

Mims, Florida  
April 10, 1948

An Open Letter To  
Florida Negro Citizens

Florida Negro citizens are now approaching a momentous date in our political history. On May 4, 1948, thousands of Negroes will enjoy their first opportunity to vote in a Democratic primary for the election of a governor and other major state officers. On this same date we shall help to elect many important county officers, as well as our representatives in Congress.

Since Negroes now have the privilege of helping to elect somebody, we shall be approached by numerous candidates seeking our support. Some will offer us money or a few drinks of liquor in an effort to get our votes. Some will come to us with soothing words and vain promises, while others will try to reach us through their Negro "friends". But we must not be too easily swayed. We cannot afford to sell our votes for a few dollars or a few drinks. We must be concerned about the general welfare of the masses of our people.

For years Negro citizens have been the unhappy victims of lynchings, police brutality, and injustice in the courts. In many instances our school buildings and facilities have been poor, and our teachers have been overloaded and forced to work under discriminatory salary schedules. Some Florida counties still do not provide bus service for their Negro children. Our roads and streets have been neglected, and we have had very few (if any) of the jobs that our tax money helps to maintain.

Negro citizens in some Florida counties have had serious cases of police brutality during the past four years. For example, Volusia County Negroes should remember the case of James Fuller, P. M. Negro, who was shot in the back by a deputy sheriff about two years ago. They also should remember the L. R. Rains Case in New Smyrna, in which rough handling by a deputy sheriff caused a Negro woman to lose her unborn child, and eventually to lose her own life. In each of these cases the offending deputy was permitted to hold his job. We have had reports of similar cases in Gadsden, Lake, and other counties. Can Negro voters in any county afford to endorse the re-election of a sheriff who permits his deputies to practice such brutality against defenseless Negro citizens? Can Negro voters afford to support county school officials who have lavished money on white schools but have failed to provide Negro schools with many of the bare necessities?

Fellow citizens, this is our opportunity to help remove some of these evils. Let us consider carefully the records and attitudes of our candidates, and let us help to put in office people who are inclined to give Negroes a fair deal. The Progressive Voters' League is now "sounding out" candidates who are running in state and district races, and later this month we shall ~~release~~ release to you certain recommendations relative to these candidates. In the meantime, Negro voters in the various counties should get their heads together and try to decide which county candidates will give our people the best consideration.

Sincerely yours,

*Harry T. Moore*  
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.

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Sincerely yours,

*Wm. J. Moore*  
T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.

I fully realize that the charge will be made that such a solution will open the door to fraud. It is true that some fraud has been practiced in Florida in most of our primary elections, but it has been reduced to a minimum. We can enact sufficient laws to make fraud a crime, in the affairs of voluntary associations, churches, and fraternal organizations, which would give ample protection in conducting primaries by the Democratic Primary as a voluntary association. If the white Democrats of Florida cannot conduct their party affairs with fraud reduced to a minimum, they do not deserve to exist as a party. To say the least, fraud that could be perpetrated in a primary conducted by the white Democrats as a voluntary association cannot compare with the fraud which will exist if the negroes, irrespective of their pledges and principles, are permitted to register as Democrats, and then be dominated and controlled by the Communist-inspired CIC-PAC.

I do not discuss this matter as a rabble-rouser, or for the purpose of appealing to racial prejudice, but when the Communists come into Florida and appeal to the negroes to register and vote as Democrats, basing their appeal on racial prejudice, I refuse to hide my head in the sand; refuse to shut my eyes to such open invasion of the south by outside agitators; I refuse to remain silent when the people should be informed of the facts; refuse to remain inactive when aggressive activity is necessary. If my neighbor's house was on fire I would not remain silent, but would call the fire department. If a rattlesnake reared its head and was about to strike I would take aggressive action and crush it before its deadly venom could poison the human body.

In this matter I do not seek any role of leadership, but I am willing to do my part in giving the people the facts, and to help save the Democratic Party, southern civilization, ideals, and institutions in the State of Florida

SENATE BILL NO. 16

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT REPEALING ALL LAWS RELATING TO POLITICAL PARTIES,  
AND PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

Section 1. All laws and parts of laws, general, special and local recognizing or giving any power to any political party, to any committee of any political party or to the members of any political party, and all laws and parts of laws, general special and local providing for or recognizing primaries or primary elections are hereby repealed.

