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208 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E., ATLANTA, GEORGIA

ROOM 203 — TELEPHONE: JACKSON 5-1763

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CRUSADE FOR CITIZENSHIP

Purpose
to DOUBLE
the NEGRO VOTE
in the SOUTH

DISTRIBUTED BY

SPONSORED BY

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

NEGRO VOTER IN THE SOUTH

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

Yet only 25% of adult Negroes vote as compared with 60% of white adults.

Fully 54% of the potential Negro voters are in the South.

Louisiana has the highest percentage of registered Negroes (18%).

Mississippi has the lowest percentage (less than 2%).

In only 6 of the 82 counties in Mississippi can Negroes vote with any substantial degree of freedom.

Literacy tests have replaced the "white primary" as a means of curbing the Negro vote.

Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina and Virginia all have literacy laws now.

Where literacy laws exist, a Negro's ability to vote depends largely upon the registrar's sense of justice --- or prejudice.

Registration books are often "closed" when Negroes appear.

With less than seven million votes, the South elected 92 congressmen in 1952.

It took more than eighteen million votes to elect 113 representatives from the North.

Thus representatives from the South influence national legislation far out of proportion to the number of voters they represent.

Crusade for Citizenship

TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED NEGRO VOTERS IN THE SOUTH

TO REALIZE the potential voting strength of the Negro population in the South, and to give real meaning to the 1957 Civil Rights Bill, a sustained and vital mass movement must be developed. For no legislation is any good until and unless people make use of it.

1. The basic aims of the Crusade are twofold:
 - a) To educate and stimulate Negroes to exercise the vote where they have it.
 - b) To help them to obtain the right to vote where, in practice, it does not exist.
2. The Crusade is Non-Partisan. It will not engage in party politics.
3. The Crusade is designed to serve as a Clearing House, to aid, service and strengthen local voting efforts.
4. Registration Clinics, workshops for leaders, public meetings and all mass communication media will be utilized in the Crusade's program.
5. Non-violent resistance will be emphasized to help prepare Negroes spiritually and tactically to meet the opposition they will face.
6. Major emphasis will be placed on registration for the 1960 elections.
7. But voting in all elections, city, state and national will be constantly stressed.