

New Negro voting watched in South

By George Moneyhun

Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

Atlanta

An unprecedented number of Negroes in the Deep South are registered to vote in Tuesday's general election.

The greatest impact of their newly expanded ballot is likely to be felt in rural areas of Alabama and Mississippi, where Negro voters in some counties outnumber whites by as many as four to one.

A number of Negro candidates seeking local and county positions in such rural areas are likely to be elected to offices not held by members of their race since Reconstruction days.

In statewide races, however, Negroes are still a minority and appear to have little chance of significantly altering the outcome of Tuesday's elections.

Negro registration in the South has reached an all-time high since the Voting Rights Act was passed Aug. 6, 1965. Approximately 52 percent of the eligible Negro voters in 11 Deep South states are registered to vote, according to the voter education project of the Southern Regional Council.

In Mississippi, the Rev. Allen L. Johnson, a state leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), says nine Negroes are seeking election to county boards of education; one is running for justice of the peace; one for constable; and one for the county board of supervisors.

Small percentage

Although Mississippi has less than 35 percent of its eligible Negro voters registered, the smallest percentage of any Southern state, several of the counties in which Negro candidates are running have Negro majorities. In Claiborne County, for instance, are 1,679 whites registered and 2,906 Negroes.

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (FDP) has a Negro candidate, the Rev. Clifton Whitley, running for the Senate against Sen. James O. Eastland (D) and Republican Rep. Prentiss Walker. He is given very little chance of winning.

As the Rev. R. L. T. Smith, NAACP chairman in Jackson, put it, "It's unfortunate that the FDP fielded a candidate for the Senate at this time."

There just aren't enough registered Negroes in the state to put him in."

However, referring to the local races with Negro candidates, the Baptist clergyman remarked, "This time we can make our votes count. Even if we don't get but a few

Negroes in office, that will be a victory in itself."

In Alabama, the Negro ballot will undoubtedly be heard loudest in the black belt. In Lowndes County, where Negroes outnumber whites four to one, Negro candidates supported by the Student nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) are running for sheriff, tax collector, assessor, coroner, and three for the board of education.

County offices

In neighboring Greene and Dallas Counties, "Freedom" candidates are also seeking several county offices. Negroes in Dallas County (Selma), where civil-rights demonstrations last year attracted nationwide attention, have divided their allegiance between two opposing groups of candidates.

The long-established Dallas County Voters League, Inc., is backing a slate of white candidates, while the newly organized Independent Free Voters Organization, supported by SNCC, is putting forth its own slate of Negro candidates.

In Louisiana, Negro leaders in New Orleans expect their newly registered voters to help return Rep. Hale Boggs, House majority whip, to Washington. Mr. Boggs, who supported the national administration's Voting Rights Act, is receiving strong opposition from conservative Republican Leonard L. Limes.

"The whole political situation in Georgia is in turmoil at the present time," says state NAACP leader W. W. Law. "Most Negroes, I think, will vote for principle. They won't support either of the two [gubernatorial] candidates. A great portion of them will participate in the write-in movement for Ellis Arnall."

Thorny question

Like the state's many white moderate voters, Negroes face the thorny question of choosing between a staunch Democratic segregationist, Lester G. Maddox, a Republican segregationist, Rep. Howard H. Callaway, or attempting to revive the campaign of former Governor Arnall, who was defeated in the Democratic primary.

Mr. Law said of the state's Negro voters, "By and large, we are attempting to stem the tide—the white backlash, or whatever you want to call it—that's now sweeping the state and the South."

The civil-rights leader, referring to the Negro vote in Tuesday's election, commented, "Nothing astounding will happen this time. It's going to take time—two, four, maybe even six years before an alliance between the white moderates and the Negroes can be worked out. But that's what it's going to take to improve politics in the South."

Out of approximately 909,000 voters in South Carolina, some 191,000 are Negro. In addition to the House of Representatives delegation, the state is electing a governor, two senators, and several other state officers this year.

One Republican candidate for the Senate, Marshall Parker, has told campaign audiences he needs 100,000 white votes just to offset the Negro votes he expects his opponent, Democrat Ernest F. Hollings, to attract.

According to the Southern Regional Council, the number of Negroes registered in the 11 Deep South states jumped from 2,174,200 in November, 1964 to 14,309,704 this fall.

