

In an Open Letter

Moore Urges Race Citizens To Vote Wisely in Primary

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the final article based upon the open letter of Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Progressive Voters League, to Negro voters should know. This week's article sets forth pertinent facts which race voters should know.

By CALVIN E. ADAMS

MIMS, Fla.—Stressing the grave importance of a keen appraisal of all the issues and candidates involved in the primary elections taking place on Tuesday, May 4, Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the State Conference of NAACP Branches, told The Courier of some of the pertinent issues which have faced the race in the past. His statement follows:

"For years Negro citizens have been the unhappy victims of lynching, police brutality and injustice in the courts. In many instances, our school buildings and facilities have been poor and our teachers have been overloaded and forced to work under discriminatory salary schedules. Some Florida counties still do not provide bus service for their Negro children. Our roads and streets have been neglected, and we have had very few (if any) of the jobs our tax money helps to maintain."

CITIZEN BRUTALITY CASES

In speaking of the police brutality happening over the State, Mr. Moore made specific mention of the James Butler case, who was shot in the back by a Volusia County deputy sheriff about two years ago, and the L. P. Ramage case in New Smyrna, in which rough handling by a deputy sheriff caused a Negro woman to lose her unborn child, and eventually to lose her own life.

"In each of these cases the offending deputy was permitted to hold his job. We have had reports of similar cases in Gadsden, Lake and other counties. Can Negro voters in any county afford to endorse the re-election of a sheriff who permits his deputies to practice such brutality against defenseless Negro citizens? Can Negro voters afford to support county school officials who have lavished money on white schools, but have failed to provide Negro schools with many of the bare necessities?" queried the writer.

URGES RACE VOTING UNITY

Closing his letter, Mr. Moore declared: "Fellow citizens, this is our opportunity to help remove some of these evils. Let us consider carefully the records and attitudes of our candidates and let us help to put in office people who are inclined to give Negroes a fair deal. The Progressive Voters League is now 'sounding out' candidates who are running in State and district races, and later this month we shall release to you certain recommendations relative to these candidates.

"In the meantime, Negro voters in the various counties should get their heads together and try to decide which county candidates will give our people the best consideration."

Post Script From The Palm Beaches

By MARY-ANDRES WILLIAMS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.—Since the Industrial High School Band is definitely an organization "of the people, for the people, and by the people," everyone is still discussing the beautiful new uniforms which the youngsters wore to the State Band Festival in Jacksonville.

The Ever-Ready Workers' Club which sponsored the drive to raise funds to uniform the band, is to be congratulated for the very fine campaign which was put on.

BAND TAKES FESTIVAL HONORS

Under Bandmaster L. A. Kirksey, the various divisions of the Industrial High Band registered seven "firsts" in competition.

The concert band rated "tops" in the first division with a near perfect rating, while six solo groups (including a crack clarinet quartet) won first division ratings, also.

Mrs. Alberta E. Drayton, talented alumna of the local school and graduate of South Carolina State College, accompanied all soloists of the band at the piano.

The group is to play a concert honoring the Ever-Ready Workers' Club next Sunday.

Alton Williams, special service officer of Fla. State Veterans Administration, made history last

week when he was selected as foreman of a jury in criminal court.

Chief of Police Trueman Matthews is to be congratulated for the progressive step which he is taking in making vacant positions available to worthy applicants, regardless of race, color or creed.

Among the many teachers who attended the session of the Florida State Teachers Association, which held its annual session in Tampa, were Principal W. B. Elementary Principal (Mrs.) Clarinda Cambridge and Miss O. G. McCoy, all of Industrial High School; Mrs. W. L. Dellinger of Pleasant City Elementary School, and County Supervisor (Mrs.) Anne H. Brewer.

ULTRA MODERNS TO ENTERTAIN

What is scheduled to be the last of the spring entertainments will add to the night life of the "sleep-infested" Palm Beaches, will be given by the Club Ultra Modern at the Woman's Club, Friday night.

Mrs. Margaret J. Cox and her daughter, Miss Claudia L. Williams, spent last week in Tampa attending to family business. Mrs. Ivy Davis, popular Miami nurse, was the guest of Miss Eva Williams, prominent local nurse, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams entertained with a reception honoring Mr. and Mrs. Bembrook Burrows, who were recently married, at their home on West Ninth Street.

Mrs. Burrows was the former Miss Sadie Williams, and was a student nurse at Tuskegee Institute until her marriage last month. Mr. Burrows is a student veteran.

Palm Beach members of the Industrial High School Alumni Association were entertained by the Delray Beach branch of the association last Wednesday night at the Community Center in Delray Beach.



Holland Gets Okeh

MIMS—After a close check of candidates seeking the Democratic nomination for important federal and state offices, the executive secretary, Harry T. Moore, of the Progressive Voters League of Florida issued the following communication to all state branches and co-workers:

The Letter:
Dear Co-workers:

On April 12 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 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 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 S. 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 Balfe 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 probably 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 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

THE TAMPA BULLETIN, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1947

Voters' League Question Still Unsolved

The assembled group of interested citizens to hear Mr. Milton P. Rooks, state Pres. of the Voters' League, listened attentively to his address Thursday night of last week. After the address Mr. Rooks named Mr. C. B. Andrews to act as temporary chairman of the local league, which met the disapproval of many of the local league's members and quite a disturbance ran rampant for some time; finally it was agreed to call another meeting, at which time the organization will be set up, it is hoped. The cause of the ruffled feeling was that Mr. Rooks named the chairman instead of asking who would the group have for the chairman. Messrs. Perry Harvey and Dewey Richardson spoke out in loud terms of their dissatisfaction to such a procedure.

