

# As One Editor Sees It

By R. F. BEASLEY  
In The Moore County News

A singular proceeding took place last week when the Georgia Democratic primary was held. The Negroes have what is called an organization of Negro Democrats. They wished to vote in the regular Democratic party, but the Democratic party organization in Georgia has ruled that the primary is strictly a white affair. The Supreme Court of the United States recently ruled that Negroes could not be legally barred from participating in the Democratic primary of Texas. The court said that since the primary was established by law, it was an arm of the state hence, the party ruling that only white voters could take part in it was void. The Georgia situation is a little different because in that state, the primary is not created and controlled by the state law, but by a private organization known as the Democratic party, and only party rules govern it. That is the question the South Carolina Democrats had assumed when they had the legislature to abolish all laws creating and governing a primary election. But the Georgia Negroes claim that the Texas ruling applies even when the primary is not created by law since the nominees of this primary are the only ones who can be elected, and if they are not permitted to vote in it, they are deprived of their right of helping to select their officers. The singular thing that took place Tuesday is the way the Negroes proceeded in laying the foundation for the contest which is expected to be brought in the courts. The leaders advised the Negro voters generally, not to attempt to vote. This was to avoid trouble. In Atlanta and other places, a number of Negro leaders was selected to go to the voting places and seek to vote. They did this quietly and orderly. They would step up to the polls, state their names and addresses. The registrars would look through the registration books and say, "Sorry, but we do not have your name on the registration book." Then the colored applicant would say "Thank you," and withdraw.

At this distance fairness seems to compel one to commend the Negroes for their way of procedure. Years ago in this state, many Republicans set up the claim that they should be allowed to vote in Democratic primaries because the nominees of such primaries were sure to be elected. Hence, if the Republicans were denied the right

to vote in them, they would be deprived of their right of helping select their rulers. This claim was especially put forth when so many Republicans desired to vote for Senator Simmons. Ofcourse this claim was spurious because these voters did not claim to be Democrats and were not pledged to vote for the Democratic nominees. In Georgia, the claim of the Negro voters is different, for they state that they are Democrats and wish to vote for the Democratic nominees. At this distance, it would certainly be of no avail for us to talk very much about the rights and wrongs and the various contentions in Georgia. And we are inclined to think that if all people at a distance were to talk less, the white and colored people of Georgia could get much nearer together. The only point which we think important to mention is that the Negroes of Georgia are proceeding in a right and lawful manner to ascertain their rights under the law, and when those rights are established, the Democratic organization of Georgia, or of any other state, should seek to annul them. It must not be forgotten that the southern people have always claimed to give the Negro all his legal rights. And as a matter of policy, we think that the North Carolina way is better than that of Georgia or Texas. That way is not to seek to prevent qualified Negroes from voting in the primaries, but to welcome them to vote as intelligent citizens and not merely as Negroes. From the quiet and orderly way the Negro leaders in Georgia seem to be acting in Georgia, one can think that their participation in Democratic primaries, when they are Democrats, could not be any great danger to the people of Georgia.

The Texans, if we understand the situation, are in a different quandary. The court has specifically declared that to shut out the Negroes from voting in the Democratic primary would be illegal. Whether the Texas Democrats are going to defy this ruling or not, we cannot say. If they do, it is to be hoped that the Negroes will seek to proceed in the same quiet and lawful way that they have in Georgia. But the Texas Democratic convention has started a more ambitious campaign. They propose to exert pressure on the national convention to accede to their demands. One of these is that the convention return to the two-thirds rule for the nomination of presidential candidates. Another is that the national convention protest the decision of the Supreme Court

# AMERICANA



By ERIC GODAL  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S FORMAL EDUCATION WAS LIMITED TO A FEW YEARS AT A LOCAL SCHOOL IN BOSTON, BUT HIS SELF-EDUCATION CONTINUED THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE UNTIL HE BECAME A GREAT PUBLISHER AND STATESMAN. IN 1721 HIS FRIENDS SAID THAT ONE NEWSPAPER WAS ENOUGH FOR AMERICA. BUT HE WAS ABLE TO BOAST IN 1771 THAT AMERICA HAD 27 NEWSPAPERS!



