

\*\*\*\*\* PROGRAM \*\*\*\*\*

N. A. A. C. P. Meeting, Friday March 12, 1948, 8:00 p.m.

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1. Opening Selection -----Lift Every Voice and Sing  
(audience standing)
2. Prayer -Chant -----Rev. N. Denard
3. Selection ----- "Well Done"
4. Introductory Remarks ----- President James A. Brown
5. Selection ----- "My Curly Headed Babby"  
Girls Glee Club
6. Instrumental Solo ----- Miss Tommie J. Doss
7. Address ----- Mr. Leon Lewis  
Managing Editor Florida Spur  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
8. Vocal Solo ----- C. Lemore Mingo
9. Introduction of the State Executive Secretary by the  
president
10. Remarks ----- Mr. Harry T. Moore  
State Executive Secretary  
N. A. A. C. P.
11. Selection ----- "Lord I Want To Be A Christian"  
(Audience)
12. Offering
13. Introduction of Guests
14. Announcements
15. Doxology

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MEMO-

From the Desk of

CALVIN E. ADAMS

Dear Harry:

March 12, 1947

Enclosed is the long requested copy of the Mathews' proposal to separate the Democratic primary from state control and place it into the hands of private clubs.

I am sure that this bunch of crap will amuse you as much as it did me. There is no positive plan expressed in its text.

Please excuse the delay and I hope that it will be of service to you. Until I see you in Winter Park on the 22nd, I remain

Your friend

*Calvin*  
Calvin.

Records And Attitudes of Candidates

The Progressive Voters' League of Florida has decided not to make any formal endorsement of candidates for state offices until after the first primary. However, for the benefit of Negro voters, we release the following information about some of the candidates, with regard to their records and attitudes toward Negro citizens.

- For Governor -

Walter English has served as state superintendent of schools for about 11 years. It was during his first term as state superintendent that Florida Negro teachers began their fight for equal salaries. There are indications that Mr. English opposed the efforts of Negro teachers to get equal salaries. As state superintendent Mr. English has been an influential figure in the Florida Education Association (the state organization of white teachers), and it is said that this organization has appropriated money to hire lawyers to fight Negro teachers whenever they might file suits for equal salaries. J. Velma Keen of Tallahassee is the lawyer who has opposed Negro teachers in many of their suits for equal salaries, and Mr. Keen is said to be closely associated with Mr. English. Mr. English was in office 9 years before he recognized the Negro teachers enough to visit their State Association, although the superintendent who preceded him visited the Negro teachers' meetings quite frequently.

A. Shands of Gainesville has been a member of the State Legislature for a number of years. Last year Mr. Shands was one of the leaders in the fight against the Matthews White Primary Bill, which would have kept Negroes from voting in Democratic primaries.

Fuller Warren has served as a member of the State Legislature from Calhoun and Duval Counties. Mr. Warren has long been considered an advocate of "white supremacy", and it is said that he is closely associated with Senator John E. Matthews of Duval County, who tried hard to get a "white primary" bill through the last Legislature.

J. Tom Watson has been attorney general of Florida for several years. We can mention several instances in which Mr. Watson has openly taken a stand ~~as~~ in favor of Negroes. On Oct. 26, 1945, Mr. Watson issued a legal opinion which upheld the right of Negroes to register as Democrats and to vote in primary elections. Mr. Watson sent a copy of this opinion to the Progressive Voters' League. When the State Democratic Committee met in Tampa in 1946, Mr. Watson arranged for Mr. E. E. Broughton, then president of the Voters' League, to talk with key members of this Committee about plans for permitting Negroes to vote in Democratic primaries. On Feb. 26, 1946, Mr. Watson sent a circular letter to all registration supervisors, in which he reminded them that Negroes had a right to register as Democrats. When Jesse James Payne was lynched in 1945, Mr. Watson informed Gov. Caldwell that Sheriff Davis was the uncle of the 5-year old white girl that Payne was accused of raping, and he recommended that Sheriff Davis be suspended.

- For State School Superintendent \*

Thomas D. Bailey has served for several years as president and ~~and~~ as secretary of public relations for the Florida Education Association. As we stated above, this Association of white teachers has actively opposed the efforts of Negro teachers to get equal salaries. Many Negro teachers in Tampa feel that Mr. Bailey was in favor of a rating system when he was supervising principal there. (Some counties use this rating system as a scheme to pay Negro teachers less than they pay white teachers). Atty. J. Velma Keen, the lawyer who has opposed Negro teachers in most of their salary suits, is said to be supporting Mr. Bailey.

