -- We must see to it that America's great-hearted reputation as the melting pot of the world never grows less. Our nation was built through the combined efforts, thoughts and cultures of peoples from all corners of the globe. We must not forget those countries, once free, that now lie behind the Iron Curtain. As Dwight Eisenhower said before the American Legion Convention last August 25: "We must tell the Kremlin that never shall we desist in our aid to every man and woman of those shackled lands who seek refuge, or to any man who keeps burning among his own people the flame of freedom or who is dedicated to the liberation of his fellows."

In the last analysis, what we need in the field of civil rights is performance, not just promises. With Senator Sparkman, an acknowledged foe of civil rights and a supporter of the filibuster, there isn't the remotest possibility that any of the promises Mr. Stevenson is making can be kept. The election of Dwight Eisenhower will mean performance after twenty years of empty political promises.