

Office of The
ATTORNEY GENERAL
State of Florida
Tallahassee

February 19, 1948

Mr. Harry T. Moore
Tina, Florida

Dear Moore :

In reply to your letter of February 17, you are entitled to register now while the books are in the hands of the clerks in the precincts, and this includes the right of changing former registration from Republican to Democrat.

You should re-register anyhow, and not be content with any former registration that you might have made. You may present this letter to the present clerk or to the supervisor of registration of Brevard county.

Very truly yours,

J. Tom Watson

Attorney General

Copy

III. Insurance Companies

1. That the presidents of our Insurance Companies be asked to send circular letters to their district managers similar to the ones mentioned above.
2. That each district manager will impress upon his agents the importance of qualifying to vote. (This might be done at district meeting, or by letter)
3. That each agent will be asked to encourage the members, and general public in his debit to register and vote.
4. That agents will be asked to give out to the people in their debits helpful information, relative to the procedure used in registering and voting.

Please let us hear whether you are willing to serve with us.

Respectfully yours,

THE NEGRO PROGRESSIVE VOTERS LEAGUE OF FLORIDA.

E. E. Broughton, President

Mrs. E. A. Pickett, Secretary

Rev. H. J. Fordham, Asst. Secretary

Mrs. R. B. Watman, Corresponding Secretary

Harry T. Moore, Treasurer

M. C. Bodie, Director of Publicity

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Open Letter
To Florida Negro Voters

Mims, Florida
November 15, 1945

Dear Co-Workers:

As we go about trying to help organize local units of the Progressive Voters League, this important question arises: "Should Negroes register as Republicans or Democrats?" This question sometimes precipitates heated arguments, because in practically every community you will find some staunch Republican and some loyal Democrats.

In our attempt to clarify this question, we should like to ask a few other questions. Are Negro citizens of Florida suffering more from the discriminatory practices of local officials or of national officials? Who are more directly responsible for the inequalities in educational opportunities, the lynchings, the police brutality, and other injustices suffered by Negroes, our state and county officials or the Administration in Washington? All of these evils can be traced directly to the prejudiced attitude of local officials. Negro teachers are paid less than white teachers with the same qualifications because the county superintendents and school boards have so arranged it. Jesse Payne was lynched on October 10, 1945, because the Madison County Sheriff permitted it. Who controls the election of these state and county officials, the Republicans or the Democrats? Regardless to our party beliefs, we must now face facts. And the fact is that practically every city, county, and state official in Florida is selected in the Democratic Primaries. In order to help select these officials, Negroes must vote in Democratic Primaries. In order to vote in Democratic Primaries, Negroes must register as Democrats.

It is because of the great importance of the Democratic Primaries that that the NAACP has spent thousands of dollars to get them opened up for Negro voters in the South. We still are waging a determined fight to win for Negro citizens the right to register as Democrats and vote in the primaries, thus helping to select those who are to have direct control over us. The prospects are bright. The Florida Supreme Court has handed down a unanimous decision that Negroes have a right to vote in Democratic Primaries. And Attorney General Tom Watson has ruled that Negroes can register as Democrats.

If we are to reap the full benefit of these opportunities, we must forget our old party affiliations and register to vote in the election that really counts—the Democratic Primary. Then when the General Election comes, we can vote for the candidates of our choice. Let us remember the words of the poet Lowell:

"New occasions teach new duties
Time makes ancient good uncouth
They must upward still and onward
Who would keep abreast of Truth.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters League of Florida

Mims, Florida
June 20, 1945

Florida Delegation
United States Congress
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs :

Negro citizens of Florida are deeply concerned about the fate of four pieces of legislation now pending in Congress. We have reference to the bill to create a strong permanent FEPC, anti-lynching legislation, Anti-Jim Crow Travel Bill (H. R. 1925), and anti-poll tax legislation.

In 1941 the late President Roosevelt, by executive order, created the present FEPC to serve during this emergency. Not only has this Committee done much to eliminate gross discrimination in the employment of war workers, but it has helped to relieve the manpower shortage by inducing employers to use workers because of their ability to do the job, and not because of their creed or color. Now that total victory is in sight, we feel that a permanent FEPC should be created to protect workers from that racial discrimination in employment that is almost sure to come with the return to normal conditions.