Florida Sentinel

A PAPER FOR THINKING NEGROES

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THEIR NAMES WILL BE BLESSED

Milton Rooks, Harry T. Moore, E. E. Broughton and other leaders of the Progressive Voters League are rendering a fine and unique service. They are pioneers in the movement to register Negroes as members of the Democratic party.

Negroes are being urged to register as Democrats in order to help to elect the men and women who run the towns, cities and counties where they live. This is wisdom.

In the years to come, when we move away from this present day, we shall see how vitally important has been the work of Moore, Rooks, Broughton and all the others who fought for a better day for our people and their names will be blessed.

FLORIDA VOTERS LEAGUE PLANS CONFERENCE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — (G) The Progressive Voters League of Florida is planning a meeting here in the near future to lay plans for the May primaries at which time every Negro in this city and Duval County of voting age is being urged to cast his or her ballot.

This state-wide organization has become the most potent of its kind in Florida, where it is beginning to win new laurels at the polls, especially in the larger cities. Harry T. Moore is the executive secretary and Milton P. Rooks is the National President.

Voters League Formed

Cocoa—On Monday night, Nov. 3rd at the recreation center, the local Progressive Voters League was given birth. A small group of citizens and registered voters met to form a league which will be affiliated with the State Progressive Voters League and will keep citizens both freeholders and non-taxpayers informed with actions of state and city of interest and importance to registered voters here.

Mr. H. T. Moore, executive secretary of the State Progressive Voters League was here to assist the group in getting set up. The League was properly organized and officers were elected.

There is an all out drive for large membership of the League which every citizen should be member. Watch the columns of the Times-Script for further information concerning the League and the date of its regular meeting. Join the Progressive Voters League today!

Local NAACP To Observe 40th Anniversary, Harry T. Moore, Speaker

The Tampa Branch NAACP, will present Harry T. Moore as guest speaker at the 40th anniversary of the organization which will be held at Allen Temple AME Church, Monday night, July 18 at 8 o'clock.

Mr. Moore was at one time principal of a high school in Mims, Fla. and was ousted because of his efforts to obtain equal salaries for teachers in his county. The NAACP immediately came to his aid and he was appointed as State Executive Secretary for the organization.

He is a graduate of Bethune-Cookman and is a militant leader and a Christian gentleman. Mr. Moore will be accompanied by other distinguished individuals who will share in the observance as speakers. A progress report of the activities of the local and national organization will be made by the local officers. M. Gregory is branch president and James Johnson is secretary.

State Senate's New Constitutional Amendment Seen As Handicap To Negro Voters

Mims, Florida
May 16, 1947

House of Representatives
Florida Legislature
Tallahassee, Florida.
Dear Sirs:

The Florida State Senate has recently passed and sent to you a proposed constitutional amendment that would require Florida citizens to be able to read any portion of the State and Federal Constitution in order to qualify for voting. We wish to express our opposition to this measure.

It is quite obvious that this measure is designed to restrict the voting privileges of a certain group of citizens. In the words of Senator Carl Gray, this proposed amendment "is nothing more than a white primary bill with another suit of clothes on." Experiences in other states have proven that these literacy tests are often used arbitrarily by registrars to bar certain citizens whose votes are not desired, while other citizens with the higher literary qualifications are permitted to vote unchallenged. Negro citizens have often been victims of this unfair system. Its introduction into Florida would only tend to slow down the development of liberalism in our state.

This measure, if passed, is bound to cause unmerited hardships for prospective Negro voters. Florida Negro citizens have often been vicariously handicapped under our educational system. Our state has not made the same provisions for the education of its colored citizens as it has for the education of its white citizens. If you will just look back on our public school system as it was twenty years ago, you can easily see why a higher percentage of Negro citizens

might have difficulty reading any section of the Constitution. Should Florida Negro citizens be penalized now for being victims of a system over which they had no control?

We see no need for so many restrictions on voting. A citizen does not have to read the Constitution in order to pay taxes. Many men who served in the armed forces would have had difficulty reading certain sections of the Constitution, yet they made their contribution to the defense of their country and democracy. Is it fair now to create new restrictions that might tend to deny some of these same men the fundamental right to vote?

Again we warn you of the danger of vesting such arbitrary power in the hands of one individual. This makes it too easy for that individual to practice discrimination.

Therefore, we respectfully urge you to defeat this unnecessary and dangerous proposal.

Respectfully yours,

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
1. Florida State Conference, NAACP
2. Progressive Voters League of Florida

Mr. Curtis Elected Chairman Health Committee

MIAMI, Fla.—S. W. Curtis, principal of the Pinellas school, Clearwater, was elected chairman of the State-Wide Negro Committee, Florida Tuberculosis and Health Association, at the meeting held here Thursday in conjunction with the annual conference of the state association. Mr. Curtis succeeds Mrs. Evelyn Sharpe, Deland, chairman for the past two years.

