

LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1946

July 20: Rupert's District, Taylor County, Georgia: (Daily Worker, August 25)

MAGLO SNEPES, veteran, the only Negro to vote in the Georgia primary from Rupert's District, was shot and killed on the porch of his home by ten white men who pretended they had come to collect a \$10 debt.

July 24: Lexington, Mississippi: (Metropolitan Press)

The lynching of LEON McTATIE, whose body was found by a Negro fisherman in a Sunflower County bayou, occurred on or about July 24.

McTatie had been accused of stealing a saddle, a fact later disproved. He was set upon and beaten by six white Mississippi farmers when he denied knowledge of the theft.

Sheriff W. L. Murtagh said "It was evident" that McTatie had been thrown into the bayou from a car and that he was dead at the time.

His attackers have been apprehended. They deny all knowledge of his death.

July 25: Monroe, Georgia: (Metropolitan Press)

ROGER MALCOLM, GEORGE DORSEY, a veteran, together with their wives WILLIE MAE and DOROTHY, were dragged from a car and shot to death by an unmasked band of twenty white men.

Loy Harrison, a well-to-do white tenant farmer who allegedly needed their labor on his farm, drove to Monroe on July 25 with three of them to make bond for Roger Malcolm.

Malcolm had been jailed in Monroe on a charge of stabbing his former employer, Barney Hester, during a quarrel which arose over the undue attention being paid Mrs. Malcolm by the latter. Malcolm's temporary release was obtained.

As the five were returning to Harrison's farm they were halted by a mob. Harrison was held at gun point while the Negro couples were lined up and shot.

The coroner reported that at least sixty bullets were used to rid the victims. Their mutilated bodies, scarcely recognizable, were found sprawled beside a clump of bushes on a lonely road.

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LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1946  
(Cont'd)

August 3: Gordon, Georgia: (NAACP Investigator)

JOHN J. GILBERT, participant in unionizing activities of chalk mines, died of "gunshot" at the hand of unknown parties" on the morning of August 3rd, about 500 yards from his home while on his regular route to work at 6:30 in the morning.

It was rumored in Gordon that his death came as a result of making enemies among the whites by his union activity.

August 8: Minden, Louisiana: (New York Times, New York Herald Tribune, August 16)

JOHN O. JONES, 28, discharged veteran of European service was found dead two miles from Minden in Dorchest Bayou. His body had been horribly beaten with "some flat object -- such as a wide leather belt or a thick plank", his face and body burned with a blow torch so that his eyes were "popped" out of his head and his light complexion seared dark. His wrists were mutilated with a cleaver and he had been partially castrated.

He and his 17 year old companion, Albert Harris, were turned over by the sheriff to a mob in two cars, containing white men and one woman, a few minutes after their release from Minden parish jail, where they had been confined a week for allegedly attempting to break into the house of a white woman who refused to press charges. Jones and Harris were driven to the bayou, where Jones was tortured and killed and Harris beaten and shot in the shoulder. Left for dead, Harris managed to escape, however.

Jones, who had brought a German automatic from Europe, had been told by a white neighbor that he would get Jones' gun if he had to kill him to do it.

CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES ARE INADEQUATE; ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION  
MUST BE PASSED

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One of the most popular misconceptions held by law abiding citizens is the belief that protection of our "inalienable rights" to life and liberty falls within the purview of our Federal government whenever State and local authorities fail.

The experience of the Department of Justice proves the wide limitation to such practice. There has never been a successful Federal prosecution of lynching in the United States.

Only passage of a Federal anti-lynching statute will permit the Department of Justice to prosecute lynchings with hope for conviction.

H.R. 1689, latest N.A.A.C.P. anti-lynching bill, was introduced in Congress on January 24, 1945 by Representative D. Lane Powers (R., N.J.). The legislation has never been released from the House Judiciary Committee.

On March 21, 1945, Discharge Petition No. 5 was submitted in an effort to obtain a requisite number of signatures and get the bill before the floor of the House. A significant number of names is still lacking.