Robert D. Dolley has had much to do with the development of vocational education in Florida. It is reported that Mr. Dolley has been largely responsible for the opening up of many vocational schools for Negroes in Florida. Some of his associates have related instances in which Mr. Dolley has opposed efforts of white people to segregate and to practice discrimination against Negroes who were working with him in certain conferences.

Robert C. Marshall served for several years as principal and superintendent of schools in Duval County. Mr. Marshall visited our Board Meeting in Tampa on April 17th, and he gave favorable

- For Attorney General -

Frank Burton of Nauchula has been state attorney for many years. Two years ago attorneys for the NAACP were attacking the exclusion of Negroes from jury service in Polk County. It is reported that Burton voluntarily took the stand and testified that he had advised the Jury Commission that excluding the Constitution in excluding Negroes from the jury list. He further stated that he would not try another case involving Negroes unless names of Negroes were placed in the jury box.

Richard L. Ervin has served as an assistant to J. Tom Watson, and some feel that he shares Watson's attitude with regard to citizenship rights for Negroes.

After this week we hope to send out a list of recommended candidates for delegate to the National Democratic Convention, as we want to support candidates who are not opposed to President Truman and his civil rights program.

Wilson P. Hooks, President  
1335 Pierce St., Clearwater

*Harry T. Hora*  
Harry T. Hora, Executive Secretary  
Tampa, Florida - April 26, 1948

Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.

Re: Candidates for Congress

5th District

1948

Mims, Florida  
April 30, 1948

Fellow-Citizens:

You know, certain reactionary forces in Florida are trying to defeat the nomination and election of Pres. Truman because of his civil rights program. They have entered a list of candidates for delegate to the Democratic National Convention pledged to support Fielding L. Wright of Mississippi for president, instead of Pre. Truman. We must oppose this slate of candidates with all the power at our command.

From the information that we have been able to gather, the candidates listed below are the most liberal, and they are expected to support Pres. Truman. We suggest that you find these names on your ballots and vote for them:

- State-at-Large -

Men

William V. Albury  
Holmes L. Allen  
Robert H. Anderson  
Al B. Block  
James F. Matthews  
Henry C. Tillman  
J. Irvin Walden  
Norman Stephen Stone, Jr.

Women

Mrs. Agnes Freig  
Myrtle E. Brown  
Hallie M. Dowling  
Margaret Mason  
Edna Pearce  
Mrs. John Fugh  
Lucille C. Tally  
Willie Joe Steerman

First District

T. H. Hutchinson

Mrs. J. Reid Ramsey

Second District

Zach H. Douglas

Madge O. Wade

Third District

Roy E. Mason

Gracie F. Ashmore

Fourth District

Thomas S. Ferguson

Marie E. Balfe

Fifth District

Dorsey J. Prescott

Louise W. McGregor

Sixth District

Charles H. Warwick, Jr.

Jane F. Alley

Note: You vote for 8 men and 8 women from the state-at-large. Then you vote for 1 man and 1 woman from your district.

The 3 candidates for Congress from the Fifth District are Virgil Conner of Apopka, A. S. (Syn) Herlong of Leesburg, and John V. L. Hicks of Daytona Beach. We have written letters to these candidates, in which we presented some of the major problems that confront Negroes. We especially emphasized the need for positive action against lynching and the need for equal educational opportunities within this state for All citizens. To date we have received replies from Mr. Herlong and Mr. Hicks. Mr. Hicks sent us the more favorable reply. Mr. Herlong made it clear that he does not favor a federal anti-lynching law. In fact, in a recent speech Mr. Herlong stated that he is definitely against Pres. Truman's civil rights program and will work against it. Mr. Herlong also stated that he is the only candidate who has openly promised to fight the civil rights program. Information released by the Florida Voters' League (white) pictures Herlong as conservative and Hicks as a liberal.

Sincerely yours,

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

Mims, Florida  
April 30, 1948

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Sincerely yours,

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



Progressive Voters' League of Florida  
To Meet In Orlando  
-----

The Progressive Voters' League of Florida will hold a state meeting at Mt. Olive A. M. E. Church, West Washington Street, Orlando, on Saturday, October 9th, to make plans for the general election next month.

Beginning at 11:00 A. M. there will be a general session open to the public. At 2:00 P. M. there will be a closed session, open only to members of the Board and delegates from affiliated local units. Each affiliated local unit is entitled to 1 representative for every 100 ~~members~~ paid members, or fraction thereof.