THE PITTSBURGH COURIER

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Urges Action Against Primary Bill

MIMS—The so-called white primary bill sponsored by Senator John E. Mathews, seeks to divorce the Democratic primary from State control and thus disfranchise Negroes and other minority groups," charged a circular letter written by Harry E. Moore of the Progressive Voters League.

Moore, who has long been regarded as one of the State's most fearless civic leaders, sent this letter in an effort to enlighten the people on the seriousness of the bill Mathews is seeking to pass. This letter has been sent to the NAACP chapters all over the State and members of the Voters League as well.

Mr. Moore further wrote: "The immediate purpose of the Mathews bill is to disfranchise Florida Negro citizens. It is only natural that every thinking Negro would bitterly

oppose this bill. Inasmuch as we are citizens and taxpayers of Florida, we should cherish all the rights of citizenship guaranteed by the Constitution. Chief among these is the right to vote, the right to help select those officials who are to have direct control of our everyday affairs."

URGE CONTACTING SOLONS

Speaking of white citizens who are opposed to the Mathews pro-

posal, Moore wrote: "These liberal-minded white citizens fully realize the fact that we shall have a true democracy in this country only when American citizens of all races, creeds and colors are made secure in the full enjoyment of Constitutional rights."

As an explanation of the reasons for his belief, Moore stated: "These white citizens know that if one group of citizens can be disfran-

chised, the same thing can easily happen to another group. They also realize that private primaries, as advocated by the Mathews bill, would open Florida to the worst form of fraud and corruption."

In closing this letter, Mr. Moore urged that all citizens get in touch with their Senators and Representatives asking them to oppose the bill when it comes before the Legislature.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO NAACP BRANCHES AND NEGRO LEADERS IN FLA.

44/54

Dear co-workers:

Of the resolutions adopted at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Fla. State NAACP Conference, held recently in West Palm Beach, two are particularly important at this time. One seeks to impress upon us the importance of encouraging our people to qualify for the coming elections; the other urges all branches to lend every possible assistance to organized labor movements among Negroes in their respective communities.

We are now approaching what might prove to be the most momentous election in the history of our country. Not since 1864 has our country held a presidential election while engaged in a bloody conflict. Just 80 years ago, while Abraham Lincoln was waging a determined struggle to suppress the forces of rebellion, the voters of this country proceeded to select those who were to clinch the final victory and begin the reconstruction of our torn and bleeding republic. Important issues faced our country then. First of all, the veteran armies of the Confederacy had to be defeated. Then the succeeding states had to be restored to their rightful places in the union. And, finally, the legal status of four million Negro slaves had to be decided.

Today we face a similar situation. For the past two years the vast resources of this great country have been steadily mobilized to help crush the most ruthless aggressors that ever scourged the earth. And as this gigantic struggle approaches its climax, we come to a presidential election. Today, as in 1864, issues of the utmost importance face us. The present conflict must be brought to a victorious conclusion for the United Nations. Then our country must share the responsibility of rehabilitating the demoralized states of the Old World.

But for the American Negro there are domestic problems that are equally important. We crave for democracy at home, as well as abroad. What will be our status in Post-War America? Must we still suffer the evils of disfranchisement, discrimination, segregation, and jim-crowism? To what extent are we to enjoy the "Four Freedoms?" Will black boys and girls who are now risking their lives in defense of their country, be permitted to cast unrestricted ballots in the coming election? What will be the Supreme Court's answer to our plea for the right to vote in all elections in the South? Such questions as there are paramount in the thoughts of every sober-minded Negro in America.

On every hand we find powerful forces at work to limit our enjoyment of these fundamental principles of democracy. They would even deprive us of the few gains that have been made within recent years. These forces are campaigning under the old

pre-slavery slogan of "States Rights." When liberal-minded Congressmen made an effort to assure an unrestricted ballot for all service men and women, we began to hear much about "States Rights." Some of the leading Florida candidates for public offices this year are strong advocates of a return to "States Rights." And a few days ago when a Federal court gave a South Carolina sheriff 60 days in jail for slapping a Negro prisoner, the secretary of the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association let out a howl about "States Rights." In the minds of such men, "States Rights" simply means the right of a southern state to disfranchise, segregate, and mistreat its Negro population without any interference from the Federal Government.

It is very evident, therefore, that the fight for democracy at home must be intensified. Our most effective weapon in this fight is the ballot. If we are to expect the proper respect and consideration from those who govern us, we must exercise some voice in their election. We urge every NAACP branch and every Negro organization in Florida to launch a special campaign to get more of our people qualified to vote. Our task in Florida should be easier than that in most southern states, because we have no poll tax. We especially solicit the cooperation of our churches for it is still true that ministers exercise more influence over the masses of our people than any other group of leaders.

