

African American Voting Rights

A. Philip Randolph: They have not been able to have access to schools of higher learning in certain areas of the country, especially the South. Then there is the matter of housing. It is utterly impossible to desegregate schools until housing is desegregated. Negroes, though they may possess the money, can't secure housing in areas that are desirable. Of course, there is voting. A hundred years after the issuance of the Proclamation of Emancipation, the negroes can't register and vote in certain areas of the country. In addition to that, we have the problem of public accommodations. Negroes with their families who drive throughout the country find it impossible to secure adequate and proper public accommodations. They always meet up with intense humiliation [on their soul], especially when their little children and their wives are with them and they are rebuffed and turned away. Youngsters want to know, *Why is this father? Why is you can't go places other citizens are permitted to enter?*

Randolph, A. Philip. "African American Voting Rights" in "Speech of August 26, 1963." Speech. Washington, DC, August 26, 1963. National Press Club. Library of Congress. <http://www.loc.gov/rr/record/pressclub/randolph.html>.