

3/23/46

Voters League Objects To Senate Literacy Test

By HARRY T. MOORE
 MIMS—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 Constitutions 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 no higher literary qualifications are permitted to vote unchallenged. Negro citi-

zens have often been victims of this unfair system. Its introduction in to 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 suffered many handicaps 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.

The Negro has a right to join anything he thinks good for him. Some who want him to remain where he is should not get mad if he decides to change.

If there be any evidence that any Negro has "sold out" to the Democratic party or anybody else during the past 25 years, produce the facts and the evidence, and we shall be glad to print it in the most prominent position in this paper.

Put up, big whale and little minnows, or shut up!



SO THEY TELL ME

By C. Blythe Andrews

Some Republicans are trying to create the impression that the Negro Democratic leaders of Florida have sold out the Negro race.

The bellwether of this propaganda is Sam B. Solomon, publisher of the Miami Whip, now defunct.

The names of Democratic leaders are called and the charge is hurled high and loud that they have "sold out."

Now, just what did they sell; who did the buying and what was the price? Come, big whale and little minnows and prove up your charges. Produce facts, not rumors, and this paper will gladly give it prominence.

If it is a crime to urge Negroes to register as Democrats, should it also not be a crime to urge them to register as Republicans? Man is a free agent.

If the Democratic leaders have "sold out" how long have the Republican leaders been selling out?

In the old South, if a white man spoke well of a Negro and urged better treatment for the race, he was called a "nigger lover."

Up North during the 20s, if a Negro spoke well of the Democratic party, he was called a "traitor."

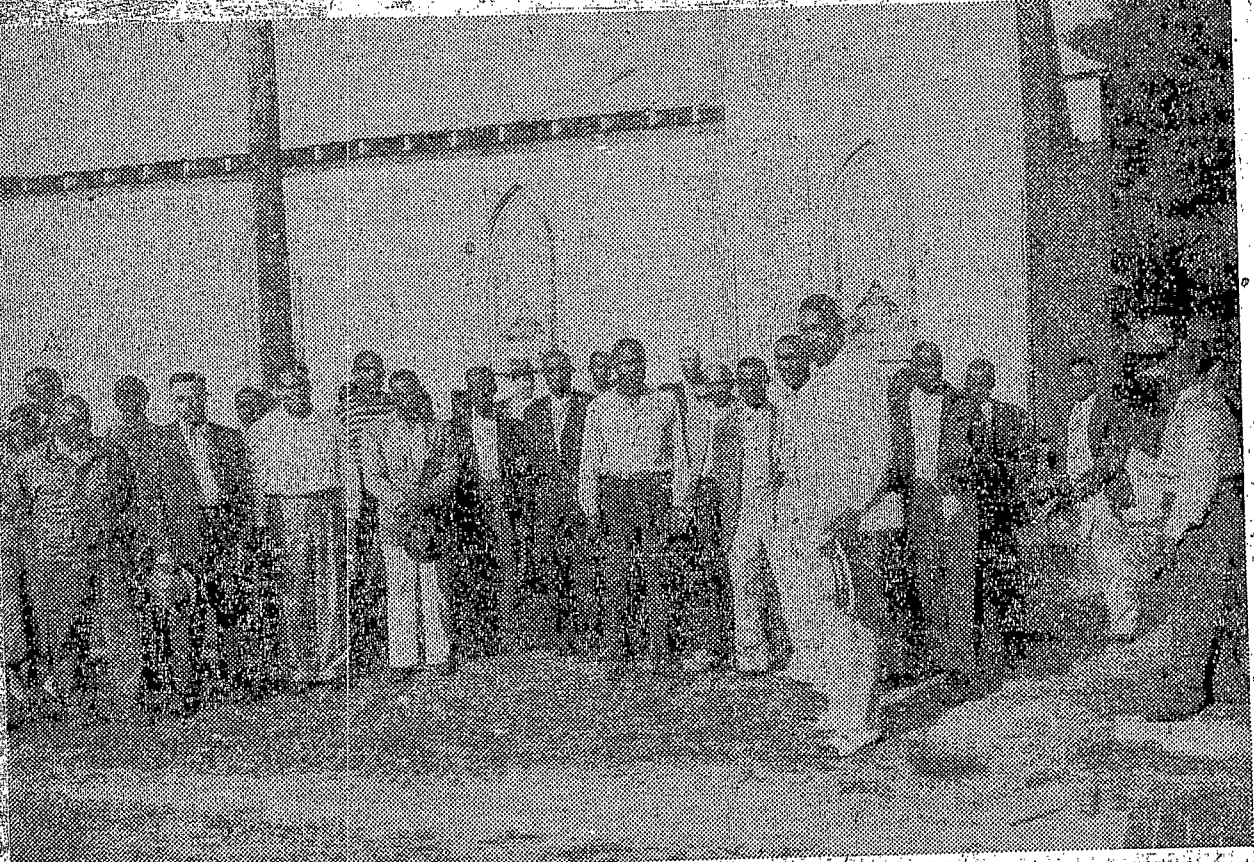
Now, in Florida, if Negroes urge other Negroes to register as Democrats, they are said to have "sold out."

