

THE CHANGING SOUTH

Barriers to Negro's Voting Slowly Topple

AP Newsfeatures
COLUMBIA, S. C. — The Negro in the south has his feet planted firmly on the political road from second to first class citizenship. Sometimes he takes a broad step, but mostly he just inches along. That he moves at all is a tribute not only to his own efforts, but to the changing attitude of many white southerners who feel the Negro should receive the ballot as a matter of simple justice. One by one, artificial barriers to enfranchisement are toppling. One is the discriminatory Boswell amendment in Alabama which sought to bar the Negro from the polls by leaving it to the discretion of white registrars as to whether he could interpret the constitution. Likewise, after a long bitter battle, he won in federal court the right to participate in South Carolina's real election, the Democratic primary.

Still Some Opposition
 He has advanced to the point where in every southern state except Mississippi, he votes in the tens of thousands, though there are rear-guard actions against his mass participation. To the surprise of a great many "traditional" southerners, there is a Negro alderman in Winston-Salem, N. C. Richmond, Va., has a Negro city councilman and a Negro state representative. Even here, headquarters for the



John McCray

States Rights Democrats, a Negro undertaker is in the race for city council. Another is running for the council in Chattanooga. Two reportedly may enter the race in Nashville.

A Weekly Editor's Views
 Here, too, is to be found an aggressive negro political movement similar to those found in other large southern cities. This one is sparked by editor John McCray of the weekly newspaper, The Lighthouse & Informer.

To the broad question "What has the south done for the Negro?" McCray replied, "Nothing. Nothing they didn't have to do. Anything that has been done has been done by the Negro mostly, through the federal courts, the threat of federal court action or fear of action by Congress."

Implicit in the Negro movement is the belief that politicians listen only to voters and that only by voting can they obtain the services of their government.

In an interview McCray expressed the belief that "this next election will be the last in South Carolina in which race will be much of an issue."

The reason, said McCray, will be the emergence of the Negro as a major political factor.

Out to Break Record
 He pointed out that after the federal courts opened the state Democratic primary to Negroes in 1948 about 30,000 voted. "This time," he added, "we are out to get 200,000."

The young Negro editor, a native of Charleston, said the political awakening of his people began with the New Deal.

"When the New Deal took the Negro, chopping cotton at 75 cents an acre, out of the field and gave

News from CORACOKE
 Aug. 21—Mr. Walter O'Neal, sr., sustained extensive injury to his leg on Wednesday when a large marble slab fell on it, cutting a wide gash to the bone. He was carried by emergency plane to Tayloe hospital, Washington, N. C., for treatment and is now back home recuperating.

Miss Kathleen Bragg, Mrs. Travis Williams and daughter spent several days in Beaufort last week. Mrs. Gray Bragg and granddaughter, Bernice Forbes, spent last week in Washington, N. C. Carleton Kelly left Monday for

him something, he began asking, "What can I do to help this man Roosevelt?"

In those days there were six branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the state. Now, he reported there are 86 with a membership of 14,000, largest in the south.

McCray said the goal for South Carolina was to register not less than 50 per cent of the entire adult negro population.

"We didn't want to see the races divided in politics," he continued, "and we went to the whites to see what could be done. We got various reactions, but the majority said it just couldn't be done."

Another great awakening to the potentialities of the ballot came in the municipal elections at Conway, S. C., in 1944, McCray declared. There, he reported, a White faction known as the "Reform" group set out to oust the incumbent.

"They actually met in barber shops and church basements at night seeking the Negro vote. When the election came the incumbent got 413 votes and the Reform Negro group got 417 — and the Negroes provided the margin of victory."

What benefits did the Negroes obtain? "Well," McCray added, "they got a new high school, two Negro policemen, extended garbage service and the undesirable spots cleaned up."

This pattern, he continues, has been duplicated in half a dozen South Carolina cities and will be in more.

Schools Are a Goal

He pointed out that hand-in-hand with the emergence of the Negro as a voter in Columbia went construction of a new \$500,000 high school and a \$200,000 swimming pool.

One of the Negroes' chief aims in South Carolina, McCray concluded is the improvement of South Carolina's schools for Negroes.

Petitions, usually the forerunner of federal court suits, are being circulated asking equal educational facilities.

The magnitude of this task for South Carolina is measured by the fact that a 1947 survey showed 1,390 White schools with a plant valuation of \$55,000,000 and 2,098 Negro schools valued at \$9,000,000.

A measure of what is taking place on the local level is the boast by the Truman Democrats "that the two races can work together without friction in the Democratic party."

(Next: The TVA Story)

several days' visit with relatives in Norfolk.

Mrs. Minnie Farrow returned to Baltimore this past week, after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Scarborough.

Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Williams is visiting her mother, Mrs. Dave Williams.

Miss Isabella O'Neal arrived home Sunday for a two weeks' vacation from Eastern Carolina Teachers College. She will continue her college work there when the fall term opens in September.

Ivy O'Neal of Philadelphia is visiting his sisters, Mrs. Dicie Wells and Miss Isabella O'Neal.

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Wahab have as guests Wilson Wahab and Miss Lillian Wahab of Norfolk.

Called to Swan Quarter for draft examination this week were Calvin O'Neal, jr., Maurice Ballance, Nathaniel Jackson, and Herbert Parsons.

Mr. and Mrs. George Guthrie Jackson announce the birth of a son, Eugene Matthew Jackson, at Morehead hospital.

Mrs. Jessie Garrish and son, Danny, and Mrs. Wilma Williams and Alice Belle Williams are spending several days in Washington, N. C., this week.

British Metal Experts Study U. S. Methods

LONDON — (AP) — Ten British pressed metal experts who studied U. S. methods for a year think their industry needs "a change of outlook by all concerned."

Their report, which found the American industry more "productivity conscious," said British "managements must be prepared to be more receptive to progressive methods to modernize and reequip plants and to provide the means to utilize labor more efficiently." They added: "Trade union officials must convince their members of the absolute necessity for an immediate increase in productivity and must implement this by securing the abandonment of restrictive practices of all kinds."



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- GREEN CABBAGE** lb. — 4c
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- CARROTS** bunch — 9c
- LIMES** lb. — 12c
- LEMONS** lb. — 12c
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- PEARS** lb. — 15c
- RED BLISS** 5 lbs. — 23c

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Open 'Til 8:30 P. M. Every Saturday!

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Packer's Label Red Ripe Tomatoes - 2 for 27c	No. 2 Can	Soap Powder - 31c	Lge. Pkg.
Libby, Dole, or Del Monte Sliced Pineapple - 32c	No. 2 Can	Soap That Prevents "B.O." - 13c	Bath Size
HI-C Refreshing Orangeade - 31c	46-Oz. Can	Life Buoy - 13c	1-Lb. Jar
Corn Flakes - 14c	8-Oz. Pkg.	Pure Honey - 35c	Roll
Kellogg's Tea - 27c	1/4-Lb. Pkg.	Towels - 16c	3 Rolls
	1/2-Lb. Pkg.	Tissue - 25c	

GREEN GIANT NEW PACK SWEET PEAS - 21c	17-Oz. Can
WHOLE KERNEL NEW PACK NIBLETS CORN - 2 for 31c	12-Oz. Can
HOPE FARM BRUNSWICK STEW - 57c	No. 2 Can

Extra Large Juicy Sunkist Lemons - 29c	Doz.	Fresh Dressed and Drawn Fryers - 55c	Lb.
Tree Ripened Peaches - 27c	2 Lbs.	Whole or Cut-Up Ready For The Pan Armour or Swift Franks - 59c	1-Lb. Cello
Ripe Bartlett Pears - 17c	Lb.	Boneless, Lean Stew - 79c	Lb.
Extra Fancy Pole Beans - 27c	2 Lbs.	Heavy Western Chuck Roast - 69c	Lb.
Green Top Carrots - 21c	2 Bunches	Heavy Western Sirloin Steak - 97c	Lb.

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Fresh Ground Beef - lb. 59c	Red Bliss Potatoes - 10 lbs. 49c
Chuck Roast - lb. 59c	Large Iceberg Lettuce - hd. 23c
Fresh Sausage - lb. 60c	Carrots - 2 bunches 25c
Round Steak - lb. 95c	Fresh Peaches - lb. 17c
"Hunt" Peaches - 2 1-2 can 39c	Bananas - 2 lbs. 27c
Old Reliable Triple Succotash - 27c	
Stokely's Whole Corn - 13-oz. can 24c	
Apple Butter - 28-oz. jar 19c	
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LUX TOILET SOAP Reg. Bar 8c	Ivory Snow Lge. Pkg. 29c
IVORY TOILET SOAP Lge. Pkg. 14c	OXYDOL SOAP POWDER Lge. Pkg. 29c

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Kingan's Reliable **HAMS** lb. — 55c

Butt or Shank Portion Morrell Pride **SLICED BACON** lb. — 63c

BEEF CHUCK ROAST Bone In lb. — 85c

BEEF SHORT RIBS lb. — 45c

PORK ROAST Rib End lb. — 59c

RIB or LOIN CHOPS End Cuts lb. — 63c

FRYERS lb. — 56c

BACON SQUARES lb. — 35c

Morrell Pride **SMOKED PICNICS** lb. — 49c

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