THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO IMPROVE IT!
DADDY! I FELL AND HURT MY KNEE!

SHE TRIPPEO OVER THAT BROKEN PAVEMENT, DADDY!

DON'T CRY, SALLY DEAR! IT'S ONLY A BRUISE!

COME WITH ME, SALLY! I'LL WASH IT OFF FOR YOU, HONEY!

SEEMS LIKE SOME KIDS GET HURT AROUND HERE MOST EVERY DAY!

IF ONLY WE HAD A DECENT NEIGHBORHOOD TO BRING OUR KIDS UP IN, LIKE THEY GOT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.

WHAT'S THE USE COMPLAINING, JOHN? Ain't nothin' we can do about it!

JUST LOOK AT THAT THERE SCHOOL OUR KIDS GOTTA GO TO! IT SHOULDA BEEN CONDEMNED YEARS AGO!

MAN, IF YOU JUST WANNA GRIPE, THERE'S PLENTY OF THINGS WE CAN FUSS ABOUT 'ROUND HERE!

WHAT ABOUT THE MISERABLE BUS SERVICE WE GOT IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD? AND HOW ABOUT THE FACT THAT A COLORED MAN 'ROUND HERE CAN'T BE NOTHIN' BUT A BOOTBLACK OR A JANITOR? AND WHY DON'T WE HAVE A PLAYGROUND FOR OUR KIDS?

TALK IS CHEAP, MISTER!

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WHO ARE YOU TO COME BUTTIN' INTO OUR TALK, MAN?

MY NAME'S CARTER--SAM CARTER! AND I'M A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NON-PARTISAN CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION!

LOOK, MAN, WHATEVER YOU'RE SELLIN', WE DON'T NEED ANY!

I'M NOT SELLIN' ANYTHING, FRIEND! I'M GIVIN'!

I'M GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, INSTEAD OF JUST TALKIN'!

Yeah? IF YOU'RE SANTA CLAUS, WHERE'S YOUR RED SUIT?

MISTER, I'M NOT SANTA CLAUS, BUT YOU CAN BE, IF YOU'LL HELP MY COMMITTEE WITH ITS REGISTRATION DRIVE!

YOU CAN GIVE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD OF YOURS THE BEST GIFT IT EVER HAD!

WE'RE HOLDING CLASSES EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE CHURCH, TO TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO REGISTER, AND I WANT YOU TO COME!

DAD, WHAT DOES "REGISTER" MEAN?

NOTHIN' IMPORTANT, TOMMY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NOTHING IMPORTANT"??? IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO REGISTER, YOU CAN'T VOTE!

SO WHAT? VOTIN' IS WHITE FOLKS' BUSINESS!

YEAH! THEY RUN EVERYTHING ANYWAY!

GOSH, DAD, IF WE ALL DO VOTE, THEN THEY'LL HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO US. BECAUSE OUR VOTES MIGHT HELP ELECT A CANDIDATE -- OR DEFEAT ONE!

BUT THAT'S JUST THE POINT! THE REASON THEY RUN THINGS IS BECAUSE THEY VOTE!

THAT MAKES SENSE TO ME, DAD!

BAH! WHITE FOLKS DON'T GIVE A Hoot ABOUT US. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF WE VOTE OR NOT?

YEAH! WHO'S GONNA CARE IF WE VOTE?

AND ANOTHER THING -- IF WE ALL VOTE TOGETHER, WE MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO ELECT OUR OWN CANDIDATES!

ATTABOY, SON!

SUPPOSE WE DO REGISTER AND VOTE? I STILL DON'T SEE WHAT GOOD IT'LL DO US!
OPEN YOUR EYES, MAN! YOU WERE JUST COMPLAINING ABOUT THIS RUN-DOWN NEIGHBORHOOD OF YOURS! IF YOU HELP ELECT A CANDIDATE, THEN HE'LL HELP YOU TO MAKE THIS A FIT PLACE TO LIVE!

I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT.

HERE, DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, I READ WHAT THE AFRO SAYS ABOUT NEGROES VOTING...

HE'S RIGHT! IT SAYS HERE THAT EVERY NEGRO SHOULD REGISTER AND VOTE IF WE WANT OUR RIGHTS!

WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?

I KNEW YOU'D SEE IT, FELLAS! NOW I'LL LOOK FOR YOU FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE CHURCH, FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REGISTER!

DON'T WORRY, MR. CARTER! WE'LL BE THERE!

AND HOW!

MAYBE AFTER FRIDAY NIGHT, THINGS WILL BEGIN TO BE DIFFERENT 'ROUND HERE! MAYBE WE WON'T HAVETA LIVE IN A SLUM ALL OUR LIVES!
AND SO, THAT FRIDAY NIGHT, AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH...

FOLKS, IN A NUTSHELL, IN ORDER TO VOTE, YOU HAVE TO REGISTER! NOW EVERY STATE HAS DIFFERENT REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION! SOME ARE EASY, AND SOME ARE HARD!