Sam B. Solomon, a gigantic whale, said the Orlando meeting was filled with confusion. He wasn't there. I wasn't there. But men who were there said there was no confusion; that only peace and harmony dwelt among the brethren.

Some Negroes are LONG on name calling but SHORT on logical argument. Let's face facts—not rumors—and prove what is best for the Negro. If he should remain a Republican, tell why. Those who think some Negroes should register as Democrats got a right to tell why.

When Your Tablets Get Down to 4 That's the Time To Buy Some MORE

Voters Get Together



Plant City, Fla. — O. H. Houston, business manager of the Voters League of East Hillsborough County, makes it possible for the citizens to go to the polls and vote. Mr. Houston stands in front at right, with his slate record book conversing with

Mr. Maxwell Charlow. Through Mr. Ben Hawlins (white) of Plant City, Mr. Houston was able to get a dummy machine to teach his people how to vote. He was successful in his effort; the people were able to go to the poll and vote in less than three minutes, which was commended by the

official committee. We are grateful to Mr. Rawlins for making it possible for us to vote. William Norris is president and Kemp Knighten is secretary. O. H. Houston is manager and others are Maxwell Charlow, Fred Smith, Fred Johnston and Dennis Harvey.

5/4/46

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Florida Sentinel

A PAPER FOR THINKING NEGROES

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C. BLYTHE ANDREWS, Editor-Publisher

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THE POLITICAL PICTURE

The Progressive Voters' League met last Saturday in Orlando. There were present many leaders from various parts of the state. They considered the various candidates. None of them is colored, and it is well that Negroes are not seeking office at this time. The League endorsed, after serious deliberations, many candidates. The list of endorsed candidates appears in this paper, and we support them 100 per cent.

It is important as we begin our matriculation in politics that we be guided by men who have made a serious study of the various candidates and their qualifications for office, their attitude towards Negroes and the manifold problems which confront us. The leaders of the Progressive Voters' League are leaders of our state, men who have jobs and are not seeking to traffic our political rights for selfish advantages.

Help Organize Local Units Of Progressive Voters' League

MIMS, FLORIDA
January 21, 1948

FELLOW CITIZENS:

We again solicit your co-operation in getting active local units of the Progressive Voters' League of Florida organized in your respective communities. As you may know, the NAACP is not a political organization, and its constitution prohibits any endorsing of candidates by branches. One of the main objectives of the NAACP is "to secure the vote for Negroes and to teach its proper use." In this respect the NAACP has done, and is still doing, a very commendable job.

But we also feel the need of greater political unity among Negro citizens of Florida. We also need a state-wide political organization that can study "men and measures," examine the records and attitudes of candidates, and make recommendations to Negro voters on the basis of such records. This is a fundamental objective of the Progressive Voters' League. We not only want the right to vote. We also want to help elect somebody. To do this effectively, we must consolidate our voting strength to such an extent that we can wield the balance of power.

