

SIX NEGROES QUALIFY IN DEEP SOUTH STATES

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - Six Negroes in three deep South states have qualified to run for Democratic Congressional nominations as outgrowths of voter registration drives conducted by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Three congressional seats in Mississippi are being sought by Negroes, and a Negro woman has qualified to run against Senator John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) in the Democratic primary. A Negro woman is running for Congress from Alabama, and a Negro lawyer will seek nomination in Georgia. They are the first Negroes to seek federal office from their states since Reconstruction.

SNCC has conducted voter registration drives in rural areas of the black belt South since 1961 and has encouraged Negroes to run for office.

Mrs. Victoria Gray, 37, of Hattiesburg, will run against Senator Stennis of Dekalb, in the June 2 Mississippi Democratic primary.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, 47, of Ruleville, opened her campaign against 2nd District Representative Jamie Whitten the day she qualified, March 20. She will continue to speak throughout the Delta - the heart of Mississippi's cotton-growing area.

The Reverend John Erle Cameron, 31, also of Hattiesburg - scene of a concerted vote drive - will oppose Representative William Colmer of Pascagoula for the 5th District nomination.

A 74-year-old retired furniture dealer in Vicksburg, James M. Houston, will run against Representative John Bell Williams in the 3rd District.

All four Mississippi candidates plan to challenge the rights of their opponents to the nomination if they lose. According to government figures, about 400,000 Negroes are eligible to vote in Mississippi while only approximately 20,000 are registered voters.

In Alabama, Mrs. Amelia P. Boynton, 52, of Selma, qualified February 29 to run for congress against incumbent Kenneth Roberts of the 4th District in the Democratic primary May 5th. She will run under Alabama's "9 - 8" plan created when the state lost one representative's place because of population lags. 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.

Attorney C. B. King, 40, of Albany, Georgia filed to run for the state's 2nd District nomination on April 4. He faces a courtroom opponent, Maston O'Neal, solicitor general of the Albany Judicial Circuit.

Another Negro, A. C. Cofield, 55, of Halifax County, North Carolina, announced write-in candidacy for congress in the May 30 primary.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is conducting voter registration drives as a supplement to each campaign.