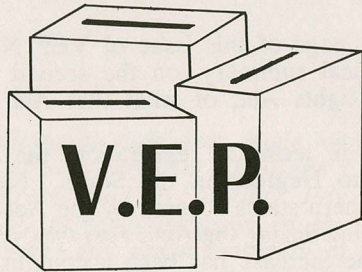


Two-Year History of the Voting Rights Act

	NEGRO VAP 1960	TOTAL REGISTERED 6-1-67	% OF VAP REGISTERED	PRE-ACT REGISTERED	PRE-ACT % OF VAP REGISTERED	INCREASE	# REGISTERED BY FEDERAL EXAMINERS
ALABAMA	481,320	255,000	53.0	113,000	23.5	142,000	60,204
GEORGIA	612,910	334,000	54.5	233,000	38.0	101,000	3,164
LOUISIANA	514,589	273,000	53.3	163,000	31.8	110,000	21,159
MISSISSIPPI	422,256	199,000	47.1	35,000	8.3	164,000	51,808
S. CAROLINA	371,104	189,000	50.9	143,000	35.5	46,000	4,606
VIRGINIA	436,720	243,000	55.6	169,000	38.7	74,000	0
TOTAL	2,836,581	1,493,000	52.6	856,000	30.2	637,000	140,941

*VAP = Voting Age Population.



NEWS

VOTER EDUCATION PROJECT

AUGUST 1967

VOL. 1, NO. 3

Southern Regional Council, Inc. 5 Forsyth St., N.W. Atlanta, Ga. 30303

NEGRO REGISTRATION UP 637,000 IN SIX VRA STATES

Two years of the Voting Rights Act have brought an increase of 637,000 in Negro registration in six Southern states covered by the Act, according to figures compiled by the Voter Education Project.

The six states are Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Loui-

siana, South Carolina and Virginia.

Total Negro registration in these six states was 856,000 when President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law on August 6, 1965. As of June of this year, total Negro registration stood at 1,493,000.

Before the Voting Rights Act went into effect, only 30.2 per cent of the voting-age Negroes in the six states was registered. Now the figure is 52.6 per cent.

Federal examiners have been assigned to at least some counties in all of the six states except Virginia. Of the 637,000 increase in Negro registration, federal examiners have accounted directly for 141,000.

As of June, federal examiners had registered 60,204 in Alabama, 51,808 in Mississippi, 21,159 in Louisiana, 4,606 in South Carolina and 3,164 in Georgia. In addition, the federal examiners have registered a total of 7,027 white voters in these five states.

The Voting Rights Act also applies to about 26 counties in North Carolina, but no examiners have been assigned in these counties. Examiners were assigned in Georgia only last spring by U. S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark. Three Georgia counties were designated.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 suspended literacy tests and other devices historically used to make it difficult for Negroes to register and vote in the South.

A study made by the Voter Education Project last year indicated that Negro registration tends to be higher in counties to which federal examiners have been assigned. Since county courthouses are symbols of discrimination in much of the South, many Negroes prefer to register with federal examiners.

Whenever possible, the Voter Education Project gives assistance to local registration programs in counties having federal examiners so that full use can be made of these examiners.

V. E. P. News Briefs

Reports a VEP-assisted program in Virginia: "July 4, 1967 a \$25,000 swimming pool was dedicated in our county. This was an excellent point to prove to our people that our food, recreation, jobs, etc. come about by voting. The Board of Supervisors and Town Council appropriated the \$25,000 for the project. This was due to our voting strength in the county."

VEP Director Vernon E. Jordan Jr. addressed the Race Relations Institute at Fisk University on July 4 on "The Negro in the Southern Political Process." Dr. Vivian W. Henderson, a member of the VEP advisory committee, also spoke at the Race Relations Institute.

Two Negro women—Mrs. Mary Singleton and Mrs. Sallye B. Mathis—have been elected to membership on the Jacksonville, Fla., City Council. Mrs. Mathis last year headed a NAACP voter registration program in Jacksonville that was assisted by VEP.

VEP Advisory Committee Member Frank E. Smith recently presented a paper entitled "Liberal Leadership in the Present-Day South" at a joint session of the Organization of American Historians and the Southern Historical Association. The meeting was held in Chicago.