HOW TO ORGANIZE A LOCAL UNIT
It is easy to organize a local unit of the Progressive Voters' League, even in a small community. You may start with 10 members. So get a group together and elect a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as a local unit may deem necessary. We recommend the following standing committees for local unit: Political Action, Membership, Education on Voting, Program, Entertainment, Finance. It shall be the duty of the Political Action Committee to get Negroes to register and vote. This Committee will also make necessary contacts with local candidates in order to determine their attitudes toward Negro citizens. The Membership Committee will try to increase the active membership of the unit. The Education Committee should furnish information on how to register and vote.

A local unit may become affiliated with the State Voters' League under either of the plans explained below:

Plan I
Collect \$1.00 from each member. Send half of each membership fee to the State League and keep half in your local treasury. The State League will issue a membership card to each member reported.

Plan II
Send to the State League 50c for each member enrolled with the local unit. The 50c may be collected from the members, or it may be raised in some other way. The State League will issue a membership card to each member reported.

Plan III
Any local political, civic, or social club that is already organized may become af-

Fort Worth Hears Negro Hour' On Air For First Time

FORT WORTH, Tex.—(ANP)—As the result of an idea by Mrs. Almita S. Robinson, Fort Worth for the first time last Saturday, Feb. 7, heard a new type of radio program, "The Negro Hour," at 6:45 P. M. over Station WBAP-570.

This program is being sponsored as a public service of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, one of the south's leading white dailies. This weekly program, telling of the Negro's achievements and contributions to American culture and economy, promises to be both informative and entertaining.

The featured choir on the program will be the Zion singers of Zion Baptist Church, directed by Mrs. Wilba Burton Alaman. The Rev. G. W. Burton is church pastor.

Each local group affiliated with the State Voters' League under either of the plans explained above. These affiliated clubs enjoy the same privileges enjoyed by regular local units.

When sending money to the State Voters' League, make check or order to G. D. Rogers, Tampa. Mail the check or order to the executive secretary, box 4, Mims, Florida.

Each local group affiliated with the State Voters' League will be entitled to representation in state meetings on the following basis: 1 representative for every 100 members, or fraction thereof. In cases where there are several local units in the same city, or county, a Steering Committee should be set up. Representation on the Steering Committee may be determined on the same basis used to determine representation at state meetings. A City Steering Committee will help to coordinate the work of the local units in that city, and a county Steering Committee will help to co-ordinate the work of the local units in that county.

The Progressive Voters' League is chartered under the laws of Florida. It is designed primarily to help stimulate wholesome political activity among Florida Negro citizens. Wonderful opportunities are within our reach, and there is much work to be done. But if we are to carry on a good program of political action for our people, we must have your moral and financial support. Now is the time to act. Organize a local unit and become affiliated with the State League today.

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

ATTENTION!

To the Negro Citizens of Florida. We are urging you plan to attend the meeting at Jacksonville, the 14th and 15th of February. You should not miss this meeting, you have too much at stake in both the Primaries and general election. A program as well as a budget will be acted upon to cover our activities from February 15th to the general election in November.

The Negroes of Florida must not allow anything to come between them and registering not less than 150,000 Negroes for the May Primaries and General Election.

ON TO "BIG JAX!" MEET US THERE.

State Progressive Voter's League Of Florida, Inc.

Milton P. Rooks, President



SO THEY TELL ME

By C. Blythe Andrews

"Today? It's here, get busy, the hands of time move fast. Get busy while the hour is here before your chance is past. Go do the work you have to do before it is too late. Dig in! Forget your yesterdays and let tomorrow wait."

A word of thanks and praise for the Progressive Voters' League of Florida of which Milton Rooks is president, Harry T. Moore, secretary and E. E. Broughton, chairman.

It studied the various candidates for office and gave the colored voters sound advice.

It picked some winners and naturally had some losers. In the Senatorial race Hon. S. L. Holland lashed the field in the first primary.

In the second primary Judge Paul Barnes apparently defeated Judge Raleigh Petteway. We think Judge Petteway made one serious mistake during his second primary campaign. He had printed an analysis of the Hillsboro vote which would tend to show that Anglo-Saxons supported him overwhelmingly while Latin-Americans supported Judge Barnes.