H.R. 1689 makes lynching and mob violence a criminal offense.

It defines a mob as any three or more persons.

It establishes lynching as death through mob violence.

It provides that any person who fails to protect his prisoner from lynching shall be guilty of felony and subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000, a prison term of not more than five years, or both.

It makes local law enforcement agencies responsible for the safety of prisoners.

It provides trial in a United States District Court instead of a local one.

Our Congress is elected to represent the will of the people. Every candidate to national office should be asked to commit himself to actively support and vote for passage of Federal anti-lynching legislation.

EFFORTS TO SECURE ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION, 1921-1943

The first sustained effort for a federal anti-lynching bill was made in April, 1921 when Representative L. C. Dyer (R.) of St. Louis, Missouri, introduced the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill. The Dyer bill was supported by numerous agencies and individuals headed by National Association for the Advancement of Colored People under Secretary James Weldon Johnson. It passed the House in January, 1922, by a vote of 230-119, but was filibustered to death in the Republican Senate. Republican senators, who formed an overwhelming majority, refused to invoke cloture. The bill was talked to death and withdrawn from the floor.

The Dyer bill was reintroduced in succeeding years by Representative Dyer but was never acted upon.

In 1933, after an all-time low of 10 for 1932, the total number of lynchings climbed to 28. The N.A.A.C.P. began mobilizing organizations and individuals behind the Wagner-Costigan Anti-Lynching Bill sponsored by Senator Robert F. Wagner (D., N.Y.) and Senator Edward P. Costigan (D., Colo.). It was felt that the time was favorable to get action in the Senate rather than in the House. Hearings were held before the Senate Judiciary Committee in February, 1934, and broadcast over a nationwide radio network. After an up and down existence, the bill finally reached the floor April 26, 1935. It remained there until May 1. A filibuster was continued against it by southern senators. It was finally laid aside after four votes had been taken on a motion to adjourn.

In January, 1936, upon the convening of the Senate again, an effort was made to have a senatorial investigation launched of the number of lynchings which had taken place in 1935. Money for this investigation (\$7,500) was withheld by the Committee on Audit and Control, whose chairman was Senator James F. Byrnes of South Carolina.

Senator Costigan left the Senate. This, together with certain other considerations, made it advisable to begin again in the House. In January, 1937, some 60 anti-lynching bills were introduced, most of them at the instigation and investigation of the N.A.A.C.P. One of these bills was sponsored by Representative Joseph A. Gavagan of New York. Mr. Gavagan's bill, like the rest, was buried in the House Judiciary Committee whose chairman, Representative Hutton W. Summers of Texas, refused to hold any hearings or to move them out of committee.

By means of discharge petition, Mr. Gavagan's bill was brought to the floor. It was passed by the House by a vote of 277-119 on April 15 and sent to the Senate. The Senate Judiciary Committee kept the title of the bill and struck out the text, substituting for it the text of the Wagner-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching Bill which was before the Senate.

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EFFORTS TO SECURE ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION, 1921-1943  
(Cont'd)

The bill became known as H.R. 1507 -- the Cavagan-Wagner-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching Bill.

Out of the tangle of Senate legislation in August, 1937, Senator Wagner secured the floor and brought up his anti-lynching bill. It consumed the time of the Senate for several days when an agreement was reached postponing the measure. Argument on the bill proceeded in November, when a special session of Congress was held, but it was not until January 6, 1938 that the Senate really took up consideration of the legislation.

The first skirmish was won on January 7 when supporters of the bill defeated by a vote of 52-18 a motion by Senator Tom Connally of Texas to adjourn the Senate. Then began a filibuster against the bill on the part of southern senators aided by Senator William E. Borah of Idaho, which lasted for nearly seven weeks. A petition for cloture was filed on January 25. This first attempt to limit debate was lost on January 27 by a vote of 51-37. On February 14, Senator Wagner filed a second cloture petition and this too was lost on February 16 by a vote of 46-42.