BUT IN ALMOST EVERY STATE, YOU HAVE TO GIVE THESE FOLLOWING THINGS--

YOUR AGE
WHERE YOU WERE BORN
YOUR ADDRESS
HOW LONG YOU'VE LIVED IN THE STATE
HOW LONG YOU'VE LIVED IN THE COUNTY
HOW LONG AT YOUR PRESENT ADDRESS
YOUR PARTY

WHAT ABOUT THE POLL TAX?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, AND HERE'S THE ANSWER...
SOME STATES ASK YOU TO INTERPRET THE CONSTITUTION, WHILE SOME REGISTRARS MAKE THE LITERACY TEST VERY DIFFICULT! BUT, IF YOU KNOW ALL THE THINGS WE'VE JUST DISCUSSED, THEN THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU NOT TO BE ABLE TO REGISTER AND VOTE!

IF WE STUDY WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PASS ANY TEST!

SURE WE CAN! LET'S FIND OUT WHERE WE REGISTER AND WHEN!

THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO IGNORE US IN THE NEXT ELECTION!

MISTER CARTER, I SURE DO WANNA THANK YOU FOR OPENING OUR EYES ABOUT REGISTERING AND VOTING!

JOHN, THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! JUST WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE POLITICIANS SEE HOW MANY NEGROES HAVE REGISTERED!
A FEW WEEKS LATER...

AND NOW, WE'LL HEAR FROM OUR LAST BLOCK LEADER, SAM CARTER! HOW DID REGISTRATION GO ON YOUR BLOCK, SAM?

I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THAT MY BLOCK CAME THRU ALMOST 100%!

IN FACT, LOOK AT THIS HEADLINE IN THE DAILY CLARION!

NEgóRO REGISTRATION DOUBLED!

YAY!

WE DID IT!

NOW WE'LL SHOW 'EM!

DAILY CLARION

NEgRo REGISTRATION DOUBLED

IN THE PREDOMINANTLY NEGRO WARDS 4, 7 AND 8, REGISTRATION HAS INCREASED NEARLY 100% OVER LAST YEAR, ELECTION OFFICIALS REVEALED TODAY.

THIS INCREASE IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE INTENSIVE DRIVE CONDUCTED DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS BY THE NEWLY ORGANIZED CITIZENS' NON-PARTISAN COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION.

NOW THAT THEY KNOW WE'VE GOT SOME NAMES ON THE VOTING ROLLS, WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS! HERE'S WHERE THEY START COMING TO US!
GOOD! GOOD! THOUGHT I'D INTRODUCE MYSELF TO YOU NICE FOLKS! I'M JEFF THOMPSON, AND I'M RUNNIN' FOR CITY COMMISSIONER!

SO I THOUGHT I'D JUST DROP AROUND AND GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH YOU ALL!

HOW COME WE NEVER SAW YOU HERE BEFORE, MR. THOMPSON?

HECK, FRIEND, YOU KNOW HOW BUSY A MAN GETS, WHAT WITH CAMPAIGNIN' AND ALL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN!

LOOKS TO ME LIKE THERE'S A LOT MORE CAMPAIGNIN' DONE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN THAN OVER HERE!

NOW, NOW—NO NEED TO TALK THAT WAY, FRIEND! AFTER ALL, I'M HERE NOW, RIGHT?

AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT JEFF THOMPSON WANTS YOUR VOTE! JEFF THOMPSON WANTS TO DO THINGS FOR YOU—BECAUSE JEFF THOMPSON IS YOUR FRIEND!

WE'RE SURE GETTIN' A MESS OF FRIENDS SINCE PEOPLE NOTICED HOW MANY OF US REGISTERED, EH, MAN?

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, JOHN!
You say you'll do things for us, Mister! What kind of things?

Well, eh, you know, things! You can all count on me.

This time we want more than empty promises, Mr. Thompson! Now I'll tell you what we want. Do you see that there street?

Sure! What's wrong with it? It looks like it always did.

Yeah—and that's what's wrong with it! Look at that! Litter there—look at the holes in the pavement! Would you want to live on a street like this, Mr. Thompson?

N-no! Of course not!

I'm glad you brought it to my attention! Nobody ever mentioned it before! I thought you were satisfied here!

Well we ain't! We want this neighborhood to be fixed up as nice and decent as any other neighborhood in the city!

And we want a decent playground for our kids, to keep them off the streets! What do you say to that, Mister?

And in return, I promise to do everything in my power to get you the things you ask for!
WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT? FIRST TIME WE HAD AN HONEST TO-GOSH POLITICIAN COMING DOWN HERE AND TRYIN' TO BE NICE TO US!

IT'S JUST LIKE MR. CARTER SAID...

LOOK! HERE COMES MR. CARTER NOW!

HOWDY, FOLKS! I NOTICED JEFF THOMPSON HERE A MINUTE AGO! I KINDA THOUGHT HE'D BE AROUND!

YOU SURE CALLED THE PLAY RIGHT, MR. CARTER!