The Progressive Voters' League is an independent political organization devoted to the best interest of Florida Negro citizens and to the general welfare of our state. The League does not cater to any foreign "isms". It stands for the fundamental principles of American democracy. The League is not tied to any one political party, nor is it controlled by "professional politicians".

We are devoted to the cause of good government for ALL the people, without regard to race, color, or creed. The League stands for full citizenship rights and equal opportunities for Negroes. We are particularly concerned about the crimes of lynching, mob violence, and police brutality, and we favor more effective measures to check these evils that plague our people. We also favor equal job opportunities for Negroes, equal school facilities, adequate bus accommodations, and equal salaries for Negro teachers, based solely on training and experience. We firmly believe that these objectives can be reached through the proper kind of political action, and it is our policy to support those candidates who promise to advocate these basic civil rights for our people.

Florida Negro citizens now enjoy wonderful political opportunities. With the exception of a few counties, we have free access to the ballot box. It is up to us to vote wisely for the general welfare of our people.

We solicit your support in our efforts to promote a program of wholesome political activity among Negro citizens. Fellow citizens, let us consolidate our political strength. Organize a unit of the Progressive Voters' League in your community and thus become affiliated with the political organization that is fighting for the complete emancipation of our race.

It is easy to organize a unit of the Progressive Voters' League, even in a small community. You may start with 10 members. There is an annual membership fee of \$1.00, which is divided equally between the local unit and the State League. Membership cards are issued by the State League, which is chartered under the laws of Florida. Local political, civic, and social clubs may become affiliated with the Progressive Voters' League by reporting 50¢ per member to the State League. Cards will be issued for memberships so reported. Write the executive secretary for further information.

*Harry T. Moore*  
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Progressive Voters' League of Florida  
Hims, Florida --- October 2, 1948



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*Harry T. Moore*  
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Progressive Voters' League of Florida  
Mims, Florida --- October 2, 1948

Progressive Voters' League of Florida

Endorses State Candidates

On May 15, 1948, the Board of Directors of the Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc., met at the First Baptist Church in Lake Wales to consider state candidates who are running in the second primary on May 25th. After much discussion, the Board went into executive session and voted to endorse the following candidates :

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Governor                       | Fuller Warren           |
| 2. Attorney General               | Richard W. (Dick) Ervin |
| 3. Justice of State Supreme Court | J. Tom Watson           |

J. Tom Watson was probably the unanimous choice of the Board for a position on the State Supreme Court. As attorney general, Mr. Watson has issued several favorable opinions with regard to the citizenship rights of Negroes; and on the basis of his past record, we feel that Mr. Watson will advocate justice for all citizens who come before the Supreme Court.

Richard W. Ervin served for some time as first assistant to J. Tom Watson, and many feel that he shares Mr. Watson's attitude with regard to the rights of Negro citizens. Those who know Mr. Ervin testify that he has been liberal and fair in his dealings with our people.

Probably the most difficult decision for the Board to make was the choice of a candidate for governor. However, the Board was concerned about the fact that Mr. McCarty seems to have the support of Governor Caldwell, whose machine is said to be opposing Senator Claude Pepper. It is generally agreed that Senator Pepper is one of the South's most liberal statesmen - a staunch friend of labor and of the common people. On the other hand, we have much evidence to prove that Governor Caldwell's Administration has shown very little regard for the basic rights of Negro citizens. In the election in 1950 it is likely to be Caldwell against Pepper for the U. S. Senate. Mr. McCarty, as governor, would no doubt support Mr. Caldwell. Mr. Warren is said to be a strong supporter of Senator Pepper.

those

We admit that no candidate's record is perfect, and that ~~some of these~~ who were not endorsed have some good qualities. But at this point we must make a decision, even if it is a matter of choosing the lesser of two evils. Now is the time for the 69,000 Negro Democratic voters to make their power felt. The campaign has now boiled down to the point where 50,000 votes might easily mean the difference between victory and defeat for any candidate. If we pull together now, we should be able to wield the balance of power. Such a demonstration of our voting strength will mean much to us in this fight for justice and equal opportunities for our people.

Fellow citizens, this is the greatest political opportunity that Florida Negro citizens have ever enjoyed. We solicit the full co-operation of all groups and organizations in this effort to get out a strong united vote on May 25th.