Although an attempt was made to reschedule debate on the legislation, the anti-lynching bill was finally displaced.

On January 10, 1940, the Cavagan-Bish Anti-Lynching Bill (H.R. 801) passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 252-131. Immediately the N.A.A.C.P. began securing witnesses to testify at hearings before the sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Hearings were held on February 6-7 and again on March 12. The companion measure, the Wagner-Van Nuys-Copper Anti-Lynching Bill (S. 345) was favorably reported to the Senate by a vote of 12-4 on March 25. In its efforts to have the bill brought up before the adjournment of Congress, the Association, in September, wrote to fourteen key Senators of both parties requesting action. As a result, Senator W. Warren Barbour, on October 8, asked Majority Leader W. Allen Barkley "if there is to be an opportunity to bring up the anti-lynching bill in this session before we adjourn or recess". To this Senator Barkley replied that he was "willing to take the responsibility of saying that in the midst of our international situation, our defense program, and the condition in which the world finds itself, it is impractical at this time to make a futile effort to obtain a vote on the bill." This killed hope for the bill in the 76th Congress.

On January 6, 1941, Congressman Joseph A. Cavagan again introduced his anti-lynching bill in the House. Because, however, he resigned his position as Representative during November of 1943 to accept a judgeship in New York, the Cavagan Anti-Lynching Bill died and the N.A.A.C.P. was forced to seek a new sponsor.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
 20 West 40th Street New York 18, N. Y.

DIVISION OF INFORMATION

LYNCHINGS IN SOUTHERN STATES, 1921-1945

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
ALA.	8	8	8	1						4	1		5	8	6		1			2					
ARK.	6	5	8	1	3	5						1			1			1							
FLA.	6	5	7	5	3	9			4	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	2		1		1	1	
GA.	14	11	4	2	2	3				7	1	1	1	1	2	5	1	1		2	2	2	2		1
KY.	1			1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1												
LA.	5	5	1	1	1	2	1	2			1	1	1	2	2			1							
MD.											1	1													
MISS.	13	8	5	2	6	4	7	5	2	3	3		2	6	3	1	2	4	1			3		2	
MO.	1		1	1	1		1	1			1	1										1			
N.C.	4	2					1		2	1			1		1						1				
OKLA.	1	2	3							1						1									
S.C.	5	2		1		3				2		1	3									1			
TENN.	1	2		1		2	3		1	1	1		3	1	1		1			1					1
TEXAS	6	16	2	1		5	1	2	3	4	1	1	1	1	2	1									1
VA.	1		1		1	1																			
TOTAL	84	61	38	15	17	33	20	10	13	25	11	8	26	16	24	10	8	7	4	5	5	5	3	4	1

\* A comprehensive listing of victims lynched during the years 1921-1945 is available upon application to the National Office.

Division of Information  
 October 20, 1946

# REPUBLICAN STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMEN:

MRS. JOSEPHINE H. BROOKS  
NEWMAN J. MILLER

## CHAIRMAN

C. G. SPADES  
SAINT AUGUSTINE

## SECRETARY:

J. HARRY SCHAD

## MEMBERS REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

C. H. McNULTY  
MRS. ETHEL R. FARMS

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

MERLE E. RUDY

## TREASURER:

G. H. ALEXANDER

## GENERAL COUNSEL:

GEORGE F. WENTWORTH

## PLATFORM COMMITTEE

ALLEN E. WALKER, CHAIRMAN

VAN SKIVER BUILDING  
WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

February 1, 1946.

Prof. Harry T. Moore,  
Mims, Florida.

Dear Mr. Moore:-

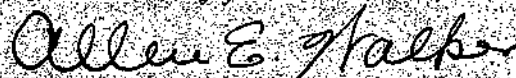
I wrote you about two weeks ago about our work together on the Platform committee. In that letter I submitted a number of subjects for consideration and suggested that if you had in mind any other subjects that should be incorporated in the platform I would like to have you suggest them.