IT WAS LIKE I TOLD YOU... ONCE THEY REALIZE THAT WE'RE DETERMINED TO REGISTER AND TO VOTE, THEY CAN'T IGNORE US ANY MORE! THEY NEED US!

IT CERTAINLY GIVES YOU A GOOD FEELING!

MOMMY, WILL OUR NEIGHBORHOOD REALLY BE FIXED UP ALL NICE AND CLEAN, WITH PLAYGROUNDS AND PAVED STREETS?

I—I HOPE SO, DEAR!

JUST WAIT AND SEE, DEAR! JUST WAIT AND SEE!
AND FINALLY, ON THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION...

WE WON! WE WON!

THOMPSON WAS ELECTED!

OUR CANDIDATE GOT IN!

"OUR CANDIDATE"! SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD, DON'T IT?

JEFF THOMPSON NARROWLY SQUEAKED INTO THE OFFICE OF CITY COMMISSIONER BY A MARGIN OF 263 VOTES!

WOW! THAT'S OUT OF A TOTAL OF 18,671 VOTES!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

AND HOW! IT MEANS IF NOT FOR OUR SUPPORT, HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ELECTED!

IT SAYS IT RIGHT HERE-- "AIDING THOMPSON IN THE VICTORY WERE THE VOTES OF THE PREDOMINANTLY NEGRO WARDS 4, 7, AND 8 WHERE HE RECEIVED 72% OF THE VOTE, AS CONTRASTED WITH 46% IN THE REMAINING WARDS."

HEAR THAT?? WE DID IT! WE GOT 'IM ELECTED!
BUT NOW THAT THOMPSON'S ELECTED, HOW DO WE KNOW HE'LL KEEP HIS PROMISES TO US?

THAT'S RIGHT!

HOW DO WE KNOW?

HOW DO WE KNOW, MISTER CARTER?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, MY FRIENDS, AND HERE'S THE ANSWER...

HE'LL HAVE TO KEEP HIS PROMISES TO US, BECAUSE HE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO! WE'RE NO LONGER JUST A LONG-SUFFERING GROUP OF UNORGANIZED NEGROES! WE'VE BECOME A VOICE IN THIS TOWN!

AND IF THOMPSON WANTS TO BE RE-ELECTED NEXT ELECTION, HE KNOWS HE'LL HAVE TO HAVE OUR SUPPORT! AND WHAT'S THE ONLY WAY HE'LL KEEP OUR SUPPORT? TELL ME--ALL OF YOU--

BY KEEPING HIS PROMISES TO US!

BY FIXING UP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

BY SEEING TO IT THAT WE AIN'T NEVER AGAIN TREATED LIKE SECOND CLASS CITIZENS!
AND SO, THE DAYS AND WEEKS SPED BY...

UNTIL, ABOUT THREE MONTHS LATER...

IT'S HIGH TIME I WAS VISITING MY FRIENDS ON PINE STREET...

WELL, LOOK AT THAT NICE NEW PLAYGROUND. IT'S A LOT BETTER THAN SEEING KIDS PLAYING IN AN ALLEY!

AND HERE'S A NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL BEING BUILT, WITH PLENTY OF ROOM, AND LOTS OF LIGHT. IT'll GIVE OUR YOUNGSTERS A BETTER CHANCE IN LIFE THAN MOST OF US EVER HAD!

AND THE STREET IS SMOOTHLY PAVED NOW, AND FREE OF LITTER! IT'S A PLEASURE TO TAKE A WALK THRU THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!

LOOK! HERE COMES MR. CARTER!
WELL, FRIENDS, DID EVERYTHING I PROMISED YOU COME TRUE?

IT SURE DID, MISTER CARTER! INDEED IT DID!

EVEN MORE THAN WE EVER EXPECTED!

BUT THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! WE CAN GET MANY MORE THINGS IF WE KEEP INCREASING OUR VOTES!

WHAT KIND OF THINGS?

WE CAN GET ALL OF OUR CIVIL RIGHTS! WE CAN BREAK DOWN JIM CROW! WE CAN GET BETTER HOUSING -- BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS!

BUT WE MUST GET EVERY ELIGIBLE NEGRO IN THE BLOCK, IN THE CITY TO REGISTER AND VOTE!

WE MUST ALL VOTE REGULARLY -- AND INTELLIGENTLY! ARE YOU WITH ME, MY FRIENDS?

YOU BET WE ARE!

YOU'VE SEEN WHAT WE DID IN OUR TOWN! HOW ABOUT YOU-- IN YOUR TOWN??
VOTING...

Makes it possible for you to help choose the local, state and federal officials who govern you--

Gives you a voice in determining:

- The kind of school your children attend.
- The kind of treatment you receive at the hands of the police.
- The kind of justice you get in courts.
- The kind of welfare service you can get for your family in time of need.
- The kind of hospital treatment you get when you are sick.
- The kind of job your children can get with your city, state or country.
- How much taxes you have to pay and how your tax money is spent--

Helps you on the road to the promised land where there will be a better life for you and your family.

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