

Registration Drive Asked of Negroes

Georgia Negro leaders who just concluded a session in Albany have been urged to push voter registration and not to make any early commitments to political candidates.

Jesse Hill of Atlanta addressed the statewide meeting of "Operation Breadbasket" on the subject, "Voter Registration and Political Action."

Hill declared that he was "greatly concerned that we as Negroes do not have more effective or better statewide coordination and support in voter registration and political action."

Hill said that on Monday he will ask the Voter Registration Project of the Southern Regional

Council to "immediately finance a statewide forum and coordinating group to improve the lagging program of voter registration in Georgia before the books close for the upcoming congressional and state elections."

He added, "Georgia is subject to the Voting Rights Law and from information we are now studying, I predict that federal voting registrars will be requested for many Georgia counties within the next 45 to 60 days and I feel certain that the Justice department will send them, and many of these registrars will be Negroes."

Hill said the "basic problems of Albany Negroes are not just Albany problems, they are problems for Georgia Negroes to consider by coalition and coordination if we are to have a posture of strength in pursuing them instead of our historically ill-formed, weak, pleading and begging position."

"I suggest," Hill said, "that we give special attention to the Second Congressional District where there are 132,000 eligible Negro citizens against 75,135 white, and white voters outnumber Negroes two to one."

The Negro leader further declared that "the worst thing we can do" is to "get involved in making commitments to potential candidates" at this early date.

Hill said that on Jan. 1, there were 265,081 Negroes registered to vote in Georgia. He said reports show that Georgia Negroes are lagging behind other states in registering since the Voting Rights Bill passed.

Vernon see this

PASCO-HERNANDO REPORT

'Orange Paving' On Highway Entices Tourists

St. Petersburg Times
By SHIRLEY CHASTAIN
Of The Times Staff

O.J. in the skin was free for the taking last week in the rolling grove country along State Road 52 in Pasco County.

Winter visitors had a ball. Whatever monetary loss the grower felt . . . more than compensated for in good will.

IT WAS SORT OF a fairy tale.

The goose that laid the "golden egg" was headed for a packing house with a load of oranges. The golden fruit tumbled and rolled from the back of the truck for several miles along the highway.

After being tantalized for miles by the sweet sight of fruit on the trees, tourists suddenly saw bushels of it strung out along the road. Cars stopped everywhere and friendly folk scooped up the freshly picked nuggets.

WHERE ELSE in the U.S. can a stranger help himself to such homespun hospitality?



CHASTAIN

Bills Urge Voter Registration

For the next couple of months, water bills in Dade City will bear invitations to "register to vote!" Not only that, citizens are being urged to register twice.

The suggestion is quite legal, however. The public is reminded to register at City Hall for city elections and in the Pasco Court House for county and state elections.

Commissioners Check County Bills

In recent weeks Hernando County Commissioners have been making a closer check on bills the county okays for some of the county offices. Each one now is read aloud at a regular board meeting.

One commissioners turned down last week was \$250 for the autopsy on the body of Lillian Hicks, driver of the school bus recently involved in a fatal smashup. The commission thought the bill should be paid by the School Board.

One the Commission paid was \$1,946 for liability insurance on equipment operated by the county road department. The invoice was payable to the insurance agency operated by Commission Chairman A. L. (Roy) Snow.

Douglas Announcement Kills Rumor

Zephyrhills City Councilman H. C. Douglas Jr. has been a subject of speculation in political circles. The question marks changed to periods last week when he qualified to run for reelection to the council.

Rumor had it that numerous individuals wanted him to run in the Democratic primary for County Commissioner. When he didn't qualify for the city post until nearly the last moment, the rumors picked up momentum.