

I thought this episode was incredibly interesting. I loved the beginning of the episode, beginning with Stokely Carmichael's statements of getting what you want – Stokely Carmichael specifically helped in the non-violent movement and it flowed in quite nicely to the Stokes campaign in Cleveland, but was an interesting juxtaposition with the Black Panthers.

I specifically liked this episode because when you think of the Civil Rights movement, you don't really associate it with the Black Panthers, and you definitely don't associate it with Cleveland and the mayoral race. Beginning with Stokes, I think it's particularly important to discuss the incremental gaining of equality. After Dr. King's passing, African Americans weren't immediately given reprieve from racism. I thought the Stokes v. Taft debate was a particularly interesting point, as it was something brought up in the 2008 election – if you don't vote for the African American man, are you a racist? The point is well taken, in that once that question is unequivocally answered *no*, race will still be an obvious difference, regardless of President Obama's rise to prominence.

I think the Black Panther segment is also very interesting because we typically associate the non-violent civil rights movement without giving much thought, at least initially, with the violent movements and agitations in California. I was flabbergasted at the way the Panthers spoke to police, spoke of the government and chastised the system. While I more than understand their complaints and believe them to be in the right – and maybe it is only in a retrospective naiveté – I respect the non-violent protests, immensely respecting their abilities to continue to fight and present their case respectfully and going about it the hard way. Going in

with guns blazing is much different, and arguably the easier way. That said, I believe, especially after watching this, that it is easier to make true change via nonviolence. If violent, you only represent the stereotypes of violence and stupidity you are trying to dispel. Additionally, I was particularly upset that the panthers dislike how they were portrayed; their hostility deserved their reputation. They should have recognized this would happen and not made it seem like such a surprise and been even more outraged by it.

Courtesy of Russell Spivak

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