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Director

SOUTH CAROLINA PERMITS MAIL RE-REGISTRATION

BY JAMES L. FELDER

Director, South Carolina Voter Education Project

In its closing moments, the 1967 South Carolina General Assembly passed what is—by South Carolina standards—a very liberal registration and election law.

Under the new law, registration books will remain open during courthouse hours, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. five days a week. In many instances, assistant clerks of court will be hired to receive registration applications.

The new law also makes it possible for all registered voters to renew their registration by mail. However, a person re-registering by mail must have his application notarized before mailing it to the county courthouse.

Re-registration begins Sept. 1. Present registration certificates are valid only through April 30, 1968.

There is help in the new law for the apprehensive unregistered voter. He may secure an application, take it home, complete it with the assistance of family or friend, and then return it to the courthouse. However, he must return it in person so that he can sign it or verify his signature and take the oath in the presence of a registration official.

Finally, the new law creates a central registration system designed to eliminate the need for local record-keeping on registration rolls, and to keep the voting lists up-to-date. All rolls will be kept in Columbia with the assistance of computerized equipment.

In a July 21 press release, Dr. Charles H. Thomas Jr., president of the South Carolina Voter Education Project, said:

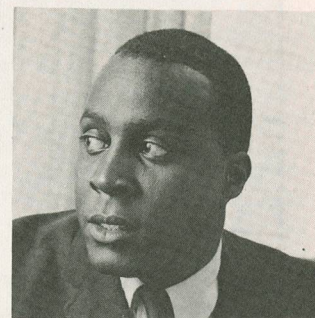
"In light of the new election and registration laws passed by the 1967 Legislature, which among other favorable points makes re-registration by mail possible, the South Carolina Voter Education Project will now be able to concentrate more of its efforts toward adding new names to the registration rolls and conduct more workshops, seminars, and conferences on citizenship education and leadership training."

WEIGHTMAN HONORED

Philip M. Weightman, assistant director of the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education, was honored at a retirement dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D. C., on July 21. Mr. Weightman retired from his COPE position on June 30.

DIRECTOR'S DIRECT LINE

NEW VOTERS ARE CHANGING THINGS IN MISSISSIPPI



An article on the front page of this issue of VEP News seeks to provide a statistical summary, on the second anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, of what that Act has meant.

The figures show that, in terms of registration, the Act has meant a great deal to Negroes in the South. Negro registration in the six Southern states covered by the Act has come pretty close to doubling during the Act's first two years.

Nearly one-fourth of the increase has been accomplished by federal registrars themselves, in the counties to which they have been sent. Thousands of others have been registered by private efforts, large and small, of which the Voter Education Project is proud to be a part.

But as we have pointed out many times, registration alone counts for little. In order to get real results, registration must be followed by voting.

The recent Mississippi primary provides an excellent illustration of what newly registered voters can accomplish by exercising their rights at the polls. By latest count, Negroes had at least 16 clear victories in the primary. At this writing, we are still receiving reports from Mississippi, so there may be several others. In addition, about 20 Negro candidates won places in the Aug. 29 runoff.

The New York Times estimated that 120,000 Negroes voted in the Aug. 8 primary. This would be an impressive 60 per cent of Mississippi's Negro registration.

All of this adds up to some profound changes in the ground rules of Mississippi politics. Three years ago Negroes accounted for only five per cent of the total number of registered voters in Mississippi—the lowest figure in the South. Now Negroes account for nearly 24 per cent—the highest in the South. And last November a Negro was elected to a county-level office in Mississippi for the first time since Reconstruction.

So we salute the Voting Rights Act on its second anniversary. We hope the Act will be used to the fullest extent wherever traditional Southern resistance to Negro registration and voting is encountered.—VERNON E. JORDAN.

DR. REID WINS RACE FOR VIRGINIA HOUSE

A heavy Negro turnout and the nomination of a Negro physician to a post in the Virginia House of Delegates highlighted the Virginia Democratic primary on July 11.

Dr. W. Ferguson Reid, a Richmond surgeon and civic leader, finished fourth among 12 contenders for the eight House seats from the Richmond-Henrico district. He received over 23,000 votes.

Four other Negroes unsuccessfully sought nomination to the House of Delegates. Miss Ruth Harvey, a Danville attorney, made the best showing of four candidates seeking the Pittsylvania-Danville seat. However, she did not receive a majority of the total votes and was defeated in the runoff August 15.