Although lynching is not as common now as it was 25 years ago, decent Americans cannot be satisfied until this blot is removed from the pages of America's history. Experience has proven that state authorities either cannot, or will not, take effective action against lynchers under existing laws. When the lynching of a Negro high school boy in Suwannee County was reported to Gov. Holland, he practically admitted that he was powerless to move effectively against the lynchers. And when we consider the fact that lynch mobs do not even respect the uniform of the United States Army, it becomes more evident that a strong Federal law is necessary to curb this evil.

It is hardly necessary to mention the inconveniences and humiliations suffered by Negroes traveling in the South under our jim crow transportation system. They are evident on every hand. Negroes of the South are not worried about what some call "social equality", but we do desire equal accommodations for traveling. Since these are not being provided under our present dual system, we solicit your support for H. R. 1925.

Although passage of the Anti-Poll Tax Bill will not affect Florida voters, we feel that this bill should be passed for the benefit of voters in those states where this restriction still exists.

If America is to take the lead in developing a true democracy in the post war world, she must be able to teach it by precept and example, rather than by mere words. We therefore ask your support for this liberal legislation.

Respectfully yours,

Harry P. Moore

UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on
public buildings and grounds

July 26, 1945

Mr. Harry T. Moore
Mims, Florida

Dear Sir:

Your letter addressed to the Florida Delegation has been received, regarding the FEPC legislation, anti-lynching bill, anti-Jim Crow Travel bill and anti-poll tax legislation.

Although I am not in favor of any of these bills I am glad to have this expression of your views.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES C. ANDREWS

Mims, Florida
October 12, 1946

Hon. J. Harry Schud
Candidate for U. S. Senate
Gainesville, Florida

Dear Sir :

We have read with much interest the detailed outline of your platform on foreign and domestic issues, which was published in the Florida Times Union on Oct. 8. We note, however, that your platform makes no mention of your stand on such vital issues as FEPC, the poll tax, and anti-lynching legislation. We note also that you express clearly your opposition to communism, but you fail to state your attitude with reference to the Ku Klux Klan and other "hate" organizations that are designed primarily to prey upon minority groups.

The issues mentioned above are of primary importance to our group. We feel that a strong permanent FEPC is needed to safeguard Negroes and other minority groups from discrimination in employment. Although Florida voters already have been relieved of the poll tax, we feel that the anti-poll tax bill should be passed for the benefit of voters in other states. We can never have a wholesome democracy so long as the exercise of franchise is limited by such artificial restrictions as the poll tax, white primaries, etc.

The need of a strong federal law against lynching and mob violence is more evident now than ever before. State authorities either cannot or will not take effective action against lynchers. Among the recent examples right here in our own state are the lynching of Cellos Harrison at Marianna, the lynchings of Willie James Howard and Sam McFadden in Suwannee County, and the lynching of Jesse James Payne in Madison County. And just this year Leroy Bradwell, a Negro veteran of Midway, mysteriously disappeared while in the custody of the Gadsden County Sheriff. In the lynching of Sam McFadden has anyone been arrested or convicted. Even in this case the Suwannee County Grand Jury refused to return an indictment, and federal authorities could move only under a weak civil rights statute. Thus a man gets off with only a year in jail and a fine of \$1000 for committing first degree murder. So long as these conditions exist in America, our democracy is little more than "sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal", and our delegates to the Peace Conference can easily be branded as hypocrites.

We shall appreciate an expression of your views on these issues.

Respectfully yours,

Larry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters' League of Florida

Mims, Florida
September 21, 1946

Mr. W. J. Moss
Candidate for Congress
132 S. Main Street
Orlando, Florida

Dear Sir :

Prior to the May primaries we mailed copies of the inclosed letter to candidates seeking the Democratic nomination to various offices.

We note that you will oppose the Hon. Joe Hendricks for his seat in Congress from the Fifth District in the coming General election. We therefore are asking for an expression of your views on the important issues mentioned in the inclosed letter.

We shall be grateful for an early reply, as the Progressive Voters' League of the Fifth District will hold a meeting in Sanford Saturday, Sept. 28, at 10:00 A. M.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore
Executive Secretary

Mims, Florida
October 1, 1946

Mr. W. J. Moss
Candidate for Congress
132 S. Main Street
Orlando, Florida

Dear Sir :

On Sept. 21 we mailed you correspondence, in which we asked for an expression of your views on FEPC, anti-lynching legislation, and other issues that are very vital to the welfare of our group. We had hoped to get an answer from you in time to present it to our district meeting in Sanford on Sept. 28, but perhaps the time was too short for you to get your reply to us by that date.