It is common knowledge that Negro laborers in the South have long suffered from low wages and poor working conditions. This situation has been caused largely by the lack of organization among Negro workers. The bargaining power of Negro laborers will increase only as they learn to organize themselves. We are pleased to note some progress in this direction. More and more Negroes are working their way into organized labor groups. We therefore urge NAACP branches, and other organizations in Florida, to encourage the organizations of Negro workers into labor unions, so that they can more effectively secure for themselves and for their families that "freedom from want" so strongly advocated by President Roosevelt.

Finally, let us continue to work hard for victory on the battle front. But let us work equally as hard for that time of peace that should come with the final victory. Let us remember the fundamental truth in the words of Herbert Agar, when he said: "Peace is not the absence of justice."

10/18/47
A SENTINEL—South's Foremost

PROF. ROOKS CALLS VOTERS MEETING

Prof. M. P. Rooks, state president of the Progressive Voters League, has issued a call for a meeting of a city-wide voters league meeting at St. Paul AME Church, Thursday night, Oct. 30, at 8 P. M. Harry T. Moore, state secretary, will be present, and business of an important nature will be transacted.

NAACP Executives To Speak in Tampa

TAMPA—Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the NAACP of the State of Florida, will speak at Allen Temple AME Church on July 18.

The State leader will give an overall picture of the accomplishments of the association. Also to appear at the program are James T. Hargrett, president of the Negro Chamber of Commerce, and William A. Fordham, attorney, who recently opened his law office here.

— READ IT FIRST IN THE COURIER —

Plans Mapped To Increased Registrants

By CALVIN E. ADAMS

MIMS—The Progressive Voters League is devoted to the cause of good government for ALL the people. It does not cater to any foreign aims. It stands for American democracy, pure and simple," stated Harry T. Moore, executive secretary at the beginning of the membership campaign.

In relating a brief history of the organization which came into being just a few years ago, Moore stated:

In April, 1944, the United States Supreme Court rendered its famous decision in the Texas primary case, thus clearly establishing the principle that Negro citizens have a right to vote in all elections in the South. If then became that golden political opportunities were within our grasp and that State organization was needed to help arouse Florida Negro citizens to a fuller realization of this fact.

Therefore a State-wide meeting was called in Lake Wales in August, 1944 under the auspices of the Florida Conference, NAACP and the Progressive Voters League of Florida was organized. In 1946 the Progressive Voters League was chartered under the laws of Florida.

LEAGUE'S PLATFORM STATED

Fearing that all might not know for what the Voters' League stood, the executive secretary then stated the group's platform, which is as follows:

1. To carry on intensive campaigns for registration of Negro voters.
2. To solicit the cooperation of other organizations (civic, fraternal, business and religious) in an effort to get more Negroes registered.
3. To conduct voting schools for Negro citizens so that all may become familiar with the techniques of voting.
4. To check closely the records and attitudes of all candidates for political office, and to make recommendations to Negro voters on the basis of such records.
5. To oppose vigorously any "illy white" tendencies in either major political party.
6. To encourage the organization of county and city voters leagues that will help to carry out these same objectives on a local level.

PLANS STATED

The annual membership fee in the State Voters' League is \$1.00. Half of each membership fee remains in the local treasury and half is sent to the State league. Make checks or orders payable to the State treasurer, G. D. Rogers, St. Tampa. Be sure to mail them to the executive secretary at Mims. Membership cards will be issued to members as they pay this annual fee. The necessary number of cards may be secured from the executive secretary. Local political and civic clubs may become affiliated with the Progressive Voters' League and may issue membership cards as directed above," wrote Moore in his explanation of the

proper operation of clubs affiliated with the governing body.

According to the charter received by the league, it is stipulated that all clubs affiliated with the senior body will have as its officers the following: a president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as deemed necessary. The league also recommends that standing committees, namely membership, program, entertainment, finance and political action, be established.

An executive committee composed of the officers of the local unit and the chairmen of the standing committees should be established. This committee shall have general control of the affairs of the local unit. It was explained that all local units shall be subject to the general authority and jurisdiction of the State Voters' League.

ASKS CITIZENS AID

In closing, Moore wrote: "Fellow citizens, let us bestir ourselves and help to promote the cause of democracy in our State. Those who seek to destroy representative Government in Florida were decisively defeated in the 1947 Legislature. But they have not given up. They have threatened to take this issue into the highways, the byways and the crossroads during the next State-wide political campaign. We must prepare ourselves to help defeat these enemies of a truly democratic Government. We must join hands with the progressive forces in this State and thereby help to maintain in Florida a Government of the people for the people and by the people. Local units of the Progressive Voters' League must be organized all over the State. Will you help us do this?"

—BY THE STAFF IN WASHINGTON—

Membership Drive

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1947

State Voters' League Begins

THE PITTSBURGH COURIER

Gleanings From The "GATEWAY CITY"

By CALVIN E. ADAMS

JACKSONVILLE—Well, folks, the thing which we feared most since the re-election of John E. Mathews to the State Legislature has happened. I refer to his offering to the Senate on the first day of actual business five bills which if passed, will give the "Peninsula State" a white primary law.

Even though at the time of this writing the bill has not been actually received, I feel that we as a race and the group which will be affected most by passage of such a measure, should give this matter earnest thought and consideration. After giving thought and consideration, we should not stop there. A challenge has been hurled at the minority group by a champion of white supremacy. We must not take this threat to our constitutional rights laying down.