Shirtsleeve sessions such as the one at right were typical of the three-day conference conducted last month in Atlanta for Negroes holding elected city and county offices in the South. (Story below.)



Photo at right was made on the steps of Clark College's Kresge Hall on Saturday, July 29, at the conclusion of the three-day Local Government Seminar. Also in the picture are several members of the VEP family.



OFFICEHOLDERS MEET AT CLARK

BY CHERYL CHISHOLM

Thirty-four Negro city councilmen, county commissioners and mayors convened at Clark College in Atlanta July 27-29 for VEP's first Local Government Seminar.

Co-sponsored with the Clark College Center for the Study of Southern Public Policy, the seminar fulfilled every hope for a challenging series of talks on the various phases of the largely unprecedented job of being a Negro elected official.

The seminar got off to a dramatic start the first night when the delegates were welcomed by Vernon E. Jordan Jr., director of VEP; Q. V. Williamson, Atlanta alderman; Paul Anthony, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, and Dr. Vivian W. Henderson, president of Clark College, after which they heard the keynote address by Bayard

Rustin, executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

Mr. Rustin discussed the need for alliances—"scratching one another's backs"—in practical politics, stressing the fact that the civil rights struggle is now a matter of practical politics—not, as in the past era of demonstrations, one of ideological absolutes. On the subject of the recent urban riots, he reminded his listeners not to confuse the major issues such as education, housing and jobs, with minor issues, such as police brutality.

Friday morning Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook, who teaches political science at Duke University, spoke on "Kinds of Local Government," after which he was joined by Emory Via, director of SRC's labor program, and Dr. Henderson in a discussion of "Problems of Urban Government," especially those involving taxes and finance. The session was chaired by Marvin Wall, director of research for the VEP.

Friday afternoon Clarence Coleman, Southern regional director of the National Urban League, chaired a panel discussion on "Practical Problems of Negro Councilmen." Panel members were Alderman Williamson; Henry Marsh, city councilman, Richmond, Va.; John Stewart, city councilman, Durham, N. C.; and C. S. Hamilton, city councilman, Augusta, Ga.

A second afternoon panel was composed of Robert Thompson, assistant to the regional administrator, department of Housing and Urban Development; John O. Boone, director, crime and corrections, SRC; Jean Fairfax, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and Marian E. Wright, attorney from Jackson, Miss. The panel, chaired by William Allison, associate administrator for program development, Economic Opportunity Office, Atlanta, discussed "Problem Areas of Urban Government."

Friday night, business and pleasure were combined when Jack Greenberg, director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, spoke at a banquet at the beautiful Paschal's Motor Hotel. Mr. Greenberg's subject was "The

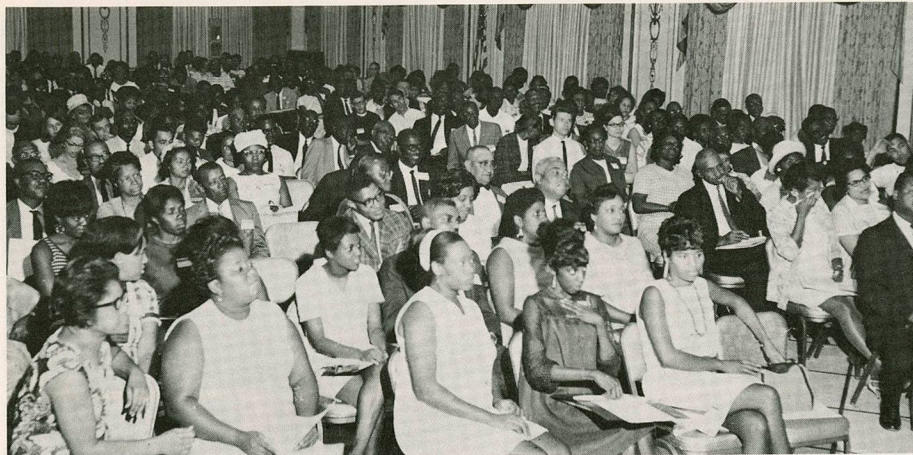
Statement at Officeholders Seminar

This is a historic occasion in the South. Just a few short years ago, there were whole areas of the South in which few, if any, Negroes were even permitted to register to vote. Now Negroes are registering and voting in unprecedented numbers. Negroes hold offices in every state in the South. And now, for the first time, elected Negro city and county office-holders are being brought together to discuss their mutual concerns, just as were 19 Negro legislators from Southern states last December. The Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council and the Clark College Center for the Study of Southern Public Policy are proud to jointly sponsor this meeting. We hope and trust that you will find it as beneficial as it is historic.