This aroused the Latins to the extent that many fought like tigers to help elect Judge Barnes.

The small Negro vote was also opposed to Judge Petteway. They remembered his harsh treatment of their fellows when he was criminal judge. He would often, some say, give an humble Negro a long sentence for a trivial crime. This may have had something to do with the Progressive Voters' League endorsement of Judge Barnes.

The League lost Carl Taylor in the Railroad Commission race, and also Fred Brown, but both candidates did fairly well.

In Hillsboro we were all-out for Mr. Brown.

AT WATTS SANDERSON'S
LUCKY MILLINER
AND HIS ORCHESTRA

You Gussed It

You might be interested in a letter sent to his campaign workers and friends by Dr. Lex Green, the defeated candidate for U. S. Senator.

Listen to Dr. Green:

"The CIO, the Negro and the Communist combined and voted for Holland. This vote caused our defeat. He (Holland) also had aggressively supporting him the state machine, the Federal Machine, the subsidized press and the money of the combined vested interests."

Brethren, stop laughing.

Dr. Green is a poor sport, as you see. He should blame his defeat on his sorry congressional record. He had a chance for 20 years to win undying affection with the people, but he muffed it. He spent too much time franking (free) letters instead of trying to make an effective record.

Also, he played the demagog by his dress, his affected speech and his multitudinous platform.

Dr. Green is probably ready to admit now, since he was defeated two years ago for governor and now for senator, that he belongs among the has-beens who sit in the art gallery of fond recollections of bygone days.

NAACP Message

(Continued from Page 1)

During the grand old transition our work in Florida has continued its steady growth. At the time of our annual city meetings there were 33 branches in Florida. Today it is our pleasure to report 60 or more branches scattered from Pensacola to Key West. Among these new branches are Hamilton County, Shiloh Springs, Clewiston, Walton County, Hallandale, Clay County, and Deerfield. As we have often said, such progress is not the result of action by any individual. It is the result of the operations of a well-oiled machine, in which all parts are clicking smoothly. Among our co-workers who have helped to produce this increase are Messrs. D. K. Bass and R. A. Reddick of the Suwannee County Branch, Mr. Hilton Turner of Washington County, Mr. R. W. Davis and Mrs. Claudia W. Holland of Fort Lauderdale, Rev. J. R. Thompson of Pompano, and Mr. M. S. Pennell of Orange Park. Other workers are helping us to plant seeds in various sections of the state, and it is our hope that these will soon sprout and eventually bring forth much fruit.

Again the Grim Reaper has killed our ranks and cut down two of our brave veterans. Some were Panama City, Mr. James Green, of Pompano and Dr. E. D. Strickland of Sanford have passed to their reward. Mr. Green has labored for the NAACP since some of us were little boys and for a number of years he was president of the Pompano Branch. Dr. Strickland was chairman of the Executive Committee of the Seminole County Branch, Gold Coast State House, and one of our most loyal supporters. We mourn their passing and extend our sincere sympathy to their families.

We are still deeply concerned about the wave of lynchings, mob violence, and police brutality that is threatening to engulf our Southland. Our hearts have been filled with horror as we read of the terrible lynchings in Monroe, La., in Batesburg, S. C., in Minden, La., and in other places where the life of a Negro citizen is still a very cheap article.

And our own state is no exception. No positive action has yet been taken in the case of Leroy Bradwell, Negro veteran of Midway, who disappeared on January 7 while in the custody of Sheriff Edwards and Deputy Maple of Cassler County. Through the co-operation of President R. W. Davis and other members of the Fort Lauderdale Branch we were able to get a personal interview with the mother and the sister of Leroy Bradwell. We have submitted copies of their affidavits to Gov. Caldwell, to the Department of Justice, and to our Legal Staff. It is our opinion that Sheriff Edwards and Deputy Maple should be held responsible for the disappearance of Bradwell. If this Negro cannot be found safe and sound, these two officers should be suspended from of-

fice. We recommend that the various religious, civic and fraternal organizations in Florida be asked to petition Gov. Caldwell for such action.