Section 2. The following laws are hereby repealed:

Sections 99.12, 99.57, 100.30, Florida Statutes 1941, Chapter 102, Florida Statutes 1941, being Sections 102.01 to 102.68 both inclusive and Chapters 21702, 21851, 22039 and 22058 of the Laws of 1943.

The foregoing enumerations of laws specifically repealed shall in no way prevent the repeal of all other laws repealed in general terms by Section 1 hereof.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective on December 1, 1945.

COUNTY	WHITE	NEGRO	COUNTY	WHITE	NEGRO
Alachua	15,200	8300	Lake	13,500	4500
Bradford	4,300	1400	Leon	12,400	8900
Brevard	9,500	3400	Levy	3,700	2100
Broward	26,500	8000	Madison	4,500	3800
Citrus	2,200	1000	Marion	12,000	9300
Dade	192,000	34900	Orange	47,000	12900
Duval	131,500	50200	Palm Beach	47,800	28700
Escambia	55,700	13800	Polk	55,700	15400
Flagler	845	791	Putnam	6,800	4100
Gadsden	10,000	9400	St. Johns	9,300	4200
Hamilton	2,700	1900	Seminole	8,600	7100
Hillsborough	115,900	22900	Suwannee	6,700	3100
Jackson	12,600	5900	Taylor	4,300	2000
Jefferson	2,400	3600	Volusia	30,100	8900

The negroes cannot in a general election elect a candidate, but in a primary election where they are permitted to vote they can exercise the balance of power, and by so doing name the nominees of the Democratic Party, and if the white voters are pledged to vote for these nominees, and do vote for them, the effect will be that the negro vote, dominated and controlled by the CIO-PAC, and voting as a block or unit, will be able to name practically every district, city, county, and state official in Florida.

#### DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

With reference to delegates to the National Convention, where a plurality of votes will select the delegates, the controlled or unit vote of the negroes will name the delegates to the national convention, who will vote for nominees for president and vice president, contrary to the wishes of the real Democrats of Florida, and to the everlasting shame and disgrace of the state.

I have attempted to demonstrate that we have a real problem; that the CIO-PAC is communist inspired, controlled and dominated;

That the southern white people are the negroes' best friends, and we were living in harmony, peace and contentment until the outside CIO-PAC agitators came into our midst and began organizing the negroes by appealing to racial prejudice in the most inflammatory terms;

That as a result of this agitation and campaign by these outside agitators 9250 negroes registered in Duval County, as Democrats, although they were not Democrats;

That these registered negroes were dominated and controlled by outside agitators, and voted as a unit in the first and second primaries in Duval County;

That in the first primary this controlled vote was solely responsible for my opponent for the Senate being in the second primary;

That these same agitators have boasted of their intentions for the future, and that if something is not done, this controlled negro vote will exercise the balance of power in the Democratic primaries, and actually name the nominees of the Democratic Party for delegates to the National Convention, and for practically every city, county, district and state office in Florida.

#### THE SOLUTION

We are faced with a condition and not a theory. We are faced with a problem, which if not solved will destroy the Democratic Party in Florida, southern civilization, ideals and institutions. For every evil there must be and is a remedy. It is up to us to find and apply the remedy. The United States Courts have pointed out the way. If the party is divorced entirely from the control of state law and state financial support, it may organize a voluntary association of persons with certain ideas of government, maintaining certain political principles and beliefs. The party as a voluntary organization can prescribe the qualifications of its members.

Unless some better solution is found than Senate Bill 16, introduced by me and Senator Sanchez at the last session of the Legislature, it is my purpose to reintroduce that bill at the next session, and do all in my power to enact it into law. This plan has recently worked well in South Carolina, and it can work well in Florida.

3. Affix Mr. or Mrs. to a white person's name only if she or he rates it.
4. Don't feel blue and downcast because you are a negro, hold your head high and stick out your chest and be proud of your heritage.
5. Join the NAACP and the Negro Chamber of Commerce.
6. Register and vote and help put the men in office that will help you gain the rights you so richly deserve.
7. Stop stooling on your own people to some white person, no matter what the compensation may be.
8. In situations where you are being discriminated against keep your head and use sound judgment in correcting same.