POLITICIANS RESPECT VOTES

Sad but true, it is a tendency of most members of our race to take things, regardless of their importance, lackadaisically. Yet, this is an instance where we must oppose the proposal of Mathews. First of all, one of the best ways to openly fight such an issue is at the polls. Votes in great numbers have no regard for race, creed, color, or religion, and most politicians realize this fact. As it now stands, only politicians who hail from the major cities of our State are aware of the potency of the race vote. Citing a recent incident, we refer to the overwhelming victory which was won by the Negro voters of West Palm Beach in a democratic primary.

Cognizant of this fact, it is hard to realize that a representative from that county who knows his fate is held by race voters could afford to support such an issue? If he were to cast an affirmative vote, he could readily realize that this was his last term in the State Legislature. Let us be practical and down to earth when we consider that everyone believes in the first law of the land, "the survival of the fittest."

WE SHOULD BE PREPARED

Since we have long known of Mathews' intentions regarding the white primary bill, there is no need for us not to be fully prepared to fight such a case as long as deemed necessary. At this exact moment we should be prepared to take such measure, if passed, to the highest court in the land to test its legality. Yet, I dare say that a group within this State is ready for such action. Still, I can see no plausible reason for their being unprepared, since we have been warned for approximately twelve months.

We, as a race, are known by our ability to raise monies. The bulk of the monies raised has been and is still being spent in the erection of places of worship. I do not want to construe that I am opposed to practices of religion nor to the erection of spiritual edifices, but I think and truly believe that the time has come when our monies maintaining those rights granted us can be spent wisely to insure our

by the Constitution of the United States.

Shortly after the Georgia Legislature passed the Talmadge-sponsored white primary law, which was later vetoed by Governor M. E. Thompson, the Negroes of Georgia, especially Atlanta, began an all-out campaign to raise funds for the sole purpose of contesting the validity of the bill. This has not been very long ago, and with the same situation facing us, the precedent set by the group in our bordering State should serve as an incentive to us here.

MOBE MILITANT LEADERS NEEDED

In most cases, we are too complacent; we wait until the time for action arises before we start; we sit idly by, apparently twiddling our thumbs, waiting on the mercy of God to deliver us from practical problems. As limited as my knowledge of the Bible is, it has been taught to me that Christ helps those who help themselves. As evidence we find Him feeding a multitude of 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes, but those gathered there had the basic supply with which he performed the miracle.

Many liberal groups of the other race have taken the initiative to prevent the passage of the Mathews proposal. Among them are the Duval County League of Women Voters, the Committee to Defend Democracy, the Southern Regional Council and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. The only two race groups that have taken a definite stand against the white primary law are the Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc. and the Florida State Conference of the NAACP. These groups are fortunate to have as their executive secretary a fearless, militant, progressive man, Harry T. Moore. Throughout the years, he has attempted to rally our forces that such bills as this one in question would not deprive us of our rights.

A CHALLENGE TO RACE LEADERS

In spite of all the efforts exerted, we have failed to be prepared to cope intelligently with the situation now facing us. This is a challenge to our so-called race leaders. A challenge which will prove the genuineness of their leadership if such a thing exists.

For a number of years they have set themselves up as leaders and now the time has come when they can prove their ability to lead or relinquish leadership to younger, more capable persons. It is our duty as members of the Negro race to rally to the cause and fall to be contented until Mathews' attempt for white primary in this State is ultimately defeated.

Shall we allow the group that will be less affected to take the leadership in this pertinent issue? Or shall we prove to them that the aid they give has not been given in vain? You, my readers, are the people who must have the final say in this situation. Our actions, with the help of God, will be successful. That's all folks.

CAL

Urges Action Against Primary Bill

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Moore, who has long been regarded as one of the State's most fearless civic leaders, sent this letter in an effort to enlighten the people on the seriousness of the bill. Mathews is seeking to pass this letter NAAACP chapters all over the State and members of the Voters League as well.

Mr. Moore further wrote: "The immediate purpose of the Mathews bill is to disfranchise Florida Negro citizens. It is only natural that every thinking Negro would bitterly oppose this bill. Inasmuch as we are citizens and taxpayers of this State, we should cherish all the rights of citizenship guaranteed by the Constitution. Chief among these is the right to vote the right to help select those officials who are to have direct control of our every day affairs."

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As an explanation of the reasons for his belief, Moore stated: "These citizens know that if one of the bills which they oppose is passed, the same thing can easily happen to another group. They also realize that private primaries, as advocated by the Mathews bill, would open Florida to the worst form of fraud and corruption. In closing this letter, Mr. Moore urged that all citizens get in touch with their Senators and Representatives asking them to oppose the bill when it comes before the Legislature."

Senator's Bill Opposed By State NAACP

Mims, Florida
April 4, 1947

Legislators and Chief Executive

State of Florida

Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Sirs:

We wish to express our opposition to Senate Bill No. 16, sponsored by Senator John E. Mathews of Duval County, which is to be presented again to the Florida Legislature. We oppose this bill for two reasons. In the first place, it seeks to disfranchise a third of the voting population of Florida. In the second place, it would remove the primaries from State control and thus leave our election machinery open to the worst forms of fraud and corruption.