During the past few months several of our branches have employed lawyers to work on cases of police brutality and legal lynchings, and the Fort Lauderdale Branch is raising money to help appeal the convictions of Joe Ferguson and James Andrew Maxwell, accused of rape in Brevard County. We also have been corresponding with lawyers with regard to the many cases of police brutality in Polk County, and we wish to discuss this matter with delegates from Polk County branches during this meeting.

Every community in Florida is exposed to the dangers mentioned above. Sooner or later your branch may be called upon to help fight such cases. You should be ready with some money already on hand. We recommend therefore that each branch raise a legal fund to be held in reserve until these emergencies arise. Our people must be trained to realize that one dollar per year from each member cannot finance the full program of the NAACP. Members should make additional contributions, so that we can build up a "war chest" to help fight the many battles that are sure to confront us. Another matter that we have

Would Deny Franchise To Negroes

By CALVIN E. ADAMS

MIMS — 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. Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Florida State Conference, NAACP, and Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc., in a letter which was written to the state's Chief Executive and the Legislature.

STATE'S OPPOSITION REASONS

In writing this letter, which was sent to Gov. Millard Caldwell, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the militant leader of the two organizations previously named opened by stating: "We wish to express our opposition to Senate Bill 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."

As the basis for the right to oppose the bill, which Senator Mathews introduced in the Senate late last week, the writer inquired:

"But why should the Negro citizens 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?"

ATTACKS MATHEWS' RED-BAITING

It is to be noted that in most of Senator Mathews' speeches he has turned to a red-baiting process in his attempt to gain support for the bill directly aimed at Negroes. As an answer to these charges, Moore stated:

"Senator Mathews has written much about the Communist-inspired, CIO-controlled Negro block vote. This is merely a bill 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 of my life, and I know most of the leading Negro citizens in 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 those officials who have direct control of our everyday affairs."

Mr. Moore in this lengthy letter to the Governor and the sons of this State attempted to make it clearly known that many implications made by Mathews were false and unwarranted when he wrote: "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 gain control only when the democratic process is stifled. That is what happened in Germany."

OPENS ELECTIONS TO FRAUD

Knowing as many of the outstanding political leaders all over the State who are cognizant of what harm a white primary does to the people governed by such laws, the NAACP State head said: "Removing the primary from State control will expose Florida politics to the worst forms of fraud and corruption." He further charged that "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," wrote Mr. Moore in this closing paragraph.

—END—(MORROW IN WASHINGTON.)

Mathews Admits Bill Is to

Bar Race at Polls

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1947

taken up during this period is the question of graduate and professional study for Negro students. Several months ago the State Board of Control established a scholarship fund for the benefit of Negro students who have to leave Florida to obtain graduate and professional degrees. Unfortunately, the scholarship fund was exhausted before the opening of summer schools this year, and many Negroes were obliged to get the money. This fund has recently been replenished with \$100,000 and we urge that all college Negro students who had to leave Florida earlier this year to go to other states to make application for scholarship aid to Dr. W. H. C. C. of Florida A and M College. As you know, the NAACP holds the principle that each state should provide funds to the graduate and professional level and we have requested our state officials that we regard the coming State Scholarship Program only as a temporary measure.

Again we wish to remind you of the ever increasing of our work. Let us train our young people to love and to work for the NAACP. We are a very small group, but we can organize a youth branch in every city. Let us get our young people ready for the Florida Annual Youth Conference of the NAACP in Tallahassee, Nov. 27-30, 1946. We are glad to have a Florida State Conference of Youth Councils which will be held in Miami, Oct. 28-30, 1946. We are glad to have the Florida State Conference of Youth Councils which will be held in Miami, Oct. 28-30, 1946. We are glad to have the Florida State Conference of Youth Councils which will be held in Miami, Oct. 28-30, 1946.

HARRY T. MOORE
Executive Secretary, Florida
Youth Conference, NAACP
Orlando.

New York Socialists Ask Investigation Of Ferguson's Death

NEW YORK — The New York State Committee of the Socialist Workers Party (Trotskyist) announced today that petitions bearing the signature of six thousand New York residents had been sent to the State Commission against Discrimination, calling for a public investigation, under provisions of the Ives-Quinn Law, of Jim Crow conditions in Nassau County which led to the death of the Ferguson brothers in Freeport, L. I. last February.