RESULT OF SECOND PRIMARY CAMPAIGN

On the eve of the second primary, in its issue of Saturday, May 25, 1946.

this same newspaper, the Tattler, published a front page editorial in which it said:

"Senator Mathews is negro hater deep down in his heart. Personally an intelligent person would not use a certain word over the radio in reference to negroes as "Niggers" as a means to gain potential votes. This very little word "niggers" will cause his defeat by 15,000 votes . . . These same "niggers" that he has been talking about for the past two weeks will certainly vote solidly in a bloc against him on May 28 . . . In reference to the negro holding down the positions as firemen, policemen, councilmen and judges, it should be news to Senator Mathews that the negroes did hold these same positions in the City of Jacksonville in years gone by and made a very outstanding record. What they did in the past will be repeated within the next three years - so get ready . . . Personally John Mathews, Senator from Duval Dounty, will be defeated by 15,000 votes on May 28."

In the second primary the negroes, still organized, dominated and controlled by the Communist-inspired CIO-PAC again voted as a unit for my opponent.

In wards where there were more than 100 negro voters they voted on separate machines. In other wards they voted on the same machines with white voters.

On machines where negroes only voted we have the following results:

PRECINCT	MACHINE NUMBER	MATHEWS' OPPONENT	MATHEWS
1B	31680	225	8
1D	31681	246	1
4A	36343	235	4
	35371	241	2
	31671	236	4
5A	35164	109	1
5B	31349	323	7
5C	31672	133	5
	35352	147	1

PRECINCT	MACHINE NUMBER	MATHEWS' OPPONENT	MATHEWS
5D	31697	155	7
	35359	141	1
6B	31689	297	3
6C	31687	115	2
8A	36350	214	8
	35360	182	1
11B	35361	163	2
11C	36351	234	29
12C	31240	98	1
		<u>3494</u>	<u>87</u>

I defeated my opponent in the second primary by a majority of 2163 votes. Assuming that 5000 negroes voted in the second primary, and if the same percentage of negroes voted for my opponent in all precincts as those voting on separate voting machines, then my opponent received 4890 negro votes. If these negro votes are deducted from the total received by my opponent, it is apparent that I received a majority of the white votes over him of 6953 votes. It is quite a handicap to spot an opponent 4890 controlled unit votes.

#### WHAT CAN HAPPEN IN FLORIDA

in connection with the avowed purpose and intent of the Communist-inspired CIO-PAC and the success of their scheme, I give you the following startling facts and figures from the recently published census report of the Honorable Nathan Mayo, Commissioner of Agriculture: There is a total white population of Florida of 1,695,000; a total negro population of 554,700. In Duval County there is white population of voting age of 135,000, and a negro population of voting age of 50,200. In 16 voting precincts in Duval County there is a negro population of voting age greatly in excess of the white voting population. Some of these which are most startling are from Precinct 4A, 435 white and 4044 negroes of voting age; in Precinct 8A, 896 whites and 5785 negroes of voting age. In order that you may compare negroes and whites of voting age in certain counties of the state, I give you the following tabulation from 28 counties from the recent census report:

## THE CIO-PAC ELECTION CAMPAIGN

On Sunday before the first primary on Tuesday in Duval County there was a meeting of Negroes at Edward Waters College, where they were given certain instructions about voting, and were told that they would be given a ticket on which would appear the names of persons for whom they should vote. At the negro ballgame on Sunday afternoon it was announced over the loud speaker that all should attend church that night to receive further instructions on how to vote on Tuesday. At the churches that Sunday night they were told of their new-found power and rights. They were told that a red ticket would be distributed among them giving the names of the candidates for whom they should vote, and if they could not read the names they could read the numbers opposite the names, which would be the same as the numbers on the voting machines. On one side of the red ticket appeared the following:

"NEGRO CITIZENS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE - Follow Instructions on the other side. The Roosevelt Democratic Club warns you. Remember, united we stand, divided we fall."

On the other side of the ticket appeared a list of names, including that of my distinguished opponent for the Senate, and of Miss Camille Geneau for Congress.

How well this scheme worked in Duval County, and how effective were the instructions of the CIO Political Action Committee, is demonstrated by results. In 21 heavily populated negro voting precincts Miss Geneau received 4624 votes, and my opponent 4697 - a difference of only 73 votes in 21 precincts. On 27 voting machines for negroes only, in 16 precincts where the negro population is heaviest, my opponent received 3044 votes and I received 132. In Precinct 4A, 3100 Pearl Street, on three negro voting machines, my opponent received 413 votes and I received 17. In Precinct 5B at 319 West Duval Street my opponent received 251

votes and I received 6. The official record shows the serial numbers of these voting machines, and the official tally sheets from each machine show how the negroes voted, and the figures I have given you may be verified from the official records.