Reactor to open to public

Hanford, Wash.

After more than 20 years of secrecy, the government is planning to let the public look at one of the nuclear reactors it uses to make plutonium for atomic weapons. Public tours of the reactor site at Hanford, Wash., are scheduled tentatively for late November.

Supply deceptive

More workers, but skills elusive

By Ed Townsend
Labor correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

New York

Despite the drop in October's unemployment figures, the nation's supply of unemployed workers has shown a net relative increase over the past two or three months. But there's little evidence that skilled people are any easier to locate or hire. For the most desirable workers, the labor market is about as tight as ever.

Arthur M. Ross, United States Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said cautiously a short time ago that the skilled manpower situation nationally appeared "perhaps a little easier" than it had been earlier in the year.

Bottlenecks caused by labor shortages "aren't any worse than they were," and employers "have had time to catch up with considerable success with their skill requirements" by training, job redesigning, and other devices, Mr. Ross said.

Shortage debated

To a limited extent, private sources support this. Deutsch & Shea, Inc., a New York firm that issues a monthly engineer-scientist demand index, reported last week (Oct. 31) that for the second month in a row newspaper ads for engineers and scientists dipped in September in all parts of the country.

But employers nationally disagree with Mr. Ross and with any statistical method of showing that skilled workers are any less hard to locate than earlier this year. Serious skilled-labor shortages are continuing.

Some say the situation is worse, not better. Others say that if the situation seems any easier, it's only because most employers have come to regard a tight skilled-labor market as a way of life and are making adjustments in operating procedures to cope with its problems.

The national unemployment rate has dropped to 3.8 percent, indicating some 2.6 million jobseekers. For a year, the rate has stayed close to 4 percent after a decade of narrow movement in a 4-7 percent range.

October reported

This isn't full employment (classical definitions would place that at about 2.5 percent or no more than 3 percent). But, according

to Mr. Ross recently, it is about as close as the country is likely to come to full employment under present circumstances.

A 4 percent rate "means full employment for the majority of the work force, who have sufficient education, training, and experience," according to Mr. Ross.

Figures released by the Labor Department showed in October that white-collar workers were only 2.3 percent unemployed and skilled craftsmen only 1.8 percent jobless.

Skills lacked

Married men, who account for over half of the labor force, had a 1.9 percent rate. Rates of around 2 percent or less may be accounted for as a reflection of those temporarily unemployed for personal reasons—including job shifts.

The figures then reflect this: At the same time that unemployment figures for the workers with skills were at low levels of 2 percent or less nationally, the rate for the unskilled was 5.8 percent—and that for unskilled Negroes was a sharply higher 7.8 percent.

The comparative rates underscore this: To the extent that there is not full employment now, and that there is not likely to be full employment under present conditions, it is because skills are lacking—not job openings.

A survey recently by Business Week, the national business news magazine, found that employers reported skilled jobs going begging everywhere from coast to coast. One employer commented, "We're all looking for the same kind of skilled people in the same market area."

In general, machine-shop skills and electronic specialties are in shortest supply—but employers reported that almost every skill is in demand somewhere.

Standards evaluated

The exceptions seem to be, temporarily, in the construction industry, because of the winter off-season for some work, and generally the tight-money policy that has caused a slowdown in new building. Several survey responses noted, however, that those jobless in the construction industry were being put to work immediately in other industries.

Some companies are carefully evaluating job standards to make sure that usable skills are being fully utilized. The less-skilled are being hired to replace any who can be moved up, perhaps with additional training.

Other companies are splitting jobs into skilled and less-skilled or unskilled components; more production can be obtained from a worker's usable skills by delegating to a less-skilled helper, preferably a trainee, time-consuming unskilled operations.

And almost all, in one way or another, are trying to upgrade workers or train new recruits for skilled jobs.

All are recruiting heavily, and many imaginatively. Here again there's a problem—ads frequently lead only to exchanges of workers. There are costly shifts but few net gains when East Coast aircraft companies are advertising on the West Coast, while West Coast employers are recruiting in the East.

U.S. orders Soviet boats

By Reuters

Moscow

The Soviet Union's expanding shipbuilding industry has been given a new boost with the announcement that an American company has ordered 12 Soviet hydrofoils to be delivered by the end of next year.