If you have had the necessary time to give the matter the consideration it deserves, I would like very much to hear from you. At least 30 days before we call a meeting of the committee I would like to assign one or more subjects to each member of the committee for careful study and analysis, so that each subject may be presented in the best possible manner when we have the meeting. In addition to this of course it is hoped that all members of the committee will give careful thought to the platform as a whole as it shall be finally drafted. I also hoped that members of the committee might suggest other subjects that the committee should consider.

As soon as you find it convenient, I will appreciate it very much if I may have a letter from you outlining your views on the subjects to which you desire to give special attention. It is hoped that we can call a meeting of our committee in about two months from now but in the meantime I am particularly anxious that we may have a lot of work done on the various phases of the platform that will be considered at that meeting.

With the best of personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

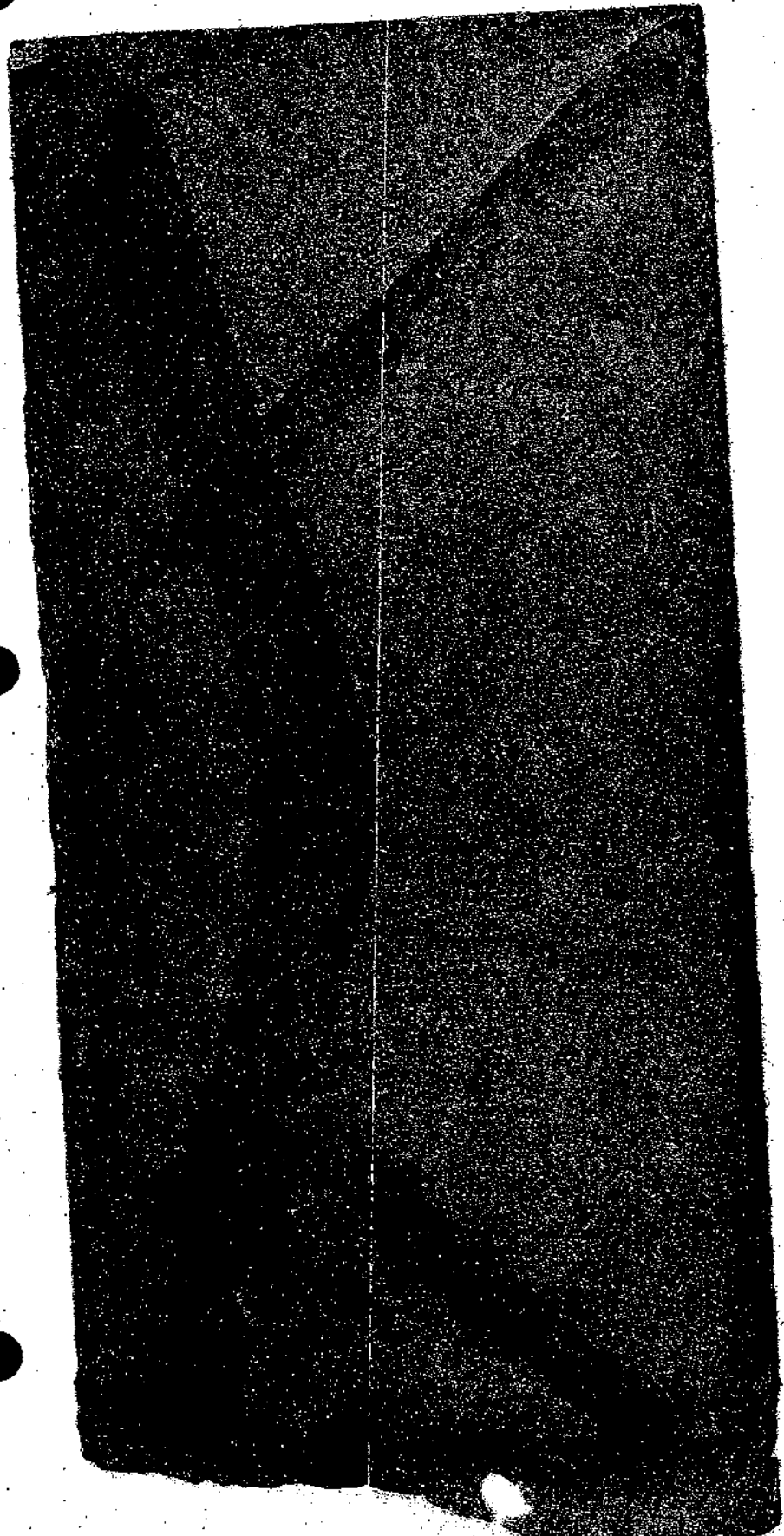


ALLEN E. WALKER  
CHAIRMAN

AEW/W

STAPLES





Open Letter  
To Florida Negro Voters

Mims, Florida  
February 4, 1946

Dear Co-workers:

As most of you know, the State Democratic Committee has adopted a resolution which provides for the participation of Negro voters in the Democratic primaries in May. This, of course, is in keeping with recent rulings by the U. S. Supreme Court and the Florida State Supreme Court. It also is in line with an opinion submitted last October by Attorney General Tom Pauson.

It now appears that we stand on the threshold of golden political opportunities. For the first time Negro voters of Florida are recognized as members of the Democratic Party. Thus, if we are properly registered, we may now vote with the party that has held a virtual monopoly on the election of state and county officials during the past 50 years. In this way, we may help to select those local officials who have direct control of our everyday affairs.

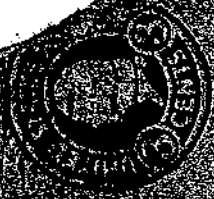
