

ALABAMA'S NEGRO WOMAN IN CONGRESS  
RACE "TO WIN"

SELMA, ALABAMA - A Negro woman running for the United States Congress here says she is in the race to win and expects both white and Negro support.

Mrs. Amelia P. Boynton of Selma will face incumbent Kenneth Rogers of Anniston in a Fourth District Primary May 5.

She is the first Negro to run for Congress from Alabama since Reconstruction and the first Negro woman to ever try for the office.

Mrs. Boynton, who operates an insurance office and employment agency here, will run under Alabama's "9 - 8" plan. Under the "9 - 8" system, created when the state lost one congressman because of population lags shown by the 1960 census, primaries and run-offs are held in each of the old nine districts and the nine winners face each other to eliminate the low man in a state-wide race.

District run-offs will be held May 19, and the state-wide primary on June 2. Winners of the state-wide race would then face expected Republican opposition.

The "9 - 8" system is under attack in the federal courts, however, and congressional candidates may have to run at large.

Only 66,009 Negroes are registered to vote in the state, and the legislature has made it more difficult for new Negro names to be added to the lists. The legislature has instructed the state's registration boards to discard the uniform questionnaire used since 1952 and to use instead a new system of submitting different questions to prospective voters each month. The change grew out of complaints that Negroes were learning to memorize the questions and answers on the old forms in registration classes conducted by civil rights groups.

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COLLEGE PROFS ASKED TO CANCEL JIM CROW  
MISSISSIPPI APPEARANCE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - Three college teachers have been asked to cancel a segregated April 23 - 25 appearance in Mississippi.

The three, Vassar College professor Walter Allen, Yale University Drama School head John Gassner, and Northwestern University visiting professor Stephen Spender, are scheduled to appear at the Southern Literary Festival on the campus of the Mississippi State College for Women in Columbus.

In a March 15 letter, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Chairman John Lewis asked the three to cancel because "Mississippi State College for Women is a segregated school which refuses to admit Negroes. No Negroes will be permitted on the campus to attend any part of the festival," Lewis said.

The SNCC Chairman said "more and more concert artists, sports figures and other persons are canceling Mississippi dates and are insisting that all future concerts in the South be integrated."

Lewis said the SNCC had been trying since November, 1963 to persuade concert artists and other prominent persons not to appear at segregated Mississippi appearances.

Lewis said Stan Musial, NASA head James Webb, and the stars of Hootenanny, Bonanza, the Beverly Hillbillies and trumpet star Al Hirt were convinced to cancel dates in Mississippi because of the state's segregation policies.

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