The American Satra Corporation and the Soviet state trading concern Sudimport signed a contract here for the delivery of two ocean-going 100-seater Comet hydrofoils and 10 six-seater Volga hydrofoil launches.



By Norman Motheny, staff photographer

Skilled workers sought

Industry is wrestling with a need for skilled workers like this one shown adjusting his machine at National Screw & Manufacturing Company, Cleveland, Ohio. Boom times make trained workers in big demand.

Soviet economic gains seen from sales-and-profit tack

By the Associated Press

Moscow

The Soviet Union's ambitious economic-reform program is off to a good start for the first nine months of this year, the country's top planner reports.

But it faces critical problems in the months ahead, says Deputy Premier Nikolai K. Baybakov.

The reforms are a key element in Soviet plans to increase total industrial production some 50 percent by 1970. They are also an essential factor in efforts to raise Soviet living standards and build a base of domestic strength for foreign-policy moves.

Marketing incentives added

Mr. Baybakov reviewed the progress and prospects of the year-old reform program in a 3,000-word article in Pravda, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper.

Mr. Baybakov heads Gosplan, the group responsible for planning production at every factory of the Soviet state-controlled economy. His organization will play a major role in determining whether the reforms work out.

The reforms were ordered by Premier

Alexei N. Kosygin in September of 1965 to overcome the loss of billions of rubles to the Soviet economy.

Factories previously made goods under orders from central planners. They got bonuses if they overfulfilled production plans, whether or not their goods sold. Millions of unwanted products rotted unsold in warehouses.

Premier Kosygin gradually is changing the planning base to award bonuses for sales and profits rather than for gross output. Factory bosses were given some independence to plan their own output on the basis of local demand in hopes of increasing profits.

Samoan plaque marks visit

Gov. H. Rex Lee of American Samoa said all the leaders of the island "came to me en masse and said you can't take down" the temporary speakers' stand used by President Johnson.

The Governor agreed to mark the area with a plaque and store the stand intact for future occasions.

Ohio watched for vote trend as polls hint GOP comeback

By Godfrey Sperling Jr.

Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

Cincinnati

Ohio seems to be heading for a notable Republican triumph at the polls. It may, in fact, be the state to watch on Tuesday night for early indications of a national trend.

Along with an expected landslide victory for Gov. James A. Rhodes, the Republicans now look to picking up a 3-to-1 edge on the Democrats in the congressional delegation. Project the new Ohio prospects nationally—and such a trend might be indicated—and the Republicans would be scoring a pickup of 38 seats and upward on Tuesday.

The Johnson flood of votes in 1964 pushed the number of Ohio's Democratic congressmen up to 10—from 6. The Republicans retained a 14-to-10

advantage in the delegation.

Now there is strong indication that the GOP edge in House seats will swing back to 18 to 6. Furthermore, there is growing talk here of the Republicans gaining five seats, pushing their total to 19.

Optimism noted

And, there is even some high optimism today, in some GOP circles, that puts the Republican prospects at 20 or 21.

If this happens, one can be pretty well assured that a national GOP comeback of surprising and significant proportions is signaled.

Actually, the Ohio prospects seem to indicate an almost certain "normal" rebound, a return to the 18-6 House delegation that preceded the Johnson sweep.

Across the nation there

were 38 Democrats pulled in by the big Johnson victory. Thus, a similar "normal" GOP recovery across the nation would leave the Republicans in the neighborhood of 38 to 40 seats. The latter figure, too, is a good average for House gains by the "outs" in off-year elections during this century.

The danger in any projection of this kind, of course, is that no state is without local situations that color that state's elections. In Ohio it is the obvious popularity of Governor Rhodes. His coattail for other Republicans will be considerable. Voters, at this point, are even having trouble remembering the name of his Democratic opponent, Frazier Reams Jr.

Local issues

But congressional races usually turn on strictly local issues, issues that affect the congressional districts alone, and upon the popularity of the candidates themselves.

Thus, the prospects of sizable GOP gains in the Ohio congressional delegation must be taken as saying something nationally—as well as in Ohio.

GOP gains now are seen in the 1st, 3d, and 10th Districts, where Republicans expect to defeat the

Democratic incumbents, and in the new 15th and 24th Districts.