In order to consider additional plans necessary to get our people prepared for the May primaries, the Progressive Voters' League of Florida will hold a state meeting at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, S. Parramore St., Orlando, on February 16th. Members of the Board of Directors are asked to meet at 10:30 A. M. A public mass meeting will be held at 1:00 P. M. Mr. Earl E. Broughton, chairman of our Board of Directors, attended the recent meeting of the State Democratic Committee, and he will make a report of his observations. Hon. Lawson E. Thomas, prominent Negro Attorney of Miami, has promised to be with us in both of these sessions. He will speak during the mass meeting.

Heads of organizations, professional and lay leaders from over the state are urged to attend this meeting. Let us get our heads together and take full advantage of this great opportunity that now presents itself.

Sincerely yours,

Milton F. Rocks, President  
C. T. Williams, Local Chairman  
4065, Parramore St., Orlando

Harry T. Moore, Executive Sec.  
PROGRESSIVE VOTERS' LEAGUE



*Handwritten text in cursive script, likely an address or name, is visible on the document. The text is faint and difficult to decipher due to the high contrast and graininess of the scan. It appears to be written in several lines across the middle of the page.*

EXAMPLES

Milton P. Rooks, President  
1135 Pierce St., Clearwater

Viola T. Hill, Vice President  
626 W. Washington St., Orlando

Rev. E. J. Jackson, Vice President  
620 1/2 5th St. W., Palm Beach

Emma A. Pickett, Recording Secretary  
2411 1/2 18th Ave., Tampa

Leona W. Booker, Assistant Secretary  
77 S. Parramore St., Orlando

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Joe Harris  
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Joe H. Jame  
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Miami

T. Reading  
Jacksonville

C. T. Williams  
Orlando

L. L. Youngblood  
Delray Beach

**Progressive Voters League  
Of Florida**

April 26, 1946

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Box 4, Mims

G. D. Rogers, Treasurer  
238 1/2 10th Ave., Bradenton

M. C. Bodie, Director of Publicity  
326 N. Rosemary, W. Palm Beach

Rev. H. McNeal Harris, Chaplain  
Mt. Olive A. M. E. Church, Orlando

Dear Co-Workers:

On April 12 we mailed copies of the enclosed letter to candidates running for Congress and important state offices, subject to the Democratic Primaries in May. Favorable replies have been received from several candidates. We have gotten in touch with others through personal contact.