Vivian W. Henderson
President
Clark College

Vernon E. Jordan Jr.
Director
Voter Education Project, SRC

Continued on Page 4



At left is part of the turnout of about 500 who attended the North Carolina Voter Education Project's first annual leadership training conference. The conference was held Saturday, July 22, at the Jack Tar Hotel in Durham. In the photo below, Howard Fuller of Durham is shown delivering the keynote address for the conference. Seated near Fuller is John Edwards, director of the NCVEP.

(Continued from Page 3)

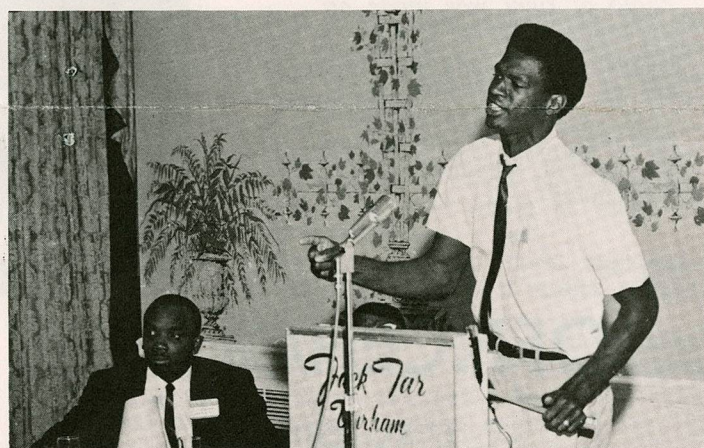
City, the Law, the Poor," a timely subject in view of the riots taking place at that very moment.

The last session, on Saturday morning, was concerned with pending federal legislation affecting urban areas. Peter Edelman, legislative assistant to Senator Robert F. Kennedy, told the delegates of the various bills presently under discussion for feeding the starving, for housing the slum-dwellers and for creating jobs for the thousands of jobless.

From the reaction of those attending, both when they left that Saturday noon and later by mail, it would seem that the elected officials returned to their constituents feeling that they knew considerably more about how to operate in their respective local governments. VEP plans to sponsor more of these seminars in the future.

Officeholders attending the Local Government Seminar included:

I. W. Brown, Malakoff, Texas; F. J. Capel, Southern Pines, N. C.; Mose Cooper, Hiltonia Township, Ga.; F. M. Cunningham, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Rev. L. A. Davies, Fredericksburg, Va.; Mrs. Sallye W. Griffin, Mound Bayou, Miss.; Arthur Guidry, Port Arthur, Texas; Rev. C. S. Hamilton, Augusta, Ga.; James Huger, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Wesley Liddell, Mound Bayou, Miss.; Clarence L. Lightner, Raleigh, N. C.; Harold Love, Nashville, Tenn.; Herman Johnson, Mound Bayou, Miss.; Henry L. Marsh, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Sallye B. Mathis, Jacksonville, Fla.; John Miles, Hearne, Texas; Joseph Owens, Petersburg, Va.; Mrs. Legora A. Reed, Mound Bayou, Miss.; Peter Smith, Grand Coteau, La.; Rev.



E. B. Turner, Lumberton, N. C.; Boisy Waiters, Dania, Fla.; Q. V. Williamson, Atlanta, Ga.; Rev. C. C. Woodley, Mound Bayou, Miss.; Mose Riddick, Suffolk, Va.; Dan Nixon, Haywood County, Tenn.; A. D. Powell, Haywood County, Tenn.; Scott E. Johnson, Huntsville, Texas; Paul Murray, Williamsburg, S. C.; Booker T. Washington, Beaufort County, S. C.; Rev. V. A. Edwards, Macon County, Ala.; J. R. Striplin, Hobson City, Ala.; Lee D. Young, Hobson City, Ala.; Rev. S. H. James, San Antonio, Texas; John S. Stewart, Durham, N. C.

V.E.P. News

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