In the 1st District, Robert Taft Jr. now is given the edge in a race that could go either way. In the 3d, GOP State Sen. Charles W. Whalen is expected to beat Rep. Rodney M. Love in a very close race. In the 10th District former Lancaster Mayor Clarence E. Miller now is given a narrow edge over Democratic Rep. Walter H. Moeller.

In the new 17th two congressmen are facing each other: Republican John Ashbrook vs. Democrat Robert Secrest. This race now seems to be leaning toward Mr. Ashbrook. But again, this is a real battle.

In the 24th, Republican Donald E. Lukens is seen as the certain winner over James H. Pelley, Miami University political-science professor.

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Ore shipments climb

Cleveland

Iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes are running ahead of last year, both for the month of October and for the year to date, the American Iron Ore Association reports.

Combined shipments of United States and Canadian ore last month totaled 8,429,570 gross tons, compared with 8,394,988 tons in October, 1965. Shipments for the year through October amounted to 64,436,062 tons, compared with 61,365,011 tons in the same period last year, the association said.

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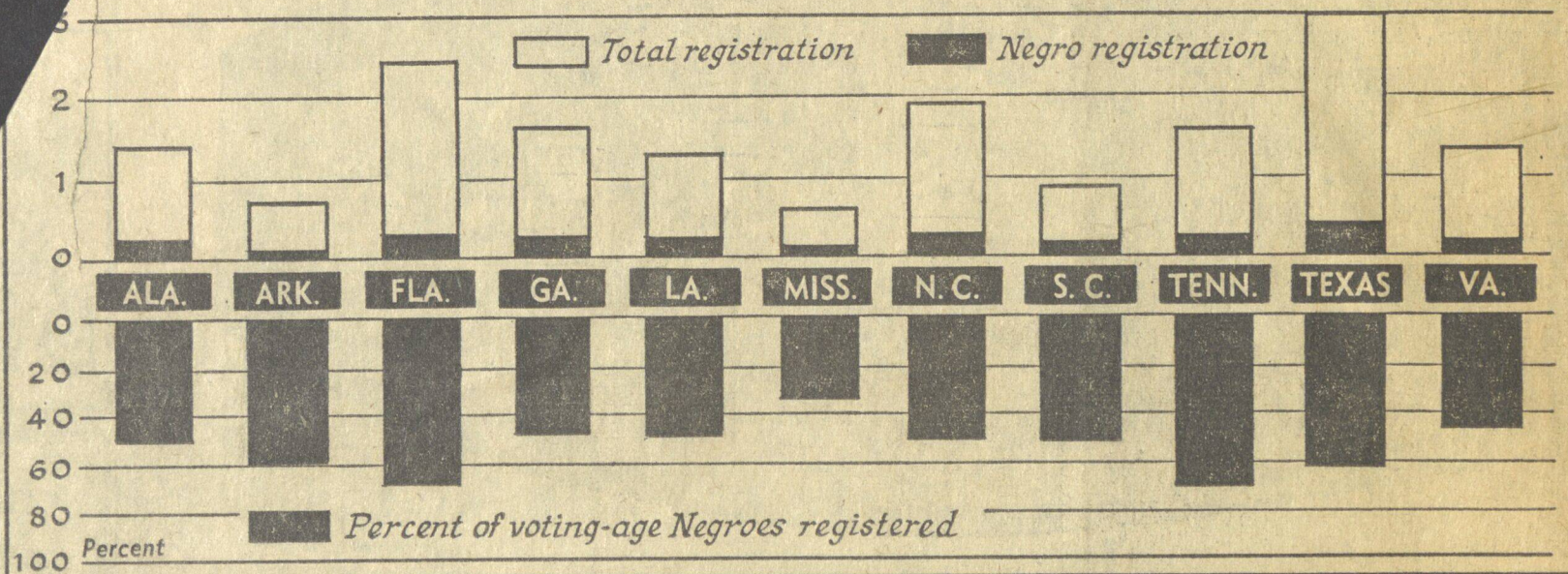
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Negro registration in Southern states



By Joan Forbes, staff artist

New voters in the South

Despite significant gains over the last two years, Negro voting power remains a minority factor throughout the South. Few white candidates appeal directly for Negro votes. In some states, however, such as Alabama, Negroes are offering their own slate of candidates for county offices.

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2nd Cl Post Pd at Boston, Mass., and add'l offices

November 7, 1966

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