The Board also agreed that the Progressive Voters' League should go on record as being bitterly opposed to the segregated regional school plan advocated by the Southern Governors' Conference. Years of experience have made it quite clear to us that the theory of "separate but equal" is a judicial myth. Negroes never have had - and probably never will have - equality of educational opportunities under a segregated school system. We therefore are strongly opposed to the regional school bill that has been introduced in the Senate by the Junior Senator from Florida, and we wish to remind Senator Holland that his support of this measure is contrary to the best interest of the Negro citizens of Florida and of the South.

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

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Mims, Florida --- May 16, 1948

The 1948 General Election  
And Its Importance To Negro Voters.

Because of our one-party system, general elections in the "Solid South" usually arouse less interest than Democratic primaries. In most cases the winner in a Democratic primary is considered a sure winner in the general election. The primary is usually The Election in the South.

But the general election facing us on November 2nd is a most unusual one. Not since 1860 has this country been so divided in a presidential election. In fact, the presidential elections of 1860 and 1948 are similar in many respects. In 1860 the slavery question was the burning issue. The Democratic Party split over this issue and eventually offered two candidates for president. The Constitutional Union Party tried to "soft-pedal" the slavery question and adopted a platform that emphasized the importance of upholding the Constitution and preserving the Union. The new Republican Party opposed the extension of slavery into the territories and nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. Lincoln was elected; and when the smoke of the Civil War cleared five years later, chattel slavery had been abolished.

In 1948, as in 1860, we find our nation again divided on the race question. In 1860 it was called the slavery question. In 1948 it is called the question of civil rights. But the fundamental issue is the same in both cases. The basic question is this: Shall America continue to treat Negroes as slaves, inferior beings, and second-class citizens, or shall Negroes be treated as free human beings, with all of the rights and privileges of full citizenship? When this question was raised at the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia this year, the reaction was about the same as it was at the Democratic Convention in Charleston and Baltimore in 1860. The reactionary "States' Rights" slave holders walked out in 1860, held another convention in Richmond, and nominated Breckinridge of Kentucky. The reactionary Dixiecrats walked out again in 1948, journeyed to Birmingham, and nominated Thurmond of South Carolina.

The Dixiecrats' "walkout" in Philadelphia was perhaps the best thing that could have happened. The line was then clearly drawn, and liberal forces gained control of the regular Democratic Party. The party adopted a strong race plank that fully endorsed Truman's civil rights program and dedicated the Democratic Party to the liberal principles of "human rights" instead of the old reactionary doctrine of states' rights.

American Negroes have much at stake in the general election of 1948. In advocating the civil rights program Mr. Truman has stuck his neck out farther for the Negro race than any president - perhaps even farther than did Abraham Lincoln. Truman has risked the loss of support from many of his own party. The Dixiecrats are trying hard to defeat Truman just because he is advocating full citizenship for Negroes.

Negro citizens of Florida and other Southern states must get ready to play an important part in the election on November 2nd. The "Solid South" is not so solid this year. The South is not "in the bag" for the Democratic Party in 1948. Votes for president will be split four ways, and in some Southern states the race may be very close. Negroes should realize that we are a very important issue in this campaign. The outcome of this election may have as much effect on our future welfare as did the election of 1860.

Registration books are now open. Every adult Negro in Florida should be registered to vote in November. We hereby urge NAACP branches, local units of the Voters' League, and other civic, fraternal, and religious organizations to put on intensive drives for registration of Negro voters. Let us double the 80,000 Negro voters that we had for the primaries. Fellow citizens, the Negro vote may prove to be the balance of power in the presidential race in Florida this year. We are the ones who need civil rights. Therefore, let us get prepared to throw a strong vote for the liberal forces that are trying to secure the complete emancipation of our race.

*Harry T. Moore*

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
1. Florida State Conference, NAACP  
2. Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.  
Mims, Florida August 14, 1948

MILTON P. ROOKS, PRESIDENT  
1135 PIERCE ST., CLEARWATER

VIOLA T. HILL, VICE PRESIDENT  
626 W. WASHINGTON ST., ORLANDO

REV. E. J. JACKSON, VICE PRESIDENT  
D - 11TH ST., W. PALM BEACH

A. A. PICKETT, RECORDING SECRETARY  
2411 - 18TH AVE., TAMPA

LEONA W. BOOKER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
727 S. PARRAMORE ST., ORLANDO

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# Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc.