Senator Mathews has frankly admitted that his Bill is designed to keep Negroes from voting in Democratic primaries. He also admits that "the Negroes in a general election cannot elect a candidate." In short, Senator Mathews is admitting these two facts: (1) that the Democratic Primary is actually THE ELECTION in Florida, and (2) that the General Election in Florida is little more than a formality. Therefore, those citizens who cannot vote in the Democratic Primary are almost completely disfranchised.

But why should the Negro citizens of Florida be disfranchised? Have we not proven ourselves to be loyal citizens of this State? Have we not always rallied to the support of our country whenever a crisis arose? Have we not made our contribution to the progress and development of this State and nation? What have we done so bad and so unpatriotic that we should be denied the fundamental right to vote? Can Florida have a true democracy with one third of its citizens and tax payers disfranchised?

Senator Mathews has written much about the "Communist inspired, KKK-controlled Negro block vote." This is merely a bit of propaganda designed to frighten those who would give all citizens their Constitutional right to vote. The great majority of Negroes do not care anything about communism or any other kind of "ism." I have lived in Florida all my life, and I know most of the leading Negro citizens of this State. We are not swayed by any foreign ideas of government. We want a real democracy here at home. We want a fuller enjoyment of all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution. We want to vote when voting really counts. We want to help elect those officials who have direct control of our every-day affairs.

Negroes do not seek to control any election. We just want free participation in the affairs of our government. In a true democracy the will of the majority always prevails. Minorities can complain only when the democratic process is stifled. This is what happened in Germany.

Removing the primaries from State control will expose Florida politics to the worst forms of fraud and corruption. Political bosses and cliques can more easily get control of our elections.

Passage of the Mathews Bill will help to promote Fascism and Communism in our State. If we are to enjoy that type of democracy described in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, we must have free and unfettered elections for all citizens, without regard to race or creed. We therefore urge you to help defeat the Mathews Bill and thereby help to maintain in Florida a "government of the people, for the people, and by the people."

Yours for democracy in Florida

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary

1. Florida State Conference, NAACP

2. Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc.

'Democratic Vote Will Get Rights,' Says Leader

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The destiny of the Negro in the South lies in the intelligent use of the ballot . . . to vote the Democratic ticket!

This is the unswerving opinion of prominent Rev. B. A. Cromwell, pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church and organizer of the Pensacola Improvement Association, a progressive local civic group.

Further explaining his position on this issue, Rev. Cromwell declared:

"The greatest hope for the Negro in Florida is to vote—Democratic. Here in Pensacola we have seen favorable results already. The Negro citizens have voted in the City Democratic primary. They supported a slate of candidates that won."

RESULTS COME QUICKLY

"Forty-eight hours after the election," Rev. Cromwell continued, "we were given a \$35,000 Community Building which is now in the process of construction, and we have been promised all the advantages of a new, wide city street program, new parks, playgrounds and paved streets."

TO VOTE IN MAY PRIMARY

For the first time in modern history Negro citizens of Florida will cast their votes in the Democratic primary in the coming month of May. In this primary, a U. S. Senator, members of Congress, and various sundry county and State officials will be elected, since nomination as a Democrat is equivalent to election in this Sunshine State.

The pattern for this new milestone of progress in the political history of Florida's Negro citizens, was, of course, the U. S. Supreme Court's decision in the Texas primary case.

FORCED BY COURT ACTION

This advance in political equality did not happen by accident; it has happened because a group of Negroes of this city organized themselves, laid their money on the

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3)

WHITE SUPREMACY GANG SEEKS TO ABOLISH FREE PUBLIC PRIMARIES

Mims, Florida, March 15, 1947.

Fellow Citizens:—No doubt you have been hearing and reading much about the so-called "White Primary Bill" that is to be presented to the Florida Legislature when it convenes next month. This bill, which is being sponsored by Senator John E. Mathews of Duval County, is similar to the Talmadge-sponsored "White Primary Bill" that passed the Georgia Legislature a few days ago. It seeks to divorce the Democratic Primary from State control and thus make the Democratic Party in Florida a private club. In this way Negroes and other minority groups can be barred from voting in the Democratic Primary, which is the main election in Florida.

The immediate purpose of the Mathews Bill is to disfranchise Florida Negro citizens. It is only natural, therefore, that every thinking Negro would bitterly oppose this bill. Inasmuch as we are citizens and taxpayers of Florida, we should cherish all the rights of citizenship guaranteed by the Constitution. Chief among these is the right to vote—the right to help select those officials who are to have direct control of our every-day affairs.

Straight-thinking white citizens also oppose the Mathews Bill. These liberal-minded white citizens fully realize the fact that we shall have a true democracy in this country only when American citizens of all races, creeds, and colors are made secure in the full enjoyment of their Constitutional rights. These white citizens know that if one group of citizens can be disfranchised, the same thing can easily happen to another group. They realize also that private primaries, as advocated by the Mathews Bill, would open Florida politics to the worst form of fraud and corruption.

