

In Senator Eastland's County:

ILLITERATE WHITES VOTE
NEGROES ARE BARRED

GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI - Some white people who can't read or write are registered voters in Sunflower County, federal court testimony revealed last week.

One white voter testified that although his name is on the rolls he didn't "know how it got there." Another white voter said he'd never seen a registration form, and another said he'd received help from Sunflower County registrars.

Sunflower County is the home of Senator James O. Eastland (D.-- Miss.). Only 114 Negroes from an eligible total of 13,524 are voters, while over 50% of the eligible whites are registered.

Four Negro witnesses testified they had failed the test, while one white woman, who had passed, testified she couldn't define the word "imprisonment", even though she lived at Parchman, site of the state prison.

The testimony came at a non-jury trial that began October 12. The United States Department of Justice is seeking an injunction against Sunflower County circuit clerk and registrar Cecil Campbell forbidding him from discriminating against Negro voting applicants.

The Atlanta-based Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has been conducting a voter registration drive in Sunflower County for two years.

In its suit, the government maintains that Negroes are generally required to fulfill voter requirements specified by state law while whites are generally required to meet either less stringent requirements or no requirements at all.