We are now about ready to send out certain recommendations to our voters in the Fifth District. However, it will be impossible for us to make intelligent recommendations with reference to candidates for Congress until we get your reply to our communication of Sept. 21.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore
Executive Secretary

Comment : Up to this date (Oct. 21) we have not received a reply to either of these letters.

WILLIAM C. BROWN

Committee on
public buildings and grounds

July 26, 1945

Mr. Harry T. Moore
Tampa, Florida

Dear Sir:

Your letter addressed to the Florida Delegation has been received, regarding the FIC legislation, anti-lynching bill, anti-Jim Crow Travel bill and anti-poll tax legislation.

Although I am not in favor of any of these bills I am glad to have this expression of your views.

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM C. BROWN



STAPLES

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Caldwell Lambasts Magazine For Criticizing Lynch Case

WASH., Dec. 10.—Governor Caldwell today lambasted a magazine for its criticism of the lynching of a Negro woman in North Carolina. Caldwell said the magazine's comments were "outrageous" and "unbecomingly inflammatory." He said the magazine had "deliberately" and "intentionally" published "outrageous" and "unbecomingly inflammatory" comments on the lynching of a Negro woman in North Carolina. Caldwell said the magazine's comments were "outrageous" and "unbecomingly inflammatory." He said the magazine had "deliberately" and "intentionally" published "outrageous" and "unbecomingly inflammatory" comments on the lynching of a Negro woman in North Carolina.

Comments Carolina Governor
The editorial commends Governor Caldwell for his recent action in condemning the lynchings which have taken place in the South. The editor of the magazine, however, says that the lynchings are a necessary part of the life of the South and that they should not be condemned. Caldwell says that the magazine's comments are "outrageous" and "unbecomingly inflammatory." He says that the magazine has "deliberately" and "intentionally" published "outrageous" and "unbecomingly inflammatory" comments on the lynching of a Negro woman in North Carolina.

W. H. ...
...

Winter Haven, Fla.
June 22, 1946

Mrs. L. B. Kinser
Box 589
Winter Haven, Fla.

Dear Mrs. Kinser:

I owe you an apology for my long delay in answering your letter. However, we have not forgotten the Springfield Green case nor have we given up hope of securing definite action in this matter.

No doubt you, as J. H. Black already has told you that we asked him to go to Winter Haven and talk over this matter with Atty. Allen E. Walker. Atty. Walker feels that he can get the warrant served on the man who assaulted Green, and that he can assist with the prosecution.

It is my opinion that this procedure will get quicker and more direct results than the course suggested by Atty. Carter in Jacksonville. Even if we fail to get a conviction, the people, both white and colored, will know that the organization made a serious effort to secure justice in this case.

Atty. Walker estimates that cost will be

As soon as your officers are ready, you may see Atty. Walker and show him this letter. You can then find out from him how much cash you will need to start action on the case.

~~Please let me know~~

From time to time please let me know how the case is developing.

Best regards to officers and members.

Sincerely yours,

Harry J. Brown

about 50.00. We are suggesting that the first amount for the case however we shall be glad to let the doctor come up in the next of the state conference in order to raise the proceeds on officers of the first amount. In other words you can pay Atty. Walker the money but we can make it appear that the conference is paying the action. This will protect the people from any prejudiced feelings.

Mims, Florida
May 27, 1946

Rev. H. C. Caphart, President
Belle Glade Branch, NAACP
Belle Glade, Florida

Dear Rev. Caphart :

We have a letter from Mr. T. L. Redding, president of the Jacksonville Branch, NAACP, in which he reports an unfortunate case at Clewiston. According to this report, Mr. Rosell Patrick, a Negro resident of Clewiston, has a permit, issued by local authorities, to transport men by truck to New Jersey each year. It seems that the sugar mill operators at Clewiston resent the fact that these men are being transported elsewhere to work. The report states that Mr. Patrick has been arrested and held without bail. This information was given to Mr. Redding by Miss Bernice Edkins, Mr. Patrick's daughter, who is a student at Walker's Business College in Jacksonville.

We are anxious to get first-hand information about this case. We therefore are asking you, or some reliable member of your Branch, to go to Clewiston and get all possible details about this matter. We would like to know just what charge they have against Mr. Patrick. Find out if he is still in jail. We want to know if there are any legal grounds on which the NAACP might come to his assistance. Please look into this as early as possible. The State Conference will pay the expense of your investigation.

We shall expect to hear from you at an early date.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore

cc :
Mr. A. Z. Morgan
Box 445, Belle Glade