Straight-thinking white and Negro citizens plan positive action to save Florida from the threat of Fascism. A state-wide Conference to Help Defend Democracy in Florida will be held at the Congregational Church in Winter Park, Saturday, March 22, from noon to 4:00 P. M. Formal action will be taken to urge defeat of the Mathews "White Primary" Bill by the State Legislature, which convenes on April 8. Included on the list of Sponsors are many of the leading white and Negro citizens of Florida.

The Winter Park Conference is being co-ordinated by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. The Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches and the Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc., are working in full co-operation. Representatives from NAACP branches and Voters' League units, ministers, teachers, business and fraternal leaders, and other interested citizens are cordially invited to attend this Conference.

We also suggest that you get in touch with your state senators and representatives and urge them to oppose the Mathews Bill.

Yours for democracy in Florida,

HARRY T. MOORE, Executive Secretary,

1. Florida State Conference, NAACP,

2. Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM RECENT PRIMARIES

By Harry T. Moore, Secretary of Voters' League
Negro citizens of Florida have just cause to rejoice over the fact that this year for the first time large numbers of us were permitted to register as Democrats and with the exception of a few counties, to vote in the primaries. By so doing, Negro voters in a few counties wielded the balance of power to the extent that they were able to help nominate candidates for the Legislature, school boards, etc.

It is our hope that we have learned some of the lessons taught by this political venture. During the registration period before the primaries, this important question often arose: "Shall we advise our people how to register?" Some of our Negro leaders said that we should not advise the people how to register. "It does not matter whether they register as Republicans or Democrats," said these leaders. "Just get the people registered. That is all that is necessary."

From the very beginning we realized the fallacy of such statements. It has always been our contention that the Democratic Primary is, in practically all cases, THE ELECTION in Florida. No matter what our individual beliefs are, with respect to political parties, the bare fact remains that the Democrats control our state and local governments. If we wish to help elect our governor, our sheriff, our school superintendent and our county commissioners, we must vote in the primaries.

In view of these facts, we continually urged our people to register as Democrats. We knew that they could not vote in the Democratic primaries unless they were registered as Democrats.

Unfortunately, however, some of our people "just registered," without thinking about the importance of stating their choice of party affiliation. These people were doomed to disappointment on May 7th. They learned, too late, that they could not vote in the Democratic Primary, because they were not registered as Democrats.

In some cases our people were embarrassed because they were caught carrying sample ballots into the voting booths. It is very commendable that our local leaders made a study of the records and attitudes of candidates and made certain recommendations to our voters. Naturally, these recommendations are easily distributed by means of sample ballots. But we must now urge our voters to make a careful study of these samples before they go to the polls. Or people must not practice such mental laziness. Let us use our brains a little and memorize the names of the candidates for whom we wish to vote.

Registration books are now opening up for the General Election in November. There is only one ballot for the General Elections, and every voter will be given the same ballot, no matter what his party affiliation is. However, as we get people registered for the General Election, there is one important point to remember. Many counties, especially the smaller ones, have a permanent registration system. In these counties it is not necessary to register every two years. If a new voter in these counties gets properly registered now, he may not have to register again for the 1948 Democratic Primary. Therefore, even though this is a general election coming up, it will be wise for us to get our new voters registered as Democrats. Many of them will then be ready for the important 1948 Democratic Primary without going to the trouble of registering again.

8/17/46

Harry T. Moore Urges Citizens To Oppose 'White Primary' Law

By CALVIN E. ADAMS

MIMS—The U. S. Supreme Court made a clear ruling on this question in April 1944, when it said: "The United States is a constitutional democracy. Its organic law grants to all citizens a right to participate in the choice of elected officials without restriction by any State because of race," said Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Florida State Conference, NAACP, and Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc., as he urged citizens throughout the State to protest the recent Mathews' sponsored "private primary" bill.

Moore, in a circular letter, urged all citizens to do the following things in protest to the Mathews primary bill recently introduced in the Florida State Senate and referred to the State Senate elections committee a few days ago:

CITIZENS AID SOLICITED
Every citizen is asked to do everything possible to help defeat this undemocratic measure by doing the following:

1. Urge individuals to send telegrams, letters, or cards to the various members of the Senate Elections Committee, asking them to kill the Mathews bill in that committee.

2. Urge individuals to send telegrams, letters or cards to the Senator from their district, asking him to vote against the Mathews bill.

3. Urge individuals to send telegrams, letters, or cards to the representatives from their county, asking them to vote against the Mathews bill.

4. Urge churches, associations, conferences, conventions, lodges, clubs and other organizations to draft resolutions expressing opposition to the Mathews bill. Copies of these resolutions should be sent to the various members of the Senate Elections Committee, to your Senator, to your Representative and to the Governor. State and district organizations may have copies of resolutions mimeographed and sent to all members of the Legislature and to the Governor.

To further clarify the danger of such a bill the militant NAACP head, stated: "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 their race or creed? Can Florida boast of a true democracy if one-third of its citizens and taxpayers are denied the fundamental right to vote?"

He also explained that this bill, if passed, will prohibit Negro citizens from voting in the Democratic primary, which is the main election in Florida.

