

**B**lack **H**istory **M**onth

**C** for Civil Rights Act

By JANUS ADAMS

On August 29, 1957, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Despite some official efforts to limit Jim Crow, not since 1875 and the end of Reconstruction had the federal government made a definitive antisegregation strike. Yet the 1957 act was a step backward for the movement. In its language, if not its intent, it undermined the federal government's power to intercede in Civil Rights enforcement.

When the Congress passed the Civil Rights Act in memorium of the recently assassinated President Kennedy, it once again sacrificed the justice due people of color for accommodation to a guilty South. Congress "negotiated" voting rights out of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the beleaguered, hard-won, albeit watered-down, bill into law. Buried in the bill was its greatest legacy - Title VII: Employment, which opened the door to legislation on "affirmative action."

**D** for Davis, Angela

By JANUS ADAMS

On February 28, 1972, *The People of the State of California v. Davis* went to trial at last. It had stemmed from a 1970 courthouse siege that left four dead in a failed plot to free George Jackson - the author and brother of the raid's seventeen-year-old leader, Jonathan.

In the prisoner's rights movement of the late 1960s, the elder Jackson's plight was championed, and he and his family were befriended, by Angela Davis - a young UCLA professor of philosophy infamous in her own right as a political target of the then-governor of California, Ronald Reagan. Her principled refusal to sign a loyalty oath as a term of her contract made her perfect cannon fodder. When Reagan's attack yielded threats on her life, she purchased and legally registered a gun for her own protection - a gun later used in the courthouse siege. She was charged with murder and kidnapping, and a warrant was issued for her arrest. Knowing the charge to be political, she fled and

was posted on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list of felons. In a national dragnet, women with natural Afro hairstyles coast-to-coast were harassed in the name of the law. In October 1970, Davis was captured in New York, extradited, and imprisoned (often in solitary) to await trial and, as detractors hoped, execution for a crime all knew she had not committed. Just five days before her trial, the state Supreme Court abolished the death penalty - and with it the grounds upon which she had been denied bail. She was released.

**E** for Emanuel

Hospital Urban Renewal Project

By PORTLAND BUREAU OF PLANNING

In 1967, needing to expand or relocate in order to stay technologically abreast and competitive, Emanuel Hospital announced that, with the assistance of federal grants, it would build a 19 acre health campus. The project required

multiblock land clearance of the Eliot Neighborhood. Since 1962, PDC wrote off the entire Eliot The



Black protestors march at Emanuel Hospital in 1972. Emanuel Hospital announced that, with the assistance of federal grants, it would build a 19-acre health campus. Families immediately surrounding the Emanuel Hospital were confronted with the expansion plans which included the land of many of these residents. Residents were required to move within ninety days.



In the end, Kennedy did not deliver on the promise for which blacks had helped elect him. For all he offered in glamor and hope, Kennedy too often sacrificed black justice for southern votes. It took his successor, a Southerner, Lyndon B. Johnson, to break the mold and enact the Civil Rights Act (1964), Executive Order No. 11246 on affirmative action (1965), and the Voting Rights Act (1965).

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