HARRY T. MOORE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
BOX 4, MIMS

G. D. ROGERS, TREASURER  
236 - 10TH AVE., BRADENTON

M. C. BODIE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLICITY  
326 N. ROSEMARY, W. PALM BEACH

REV. H. McNEAL HARRIS, CHAPLAIN  
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STANDARD TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH  
DIVISION  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
1925

and chief to general

STANDARD TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH  
DIVISION  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
1925

Read found to  
Vote right

STANDARD TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH  
DIVISION  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
1925

Mims, Florida  
March 30, 1948

Dear Co-workers :

You perhaps know, the Progressive Voters' League of Florida is sponsoring a "Noah Griffin Day" on April 16th. At 8:00 P. M. on this date a big program will be rendered in the City Auditorium in Tampa, at which time Mr. Griffin and Dr. Benjamin Mays of Morehouse College are ~~###~~ expected to speak.

Noah Griffin is one of Florida's most outstanding characters. He is a native of Columbia County and a graduate of the old Florida Baptist Academy. For a number of years Mr. Griffin taught in the schools of Florida, and along with John Gilbert, Edward D. Davis, Harry T. Moore and others Mr. Griffin pioneered in the fight for equal salaries for Negro teachers. Because of his firm stand on the question of equal salaries, Mr. Griffin was finally ousted from the public school system of this state. Mr. Griffin served as the first president of the Florida State Conference NAACP, and he is now a member of the National Field Staff of the NAACP, with headquarters in San Francisco, California.

Citizens from all sections of Florida are expected to gather in Tampa on April 16th to pay homage to this famous son of our fair state. Hundreds of other well-wishers will be unable to come to Tampa, but all of us can join in the celebration by wearing a "Noah Griffin" tag on that day. These tags are available for 25¢ each, and they can be secured from Mrs. E. A. Pickett 2411 - 18th Ave., Tampa. NAACP branches, churches, schools, lodges, local clubs, and other organizations are asked to help sell these tags. Please write Mrs. Pickett at once for the number of tags that you think you can sell.

Proceeds from this celebration will be used to help finance the work of the State Voters' League, which is trying to promote a program of wholesome political activity among Florida Negro citizens. We solicit your full co-operation.

On April 17th, at 11:00 A. M., the Board of Directors of the Progressive Voters' League will meet in Tampa to endorse certain candidates running for federal, state, and district offices. Candidates will be considered on the basis of their records and their attitudes with regard to equal rights for Negro citizens. The Progressive Voters' League is interested in the general welfare of the masses of our people, and one of its main objectives is to endorse and help to elect candidates who will give all of us a fair deal.

Each local unit that has become affiliated with the State League will be entitled to send representatives to this meeting on the following basis: 1 representative for each 100 members, or fraction thereof. If you have not already done so, please organize your local unit and get it affiliated with the State League at once, so that your representative can help to make the important decisions at this meeting. You can organize a local unit with 10 members and then work to increase your membership. You can become affiliated with the State League by sending \$1.50 per member each year. Membership cards will be issued to members so reported. Write us for any additional information that you may desire.

Representatives to the Board Meeting on April 17th are asked to report to the office of Mr. C. Blythe Andrews, editor of the Florida Sentinel, on Central Avenue. You will then be advised as to the place where the meeting will be held.

Milton P. Rocks, President  
35 Pierce St., Clearwater

Yours for democracy in Florida,  
*Harry T. Moore*  
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Box 4, Mims

Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.

Book: *Stephen Day*

3/30/48



Mims, Florida  
April 12, 1946

Dear Candidate:

This year for the first time hundreds of Negro citizens will vote in the Democratic Primaries. This is a privilege for which we have fought long and hard, and we hope to use it wisely.

Ever since the thirteen colonies declared their independence from England American Negroes have proven their loyalty to this country. All through the years we have shared its burdens and responsibilities. Our forefathers helped to make the South what it is to-day. They helped to clear the land and till the soil. In reviewing the Negro's contribution to the development of the South, one writer has well said: "I see him laboring for two centuries and a half in unrequited toil, making the hillsides of our Southland to glow with the snow-white fleece of cotton and the valleys to glisten with the golden sheaves of grain".

As we have shared freely our country's burdens and responsibilities, we desire to share just as freely its benefits and blessings. As a group, we ask no special favors. Neither do we cater to any foreign "isms". We seek merely the fundamental rights of American citizenship, equality of opportunities, equal protection of the law, justice in the courts, and free participation in the affairs of our government. We are particularly concerned about the lynchings and police brutality that have plagued our state during the past few months. We therefore are interested in anti-lynching legislation and firm action against peace officers who permit lynchings or mistreat prisoners. We are concerned about equal job opportunities for Negroes and, therefore, the ultimate fate of FEPC legislation. We are concerned about equal educational opportunities - equal buildings and equipment, equal bus accommodations, and equal pay for teachers based solely on training and experience.