At the same time, Farrell Dobbs, Editor of The Militant and Socialist Workers Party candidate for Governor sent the following telegram to Governor Dewey who accepted the findings of Lawrence S. Greenbaum and ordered the now famous Ferguson case "closed":

(TELEGRAM)

"Your whitewash of the murder of the Ferguson brothers is one of the most brazen acts of injustice in the history of New York State. By this action your administration joins company with Bilbo, Talmadge, Rankin and the entire Southern lynch mob. You have given a green light to Klu Kluxers and other native fascists in and out of police uniform to want only to murder innocent people. An administration which allows killers to roam streets at large is a danger to peace and security of the citizen and cannot be entrusted with public responsibility. We are forwarding to you six thousand signatures on petitions by indignant New York citizens demanding application of the Ives-Quinn Law. These petitions demand that SCAD invite all interested public hearing on the Freeport case. They demand that you enforce the law of this state, wipe out the miscarriage of justice which you share responsibility and safeguard the lives and homes of Negro people and other minorities."

(signed) Farrell Dobbs
Editor, The Militant

Senator Morse Congratulated For Unburying Anti-Poll Tax Bill

NEW YORK CITY (WDL)—The Workers Defense League congratulated Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon for unburying the anti-poll tax bill and urged him to continue to press for its adoption. Placed by Senator Morse as an amendment to the oil tidelands bill, it was threatened with the usual southern filibuster and finally postponed by a 54 to 23 vote.

"As you stated, unless this urgent measure is taken up before other important legislation is disposed of, it will prove difficult to get a quorum

The Progressive Voters' League plans to meet in Orlando Saturday to consider the various candidates for political office in Florida.

Our people need some careful guidance in political matters, and this league is in the best position to give it.

4/20/46

State NAACP Hires Harry T. Moore As Executive Secretary

PANAMA CITY.—The State Conference of NAACP branches took a progressive step when it adopted a \$7,000 yearly budget and employed Harry T. Moore, outstanding and militant leader, as executive secretary to devote his full time to the program.

The conference opened Friday night with a public program which featured an address by Mayor J. R. Asbell of Panama City who gave Negroes credit for his election. The response was made by Milton P. Rooks, president of State Voters League.

Saturday morning Rev. M. C. Strachan, president of Tampa branch, gave an address on voting. President Harry T. Moore rendered his report showing 63 state branches, 10,000 members in 1934 and 100,000 called for the legal rights of Negroes. He urged that the fight be finished, and like Kelly Miller, we press forward with your faces fixed upon that light which shineth brighter and brighter into the perfect day.

The guest speaker Sunday afternoon was Mr. Leroy Carter, assistant field secretary who is visiting Florida branches. He made a strong appeal for support of the NAACP program.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Resolutions were adopted as follows:

1. That a state executive sec-

(Continued from page 1)

is no assurance of fair dealing with Negro citizens.

7. That suits be filed to combat plans of state Democratic committee from curtailing the right of Negroes to vote.

8. That the governor be asked to investigate the legality of the Ku Klux Klan in Florida.

9. That letters of thanks be sent to Panama City groups for hospitality including the mayor, local branch of NAACP, St. John Baptist Church and Bethel AME Church.

Officers elected were: Edward D. Davis, president; W. J. H. Black, first vice; Frank Bunts, second vice; Mrs. Emma Pickert, secretary; Mrs. Mamie Mike, assistant secretary; Rev. K. S. Johnson, treasurer; Harry T. Moore, executive secretary.

retary be elected, and that Harry T. Moore be elected to fill the place.

2. That an injunction be filed against University of Florida to compel admission of Negroes to graduate schools.

3. That suits be filed against school boards for equal facilities for Negro schools.

4. That suits be filed to compel pension board to stop discrimination against eligible Negroes.

5. That suits be filed against officials who sought to hamper or denied Negroes the right to vote in the primary.

6. That suits be filed to prevent city bond issues where there

(Continued on page 10)

Negroes Urged To Organize Voters Leagues To Protect Political Rights

By HARRY T. MOORE

MIMS—We take this opportunity to remind you of the many important elections that are now facing us. Nearly every time you pick up a newspaper there is a notice of some city election, bond election, or school trustee election. And next spring, the all-important state and county primaries will be held.