NOT ALONE IN FIGHT

It is significant to note that the white primary bill, which has been deferred to the State elections committee, is a co-sponsored proposal of Senator G. Warren Sanchez of Live Oak and John P. Mathews of Jacksonville. These two men are chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of this all-important elections committee.

However, Moore is not alone in his fight against the bill outlawing not only Negroes, but members of other races from voting. Other organizations which are taking an active stand against the proposal are the Duval County League of Women Voters, the Con-



NOTED CONSULTANT—Dr. P. M. Santos (above), head of the department of obstetrics and gynecology, Provident Hospital, Chicago, Ill., was one of four noted doctors heard at the graduate seminar at Brewster Hospital Jacksonville last week. He is one of the nation's foremost consultants in his field.

days of the session of the Florida Legislature now languishes in the bosom of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. This is where it expired in the 1945 session and it would be a most appropriate place for it to die this time.

"By coincidence or design we know not which Senator G. Warren Sanchez of Live Oak who is a co-sponsor of the Mathews bill is chairman of this committee and its vice chairman is none other than Senator Mathews himself. But it is the good fortune of the people of this State that the committee also includes five other good men and true. They are:

Senator William J. Ray of Bradenton; Senator Harry E. King of Winter Haven; Senator Harry P. Johnson of Traravos; Senator James A. Franklin of Fort Myers; Senator Evans Gray of Stuart.

"These men have the responsibility to see that the State Government of Florida retains its control over primary elections held by political parties in this State, and that no pumped-up prejudices or trumped-up fears be allowed to strike off that control. The sentiment of the people of Florida

Mims, Florida
January 28, 1947
Dear Co-workers:
Notice is hereby given that the Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc., will hold a statewide meeting at Mt. Olive A. M. E. Church on West Washington Street, Orlando, Saturday, Feb. 1, at 11 a. m. All persons interested in the political welfare of Florida Negro citizens are cordially invited to attend this one-day meeting.

The Progressive Voters' League was organized primarily to help stimulate wholesome political activity among Negro citizens and to help secure the unrestricted use of the ballot for all Florida citizens, without regard for race of creed. The Progressive Voters' League is not promoting any "isms." We stand for American Democracy, pure and simple. We believe, like Patrick Henry, that taxation without representation is tyranny. We believe like Thomas Jefferson, "that all men are created equal...that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..." We believe in the Constitution of the United States—including the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments. We believe that (Continued on Page 4).

Elmer Silas, Publisher

reference to defend Democracy in Florida, the Southern Council, Jacksonville, and the Alliance (white) and the Conference for Human Welfare.

JOURNAL OPPOSES PROPOSALS

Recently the Jacksonville Journal, a John H. Perry publication, came out in an editorial, "Guardsians of Free Primaries," which read as follows:

"The Mathews private primary bill, introduced on one of the first

of the members of this committee and they have not yet heard that sentiment expressed with sufficient strength should be allowed to hear it again and again until the Mathews bill is dead."

Other organizations have made it clearly known through petitions and other means that they were not in favor of the proposal. A recent survey made disclosed that the bill is scheduled to die before it leaves the committee room.

(Continued from Page 2) all citizens have a right to participate freely in the affairs of their government. We believe that inasmuch as American citizens of all colors and creeds have sacrificed freely to help win the recent struggle for democracy, all should share equally the fruits of victory.

Unfortunately, there are certain forces at work in Florida who would undermine the true principals of American Democracy, as expounded by Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. These forces are preaching the doctrines of foreign "isms" whereby the Declaration of Independence and Constitution would be ignored, and certain citizens would be restricted in their use of the ballot, just because of their racial origin. We must get together and devise plans to combat these evil forces. Liberal minded citizens of all colors must co-

operate in an effort to secure and maintain a more practical application of the democratic principle of "government of the people, for the people, and by the people."

Rev. H. McNeal Harris, 418 West Washington Street, is pastor of the local church and chaplain of the Progressive Voters' League. Mrs. Viola T. Hill, 626 West Washington Street, is vice president of the League.

Sincerely yours,
HARRY T. MOORE,

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

Support the March of Dimes!

Ballot Stickers Ruled Proper by Attorney General

TALLAHASSEE, Oct. 29. (P)—A sticker with the name of a write-in candidate may be pasted on ballots in the Florida general election next Tuesday and be a valid vote if the elector marks the usual cross-mark behind it. Attorney General Tom Watson ruled today.

He advised State Rep. C. H. Taylor Jr. of Wauchula that the stickers pasted on in the place provided for writing in candidates' names is permitted by law, but cautioned that the "stickers may not be distributed at the polls."

Taylor's request for an opinion did not state the purpose for which use of stickers was contemplated. However, the Secretary of State's records show there is a vacancy for county surveyor and no nominee in Hardee County.

May 1946

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nd were started after the ship was efficient because it consumes too n the air. The advantage of the much fuel, and the higher the speed am jet is for power at very high of the flying tunnel the more useful speeds. At low speed it is very in- it promises to be.

NO ALIBIS!

May I give my heartfelt thanks to those white Democrats who voted for me?

A vote we did not solicit defeated us, so we have no alibis.

Thank you all, genuinely, and sincerely.

SAM D. MELSON

(Paid Political Advertisement)