

PROPOSAL FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE

September 15, 1964

By

James L. Bevel and Diane Nash



Reverend James L. Bevel and his former wife Diane Nash receive the Rosa Parks award, from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for having initiated and worked to make a success of the 1965 Selma, AL Right-To-Vote Movement.

Following is the original first draft of the proposal that James Bevel and Diane Nash presented to SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference), after the church bombing in Birmingham, AL, where four little girls were killed, while attending Sunday school.

This proposal was turned down by all civil rights organizations. Bevel worked for one year to convince the board of SCLC to adopt the proposal. Bevel, Diane and James Orange, moved to Selma to implement the program before adoption by the organization.

It was their persistence, perseverance and effectiveness that finally persuaded the SCLC board to adopt the Selma Right To Vote Program as an official program of SCLC.