All of these elections are of vital importance to Florida Negro citizens. Don't be misled by those of our own race who say, "Voting is the white man's business; it doesn't concern us." This country is run by politics from top to bottom. The only way for any group of citizens to secure much consideration is through an intelligent use of the ballot. Practically all of the evils and injustices suffered by Negroes in the South can be traced to the fact that we have not been voting in sufficient numbers to exert much influence in the political field.

Florida Negro citizens now face a bright political future. Our successful fight against the "white primary" has opened up the ballot boxes in most counties and cities of Florida. There are still a few "tough spots," but with a little more initiative on the part of local Negro citizens, these can soon be cleared up. The important question now fac-

ing us is this: How shall we use this opportunity to vote that has been won at a cost of thousands of dollars? Shall we get together and vote for the best interest of our community, or shall we loosely cast our votes for candidates who are not favorable to our cause? Fellow citizens, if we would get the best results from our votes, we must get together. There must be greater political unity among us. We must forget our past petty differences and consolidate our political strength. "Big" Negroes and "little" Negroes must learn to work together for the common good. All cannot be leaders; some must be good followers.

The urgent need among Florida Negro citizens today is political organization. If we are to reap the greatest benefits from our new political opportunities, the masses of our people must be organized under one banner. This must be done from a local level up to a state level.

For more than 30 years the NAACP has led this fight for the unrestricted use of the ballot, and the fight still goes on in those communities that seek to restrict Negro suffrage. Ordinarily, it would seem logical for Negro citizens to organize their political strength under this great organization. But the NAACP is not a political organization. Its con-

stitution forbids the endorsement of candidates by its branches.

Fully realizing the need of state-wide political unity among our people, we organized the Progressive Voters League of Florida back in 1944. The League is now chartered under the laws of Florida. It is our hope that the Progressive Voters League will provide the political unity and the honest political leadership so badly needed at this time. We must now work hard to get local units of the Voters League organized in the various communities. There is a small annual membership fee of \$1.00 to help finance the activities of the League. Membership cards are issued to members as they pay this annual fee, which is divided equally between the local units and the State League.

Better thinking Negroes must act now. Do not sit around and wait until some selfish, dishonest Negro has grabbed the political leadership in your community. Take steps now to get a unit of the Progressive Voters League organized in your community. For additional information write Harry T. Moore, executive secretary, Mims, Fla.

NEW LIGHT M. B.

board of the City-Wide Prayer Band met at the church with the

MARYLAND AVENUE GROCERY

1501 Maryland Avenue

Phone M 55-021

LESSONS LEARNED FROM RECENT PRIMARIES

Sheldon. They approached the primary with determination to make good as loyal citizens. They did.

Negroes did not fear violence or misconduct of poll officials. They were treated courteously everywhere. Their only fear was that Mr. Lex Green, by some magic, might beat their favorite, Mr. Holland. If this had happened there would have been tears in Darktown. And strangely enough, Mr. Holland, their chief favorite, had not sought their support. Negroes saw in him the only hope of beating Mr. Green. They were voting mainly against Lex Green.

Already plans are in the making to shape up a workable, intelligently led, Negro Democratic organization for Hillsboro county. We hope it will not be allied with any faction.

Too much praise cannot be given to the Progressive Voters' League. It did a splendid job in arousing interest and in selecting candidates. This organization is led by outstanding men who would not barter for selfish gain the rights of our people.

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."

(Continued on Page 7)

5/17/46

JIMCRO POTE PLAN JUST A SUGGESTION, TOM CONLEY TELLS MUNDY

In answer to a letter directed to his attention by Otis Mundy, Tom Conley, state chairman of the Florida Democratic Committee, stated that the resolution endorsed by the State Democratic Committee in Tampa several weeks ago to segregate Negro and white voting was merely a suggestion to county vote officials.