I have attempted to show the result of the election was not due to accident or mistake, but to a deep-laid scheme of the CIO Political Action Committee - a scheme conceived in sin and born in iniquity. It clearly demonstrates what happens when we have scheming men who can by organization direct and control a large body of voters. As if further proof was needed, the Florida Tattler, a negro newspaper of wide distribution in Jacksonville, published the following editorial on Saturday, May 11, 1946:

"First time in history that negroes kept a secret. Large sums of money offered to sell negroes down river. For the first time in the history of Jacksonville negroes kept a secret until the very last minute before making known the candidates approved for election. The white politicians were really worried, and still are, because the negroes' vote changed up things a little. The reason that the secret was kept was that no "pimps" were appointed on the committee and there was no way for any leakage. The negro of yesteryear was approached and offered several thousand dollars for correct information pertaining to the candidates running for office and approved by the negro Political Action Committees, but there was no information for sale. This is a new day, with a different negro who believes in doing right for the benefit of all. The Uncle Tom type has been eliminated from the fold. The success of Tuesday's election is only a sample of what is to be expected next year and the years to follow. There will be more important candidates running for office, and more negroes registered to elect them. For the first time in the history of Jacksonville all of the ministers, civic heads and club officers got together and put over a very successful political program, which shows that the negro can do it if he wants to bad enough. We are expecting 40,000 registered negroes by November 1, 1946."

We have from this negro newspaper an admission of the scheme, exultation over the result, and a warning to us of their future intentions. In this same issue of the Tattler there appeared a front page editorial further appealing to racial prejudice by giving the following advice to negroes:

1. Boycott all white businesses in negro sections which do not employ colored clerks, cashiers, or holders of responsible positions.
2. Refuse to ride on buses or other means of transportation that adhere to discrimination laws unless absolutely necessary.

You will note that the Communists do not appeal to the negroes to register as Democrats because they are Democrats, but appeal to them to register as Democrats because the Democratic Party is the party in power; because by so doing they can give real support to the bill for the Fair Employment Practices Committee; because there is developing a movement for a third party composed of various people, including negroes, and this can only come about if the southern negroes become organized as a group of voters, and register and vote Democratic in the primaries.

#### GROUP OR UNIT VOTING AND BALANCE OF POWER

In another County in Florida, on May 3, 1946 a special letter with a marked ballot enclosed was mailed to each negro voter, from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, reading in part as follows:

"As you may know, there are over 1100 negro people in this county who are eligible to vote in the Democratic Primary election to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 1946. This marks the first time in the history of the race that so large a group of negro citizens have had this privilege. If we use this new privilege to the best of our ability we will be able to do more for our county, our state, our nation, and our race than any other group in America. With 1100 votes we hold the balance of power in any primary or general election. But our wishes as a group can only be felt if we vote as a group. If our vote is split between the various candidates then our efforts to get better government, a higher type of public official, and more consideration for the needs of our race, will be lost."

#### WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY

A political party is supposed to be an association of persons sponsoring certain ideas of government, and having certain political principles or beliefs with reference to public policies, American Jurisprudence, Vol. 18, Sec. 132, defines political parties as "An unincorporated voluntary association of persons which sponsors certain ideas of government or maintains certain political principles or beliefs in the public policies of the government, and which is formed for the purpose of urging the adoption and execution of such principles in governmental affairs through officers of like beliefs."

Each party, whether Democrat, Republican, Communist or Negro, should adopt a declaration of principles or a platform, to which each member of the party should be required to subscribe. Let the negroes and the communists have their own party, with a declaration of principles advocating social equality, intermarriage between the white and negro races, comingling of these races in schools, hotels, restaurants, buses, dining cars and Pullman cars. Let the Democrats have their declaration of principles or platform opposing these things, and require each member of the party to subscribe to such principles or platform.

Certainly the members of the Communist Party, the Republican Party, or a negro party, should not be permitted to register as Democrats and vote as Democrats when they do not believe in, and will not subscribe to, Democratic principles.

Any voluntary organization should be able to adopt a declaration of the principles it stands for, and prescribe the qualifications of its members. The American Federation of Labor has been successful in this and refuses to permit members of the Communist Party to become members of that organization. The CIO has not been so successful.

