Their fight for freedom and equality provided the legal and moral foundation for others who sought recognition of their equality later on. Slavery and the Civil War. [10]. Even had these tests been administered fairly and equitably, however, most blacks would have been at a huge disadvantage, because few could read. Beyond these favorable court rulings, however, progress toward equality for African Americans remained slow in the 1950s. In 1962, Congress proposed what later became the Twenty-Fourth Amendment, which banned the poll tax in elections to federal (but not state or local) office; the amendment went into effect after being ratified in early 1964.

Hubert H. Humphrey. 1948 Democratic National Convention Address. delivered 14 July 1948, Philadelphia, PA. What he declared was that all men are equal; and the equality which he proclaimed was the equality in the right to enjoy the blessings of free government in which they may participate and to which they have given their support. Now these words of Senator Barkley’s are appropriate to this convention -- appropriate to this convention of the oldest, the most truly progressive political party in America. From the time of Thomas Jefferson, the time when that immortal American doctrine of individual rights, under just and fairly administered laws, the Democratic Party has tried hard to secure expand