Mundy's letter outlayed the probability that legal action would be taken if the "unconstitutional procedure" of segregating Negro and white votes was actually carried out.

Mr. Conley explained that the state committee had no authority to order his plan but merely suggested to county vote officials that it be used when and where "expedient."

He stated further that in some counties where the Negro population was the largest, the committee

felt that Negroes would probably want voting booths exclusively for their use. His letter was a probable escape from legal action against the State Committee.

Mundy's letter followed the

stormy session of the Progressive Voters' League in Orlando, when his proposal to register objection to the Jimcra vote plan was vehemently attacked by several officials of the League because they felt it "expedient" to accept Jimcra voting at this time.

Mundy declined to comment on the league's behavior but stated that Conley's answer to his letter gave a "hopeful" approach to the situation.

Information About Rent Control

All landlords renting rooms, apartments or houses are required by government regulations to do the following:

1. Each rental unit must be registered with the OPA on forms provided by the OPA.
2. A report of each change of tenants must be made to the OPA on forms provided by the OPA.
3. A person who purchases one or more rental units must file a report of change in ownership on forms provided by the OPA.

The area rent control offices are on the fifth floor of the Seybold Building in Miami.

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Key

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS

Negro voters are happy that they supported some of the winners in the Democratic primary held Tuesday. They went down the line for Hon. S. L. Holland for U. S. Senator, though Mr. Holland would have been nominated without a single Negro vote.

The support of Mr. Holland by Negroes may be attributed to the Progressive Voters' League, headed by M. P. Rooks, Harry T. Moore and E. E. Broughton, and the influence of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. They endorsed him and the rank and file supported him.

No self-respecting Negro could have supported Mr. Lex Green. He was for the "noble traditions of the South" which simply meant that he was opposed to Negroes voting in the Democratic primary.

Mr. Holland broke a precedent of 25 years standing because he is the first governor to be elected senator since the late Park Trammell. Every governor who has tried it since 1919 has been whipped by his record in the governor's mansion.

In Hillsboro county Negroes supported two winners, Mr. Rex Farrior and Mr. Raymond Sheldon, though one local organization sought to defeat Mr. Farrior because he prosecuted Simon Peter Taylor. This was so absurd. Negroes knew that the state attorney must prosecute men charged with murder and he had better prosecute a Negro or anybody else charged with killing an officer, or abandon his office. Except for this foolish but fruitless opposition the Negro went down the line for Mr. Farrior, for they appreciated his gallant stand against the forces which sought to keep Pearl McAden in circulation to continue his reckless career of cowardly murder.

There was some Negro support for Mr. Frank Crom because his law firm represents several Negro business institutions, but the Negro mainly stood with Mr. Raymond Sheldon. He is their type of man—a fighter who asks no quarter and gives none, and who stands up to big men and tells them what he thinks. His record in the legislature is so outstanding that we could not swap it for promises. We may add that Mr. Sheldon will make an excellent governor, and we hope in 1948 he will lend his dynamic personality, brilliant mind and sound economic views to the leadership of our state.

Negroes generally are happy over the defeat of Mr. Jim Robinson of the school board. He was an old reactionary who believed in running the schools along political lines. He lost by only 47 votes and we hope he can truthfully say the Negroes beat him.

In the race for the legislature, Mr. John Branch and Mr. William Frecker must try again in the second primary. They eliminated Mr. Copeland. Mr. Branch and Mr. Frecker had Negro support; one Negro, S. J. McCall, securing many of his friends to vote for Mr. Frecker because back yonder in their youth they played together, and Mr. McCall recommended him highly. Of course many Negroes refused to accept this personal friendship as a basis for supporting a candidate for an important office. They chose Mr. Branch.

The Sentinel supported Mr. Branch and endorses him for nomination in the second primary. He will make a good member of the legislature.

Negroes were for Judge Brooker and Mr. Harry McDonald in the county judge's race. Judge Brooker won. Many who worked with him during the Blackout days gave him high praise and Negroes voted more largely for him because of these recommendations.

Negroes were more keenly interested in the defeat of Mr. Jim Robinson, Lex Green and the re-nomination of Mr. Farrior and Mr.