On April 20 the Board of Directors of the Progressive Voters League met in Orlando to consider the records of various candidates. After careful deliberation, the Board voted to recommend the following candidates:

1. For United States Senator Spessard Holland  
Se. Representative in Congress:
  - First District ✓ Herbert Wentworth
  - Second District ✓ Mrs. C. L. Gene
  - Third District ✓ Carl R. Gray
  - Fourth District ✓ George A. Smath
  - Fifth District ✓ Thomas S. Voss
  - Sixth District ✓ Dwight L. Roger
2. For Justice Supreme Court  
Group Two ✓ Paul D. Barnes
3. For Railroad Commissioner  
Group Two ✓ Carl M. Taylor

The most difficult decision for the Board to make was the choice of a candidate for U. S. Senator. Many members of the Board expressed the opinion that Mrs. Polly R. Baile was the most liberal of the four candidates. However, it was the general opinion of the Board that the real race would probably be between Holland and Green, since Lex Green has publicly announced his intention to "champion the cause of the White Democratic Primary and of the noble traditions of the White South", the Board voted to endorse the candidacy of Holland.

We suggest that you consider carefully the records of your local candidates and make recommendations to your voters on the basis of such records.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore  
Executive Secretary

Milton P. Rooks, President  
1135 Pierce St., Clearwater  
Viola T. Hill, Vice President  
626 W. Washington St., Orlando  
Rev. E. J. Jackson, Vice President  
620 11th St., W. Palm Beach  
Emma A. Pickett, Recording Secretary  
2411 18th Ave., Tampa  
Leona W. Hooker, Assistant Secretary  
717 S. Palmetto St., Orlando

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tampa  
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Old Town  
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Pensacola  
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Ocala  
S. M. Fluellyn  
West Palm Beach  
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Tampa  
Joe Harris  
Daytona Beach  
Joe H. James  
Jacksonville  
W. A. Morris  
Tallahassee  
Ohs. Mundy  
Miami  
T. G. Redding  
Jacksonville  
C. T. Williams  
Orlando  
L. L. Youngblood  
Delray Beach

## Progressive Voters' League Of Florida

Mims, Florida  
April 25, 1946

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Box 4, Mims  
G. D. Rogers, Treasurer  
236 10th Ave., Bradenton  
M. C. Badie, Director of Publicity  
325 N. Rosemary, W. Palm Beach  
Rev. H. McNeal Harris, Chaplain  
Mt. Olive A. M. E. Church, Orlando

Dear Co-workers:

On April 12th we mailed letters to candidates seeking the Democratic nomination for important federal and state offices, in which we asked them to make clear their stand on certain issues vital to the welfare of our group. Favorable replies have been received from several candidates. We have gotten in touch with others through personal contact.

On April 20th the Board of Directors of the Progressive Voters League met in Orlando to consider the records of the various candidates. After careful deliberation, the Board voted to recommend the following candidates:

1. For United States Senator Spessard L. Holland
2. For Representative in Congress:  
First District Herbert Wentworth  
Second District Camille M. Geneau  
Third District Carl R. Gray  
Fourth District George A. Smathers  
Fifth District Thomas W. Voss  
Sixth District Dwight L. Rogers
3. For Justice Supreme Court (Group 2) Paul D. Barnes
4. For Railroad Commissioner (Group 2) Carl M. Taylor

The most difficult decision for the Board to make was the choice of a candidate for United States Senator. Many members of the Board expressed the opinion that Mrs. Polly Rose-Balfie was the most liberal of the four candidates in the field. However, it was the general opinion of the Board that the real race would be between Holland and Green. And since Lex Green has publicly announced his intention to "champion the cause of the White Democratic Primary and of the noble traditions of the white South", the Board voted to endorse the candidacy of Spessard L. Holland.

We suggest that you consider carefully the records of your local candidates and make recommendations to your voters on the basis of such records.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore  
Executive Secretary.