

August, 21st.
FIP office
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Jackson.

VOTER REGISTRATION FIGURES ...MISSISSIPPI
AND COMPLAINTS FILED WITH JUSTICE DEPT.
ASKING FOR FEDERAL REGISTRARS.

FEDERAL REGISTRARS

The FDP, in the following counties, has filed complaints with the Justice Dept., alleging discrimination, and asking for Federal Registrars:

- HOLMES COUNTY : 60 complaints have been gathered, 25 of them sent to the Justice Dept - sent Wednesday, August 11th.
- SUNFLOWER CO : 33 complaints sent to the Justice Dept, approx 10 days ago.
- AMITE COUNTY : 20 complaints sent to the Justice Dept, August 17th.
- HUMPHREYS CO : 20 complaints sent to the Justice Dept, August 14th.
- RANKIN COUNTY : 20 complaints sent to the Justice Dept., August 19th.
- WARREN COUNTY : 20 complaints sent to the Justice Dept., August 21st.

In several counties the FDP is in the process of compiling complaints. They include Clarke County (about 15 complaints so far) ; Forrest County (in co-operation with the NAACP); Bolivar County (at least 18 complaints); Carroll County (14 complaints) ; Hinds County (about 25 complaints); Panola County; Leake County (20 complaints - have still to be sent to Washington DC); Washington County (20 complaints, which are to be sent within the next few days to DC); Harrison County (2 complaints); Clay County (6 complaints), ~~and~~ Walthall County, and Newton County.

The ~~main~~ ^{one} basis for complaints were several. The main/seems to have been that Registrars were, or, still are, refusing to register people who cannot read or write. This is stipulated under the new Voting Rights Bill.

Registrars in several counties - eg. Warren, Lauderdale, etc. - have been asking applicants whom they work for. In Amite County Negro applicants were requested to say who their nearest white neighbor was, and in the same county, whites on at least one occasion took photographs of Negroes going into the courthouse.

In Newton County affidavits have been signed to the effect that the Registrar's office has been closed on most days since the passage of the Voting Rights Bill.

Break-down : Six counties have filed complaints with the Justice Dept.

Eleven counties are in the process of getting complaints.

VOTER REGISTRATION

The figures are only an approximation, and not all the counties are included.

<u>AMITE</u> 3rd district.	About 200 Negroes registered since the passage of the State voting law amendments.	3,560 Negroes are eligible to vote. * * 1962 figure.
<u>LEAKE</u> 4th	150 ? Registrar has reported that Negroes are registering at a rate of between 20-40 a day.	3,397 eligible to vote.
<u>CLARKE</u> <u>Clay</u>	About 500 over the past 3 weeks. About 350	2,998 eligible to vote. the county is just over 50% Negro.
<u>JASPER</u>	No figure available, but registration said to be very slow. Justice Dept suit against Jasper was heard earlier this year.	3,675 eligible to vote.
<u>KEMPER</u>	No figure. Registration slow.	3,221 eligible to vote
<u>MARION</u>	Slow. Police have told people its inadvisable to register. Freedom house was firebombed about a month ago.	3,630 eligible to vote.
<u>JEFFERSON</u>	No figure.	?
<u>JONES</u>	No figure. <u>Federal Registrars to start registering.</u>	?
<u>WASHINGTON</u>	2,000 plus registered	20,619 eligible to vote.
<u>ISSAQUENA</u>	A report that 85-100 people are registering each week.	? Over 50% Negro
<u>BOLIVAR</u>	Rosedale : 160 in last 2 weeks Cleveland: 20 in last 2 weeks Shaw : No figure.	? Over 50% Negro
<u>WARREN</u>	700 last week: 150 on Mon Aug. 15	& 10,726 eligible to vote
<u>Claiborne</u>	Very few registered.	3,969 eligible to vote
<u>PIKE</u>	Between 300 and 1,000 : both figures have been given.	
<u>MADISON</u>	3,000 approx. <u>Federal Registrars in Madison</u>	10,366 eligible to vote (n.b. 5,458 whites are registered to vote)
<u>GREENWOOD</u> (Leflore)	3,000 approx. Federal Registrars in Leflore.	13,657 eligible to vote.

Voter Registration figures:

<u>HUMPHREYS</u>	About 200 people registered over the past three weeks.	5,616 Negroes eligible to vote * 1962 figure.
<u>FORREST</u>	About 850	7,914 eligible to vote
<u>BANKIN</u>	A report that 40-60 t people a day are registering to vote.	6,944 eligible to vote
<u>SUNFLOWER</u>	700 before the passage of the State voting law changes.	13,524 eligible to vote
<u>HOLMES</u>	60-70 people going down to register a day. This is the Registrar's	8,757 eligible to vote
<u>YAZOO</u>	According to Registrar, he is now registering 30-60 Negroes a day.	8,719 eligible to vote
<u>CARROLL</u>	180 registered	More than 50% Negro
<u>WHITMAN</u>	About 350	More than 50% Negro
<u>SCOTT</u>	Registrar says he is registering 8-10 a day, and 64 one day.	3,752 eligible to vote
<u>NEWTON</u>	100 approx.	3,018 eligible to vote.
<u>HARRISON</u>	65 in two weeks	?
<u>ADAMS</u>	Approx 3,000 (mostly from Natchez).	?
<u>HINDS</u>	No figure. At a guess over 1,000	36,138 eligible to vote
<u>ONLY</u>	<u>5,000 registered before changes in State Law.</u>	
<u>LOWNDES</u>	About 150.	8,362 eligible to vote

No figures yet from & Sharkey, Jefferson, Walthall, Jones, Munroe, Oktibbeha, Desoto, Tippah, Benton, Marshall, Union, Tallahatchie, Lee, Jackson, Panola,

OMITTED : Neshoba County: about 1 50 registered. ?
Good in Stello, slow
in Philadelphia

The pattern of registration

Registrars in every Mississippi county have now received a letter from the Attorney General, Katzenbach. This, in effect, tells them that they should register people who can't read and write.

We know that in the majority of counties, Registrars are not complying with this stipulation. We also have evidence that in at least ~~one~~ 2 counties, ^s Clairborne and Madison, the Registrar has used both the six question test and the old registration form since the State changed certain voting laws.

Of the counties where the Registrar has been registering people who cannot read and write - Warren, Issaquena, Lauderdale, ~~Kx~~ Washington(?) - registration has been high. So far that is.

The Justice Dept people have been visiting several counties - going to the project offices and people in the community. They have not been too optimistic over the possibility of many more Federal Registrars coming into Mississippi. We have heard - through the grapevine - that L.B.J. is running out of Federal Registrars.

THE REFERENDUM :

In Most counties people who had been registered under 4 months, were not allowed to vote.

There were however some exceptions. In Holmes county 25 - 30 people voted who had only registered recently. In Carroll County everyone who was a registered voter, was allowed to poll.

In Issaquena County one, or more polling places were not open. In Sunflower County, people were asked to produce three poll tax receipts. In Warren county there separate ballot boxes for White and Negro. In Clarke county poll tax receipts were required.

Affidavits have been gathered. These will be sent to the Washington FDP office to support the Challenge.