EVIDENCE OF BREWING IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES 35 YEARS BEFORE THE PILGRIMS LANDED IS CONTAINED IN A LETTER BY THOMAS HERJOT WHO WROTE ABOUT IT IN 1587 FROM SIR RALEIGH'S COLONY AT ROANOKE ISLAND. HE DESCRIBED THE GRAIN FOUND IN VIRGINIA, OF WHICH THEY MADE MALT "WHEREOF WAS BREWED AS GOOD ALE AS COULD BE DESIRED."



IN 1513 PONCE DE LEON SET OUT TO FIND THE MAGIC WATERS OF THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH, AND DISCOVERED THE MAINLAND NEAR ST. AUGUSTINE. HE NAMED THE COUNTRY FLORIDA AND RETURNED TO THE WEST INDIES THROUGH THE PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN BAHAMA CHANNEL.

in declaring that Negroes cannot be denied the vote in Democratic primaries. It is very certain that the national convention will not accede to either one of these demands. If not, said the regular Democratic convention of Texas, we have the remedy. That remedy is to select electors who will not vote for the nominees of that convention. This seems to be what the South Carolina Democrats also have in mind. Now it is certain that there are more Democrats in Texas who wish to vote for Mr. Roosevelt than there are those who wish to vote against him, no matter what the national convention may do. The Texas convention plan disfranchises these, for it would offer them no way to cast their ballots. That they will submit to this procedure is unthinkable. When the regular convention met and took this position, there was a bolt by a number of supporters of Mr. Roosevelt, whose purpose, it is stated, is to provide Roosevelt electors on the ticket. As far as one can judge from a distance, the regular Democratic convention is wholly in the wrong. The two-party system is well established in this country because it meets a condition which has not otherwise been met, and for the present, there is no way to escape it. If the Democrats of Texas cannot abide by what the national party does, they have no remedy except to quit the party. They will have to go to the Republican party or create one of their own. They can't be Democrats and exclude their members from voting for Democratic nominees. But it may be said they don't want to become Republicans, because on their main point of contention, the race question, the Republicans are taking the perfectly same position that the national Democratic party is occupying. So, up come the Texas Democrats to an awkward position. Somebody in Texas is going to eat a lot of crow, because it is certain that the bulk of the Democrats in that state will prefer to "bear the ills we have than to fly to those we know not of." In other words, the Texas convention hasn't got a sound bottom to stand on. You can't eat your cake and have it at the

same time. The South went into the Republican party in 1928 and got what? Mr. Hoover and no chicken in the pot!

## D. C. NEGRO BOYS JOIN VFFV TO HELP IN WAR-TIME HARVEST

One hundred and twenty Washington, D. C. Negro boys will have a triple-treat vacation this summer. Having enlisted as victory farm volunteers to help harvest a 21,000-acre vegetable crop in Dorchester county, Maryland, the youngsters will not only lend a hand toward the winning of the war, and make some extra money besides, but they will also enjoy a real summer outing. Shouldering duffel bags, or suitcases with one hand and carrying their ration books in the other, 60 of the VFFV's loaded into school busses Wednesday and headed for Cambridge, Md., to

help harvest 1,600 acres of string beans. The remaining 60 boys left for the Maryland bean patch Sunday. Within three weeks they expect to have the bean crop well in hand, then they will turn to the tomato harvest.

These VFFV's are filling an important gap in Maryland's labor supply. While there are several hundred Jamaican and Bahamian farm workers in the area, there is still need for additional help. These youngsters are helping to meet that need. Nation-wide, 1,200,000 boys and girls, white and Negro, will be needed this year to help get in the crops, the war food administration estimates. In thousands of areas, youngsters, like the Washington boys, are pitching in to help.

It won't be all work and no play for the VFFV's. After a six-hour day in the fields, the District of Columbia youngsters will knock off and go swimming, fishing, hiking, or camping, or they will play softball and other games. Recreational directors from local schools will direct the play activities.

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