If you will send us an expression of your views on these fundamental issues, we can more intelligently advise our voters throughout the state. We shall appreciate an early reply, as our Board of Directors will meet in Orlando on April 20th.

Sincerely yours,

Harr, J. Moore, Executive Sec.  
Progressive Voters' League of  
Florida

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  
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2411 - 18th Ave., Tampa  
Leona W. Booker, Assistant Secretary  
727 S. Parramore St., Orlando

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## Progressive Voters League Of Florida

April 25, 1946

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Box 4, Mims  
G. D. Rogers, Treasurer  
236 - 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
2. Representative in Congress:  
First District Herbert Wentworth  
Second District Mrs. C. M. Genc  
Third District Carl R. Gray  
Fourth District George A. Smart  
Fifth District Thomas S. Voss  
Sixth District Dwight L. Roge
3. For Justice Supreme Court  
Group Two Paul D. Barns
4. For Railroad Commissioner  
Group Two Carl H. 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. Folly R. Balfe 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



West Palm Beach, Florida  
May 8, 1947

State Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida  
Attention of the Senate Elections Committee:

Senator G. Warren Sanchez            Senator Harry King  
Senator John E. Mathews            Senator Harry P. Johnson  
Senator William J. Ray            Senator James A. Franklin  
  
Senator Evans Crary

Dear Sir:

We wish to express our opposition to the Senate Bill number 16, sponsored by Senator John E. Mathews of Duval County, which is to be presented again to the Florida Legislature. We oppose this bill because:

1. It seeks to disfranchise the Negro population of Florida.
2. It would remove the primaries from State control and expose Florida politics to the worst forms of fraud and corruption. Such a primary run by bosses and cliques would easily get control of our elections.

If we are to perpetuate the Democratic way of life, we must have elections for all citizens, without regard to race or creed. We therefore urge you to oppose the Mathews Bill so that this "government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish", in Florida.

Yours for good citizenship,

---

PALM BEACH COUNTY VOTERS LEAGUE  
416 N. Sapodilla Avenue

West Palm Beach, Florida  
May 7, 1947

Dear Fellow Citizens:

The Mathews Primary Bill has been introduced in the Florida Senate and has been referred to the Senate Elections Committee. The members of this Committee are:

Senator G. Warren Sanchez	Senator Harry King
Senator John E. Mathews	Senator Harry P. Johnson
Senator William J. Ray	Senator James A. Franklin
Senator Evans Crary	

As you perhaps know, this so called 'White Primary Bill' seeks to divorce the primary election from State control and make the Democratic Party in Florida a private club. In this way Negro citizens can be barred from voting in the Democratic Primary, which is the main election in Florida. All clear thinking people will agree that the Mathews Bill is unfair, undemocratic, and unconstitutional. It is contrary to the fundamental principles of Christianity. Why should any loyal group of citizens be disfranchised just because of race or creed? Can Florida boast of a true democracy if one third of its citizens and tax payers are denied the fundamental right to vote?

We must do everything possible to help defeat this undemocratic measure. The PALM BEACH COUNTY VOTERS LEAGUE urges you and your organization to send a copy of enclosed resolution to EACH MEMBER OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE expressing opposition to the Mathews Bill.

Just address an envelope to each of the above named members of the Senate Elections Committee at the State Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida, and sign your name and the name of your organization to the enclosed letters and mail at once.

Very truly yours,

Melba J. Cambria, Executive Secretary

Clifton G. Dyson, Chairman  
Legislative Committee

Dr. J.H. Terrell, President  
Palm Beach County Voters League

[Faded typed text, likely a letter or report, mostly illegible due to low contrast and noise.]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE: [illegible] TIME: [illegible]  
TO: [illegible]  
FROM: [illegible]  
SUBJECT: [illegible]

[Faded typed text, likely a continuation of the memorandum.]

4/18/47

C. King

1827

W. J. Duncan

W. J. Duncan

W. J. Duncan  
W. J. Duncan

D. S. Bridges  
(Not a date)

Mrs. Ross L. B...

113 N. W. 2nd St.

Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc.  
MEMBERSHIP CARD

STAPLES

