

CROSSADE

FOR
CITIZENSHIP



Purpose

TO DOUBLE THE
NEGRO VOTE
IN THE SOUTH

NEGRO VOTER IN THE SOUTH

THE FACTS

There are 4,980,000 Negroes of voting age in the South.

Only 25% of adult Negroes vote compared with 60% white adults.

54% of potential Negro voters are in the South. Texas has the largest number registered — 266,818.

Mississippi has the lowest number — 20,000.

Literacy tests have replaced the White Primaries as a means of curbing the Negro vote. Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia now have literacy laws.

To vote, a Negro depends largely on the registrar's sense of justice or prejudice.

Louisiana, once ranked first in number of Negroes (18%) of total registration. "Challenging" Negro registrants by legal devices has changed this.

In one Parish (county) during 1956, the voter rolls were "purged" reducing the number of Negro voters from 5,782 to 595.

Political representation from the South influences national legislature far out of proportion to the number of voters.

With less than 7,000,000 voters, the South elected 92 Congressmen in 1952.

It took more than 18,000,000 voters to elect 113 Representatives from the North.

CRUSADE FOR CITIZENSHIP

"To Double the Number of Qualified Negro Voters
in the South"

To mobilize the potential voting strength of Negro population in the South and implement the 1960 Civil Rights Bill, a sustained and vital mass movement must be developed. No legislation is meaningful unless people make proper use of it.

S C L C

HOW

✓ To educate and stimulate Negroes to exercise the vote.

✓ To help them obtain the right to vote where in practice it does not exist.

NO PARTY POLITICS

✓ In reaching the Negro body politic, the Crusade will move across party lines.

SERVICE

✓ To act as a clearing house to aid, service and strengthen local voting efforts.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

✓ Registration clinics, workshops for leaders, public meetings and all mass communication media to be used.

NONVIOLENCE

✓ Spiritual preparation for peaceful resistance, to be emphasized in meeting opposition.

ELECTIONS

✓ Major emphasis on registration for 1961 elections.

FUTURE

✓ Crusading for the vote will continue into the future as a permanent program.

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