Recently the State Department has announced that it will weed out all employees who are members of the Communist Party. The white Democratic Party should be able to refuse membership to any member of the Communist Party, or to any person who advocates social equality between the white and negro races, intermarriage between these races, and comingling of such races in schools, hotels, restaurants, buses, dining cars and Pullman cars.

As a result of the appeal and campaign of the Communist Party in Duval County, 9250 negroes who were not Democrats, registered as Democrats.

out that if the primary was divorced entirely from state financial support and control, the party could continue to prescribe its own qualifications for membership.

#### COMMUNIST-INSPIRED CIO-PAC STARTED APPEAL TO RACIAL PREJUDICE

After these court decisions, and the announced intention of the CIO-PAC to invade the south, organize the negroes, register them as Democrats and participate in primary elections, many of us thought we could see trouble ahead at the time of the last session of the Legislature. I therefore, with Senator Sanchez, prepared and introduced Senate Bill 16, for the purpose of meeting the provisions of these United States Court decisions, and preserving the white Democratic primary in Florida, as we have known it for many years. I was not able to get this bill passed at the last session, because a majority of the members of the House and Senate did not believe it could happen here.

Later we actually saw a heavily populated negro ward in Atlanta elect a United States Congressman, a heavily populated negro district in Augusta, Georgia vote as a unit against the speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives; and next door to us, in Glynn County, Georgia, an organized minority of negroes, CIO-PAC directed and controlled, exercise the balance of power in a county wide primary election.

This should have been sufficient warning to us that the agitators were on the march through Georgia into Florida. If that was not sufficient warning, during the period of registration thousands of handbills were distributed in Duval County among negroes couched in the most inflammatory terms appealing to them to register as Democrats.

THE COMMUNIST APPEAL

Prior to this campaign to register negroes as Democrats, the negroes and white people of Florida were living in peace and contentment. There was no attempt on the part of anyone to stir up racial prejudice. It remained for the Communist Party, on the eve of the primary, to start rabble-rousing and make the most inflammatory appeal in Duval County to racial prejudice. The circular mentioned above reads as follows:

AN APPEAL TO THE NEGRO PEOPLE  
REGISTER DEMOCRAT

X - Democratic

Republican-Change  
your registration

REGISTER DEMOCRAT BECAUSE the Democratic Party is the party in power in Florida. Register Democratic in order to improve conditions for workers, negro and white. Former registered Republicans can change to Democratic now.

REGISTER DEMOCRAT BECAUSE Big landowners and big businesses are trying to keep your standard of living down. Register Democratic so they can't lower it even further.

REGISTER DEMOCRATIC BECAUSE Your registration is a protest against the lynch murder of two negroes in Florida. Mr. Jesse James Payne of Madison County and Mr. Sam MacFadden of Suwannee County will not have died in vain if you REGISTER DEMOCRATIC.

REGISTER DEMOCRAT BECAUSE You can then vote for candidates who will support the 65¢ minimum wage bill. The south desperately needs 65¢ bottom wages for protection of both white and negro families.

REGISTER DEMOCRAT BECAUSE You can then give real support to the bill for a fair employment practices committee, now being sabotaged by Congress. (Emory Price, Congressman "representing" the Jacksonville area, is opposed to the FEPC, as well as to most other progressive legislation.)

REGISTER DEMOCRAT BECAUSE Today there is developing in America a movement for a third party made up of veterans, sharecroppers, trade unionists and the negro people. And because this alliance can only come about if the southern negro becomes an organized group of voters, you should

REGISTER DEMOCRATIC AND VOTE IN THE 1946 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES.

The Communist Party is proud of Benjamin J. Davis, who is a son of the good old south and a great negro communist leader. He was recently reelected by negro and white workers to the City Council of New York City. We are the party that led the struggle to save the Scottsboro boys from death. We always have and always will fight segregation and discrimination. So follow us to the County Court House and register for the Democratic primaries.

DON'T WAIT, REGISTER NOW.

For more information on the Communist Party mail us a letter with your name and address inside.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF JACKSONVILLE  
P. O. Box 2970, West Bay Station

balance of power in closely contested elections for seats in the United States Congress and Senate, and delegates to the National Convention. The success of this movement in the national field is now manifest.

John Temple Graves, in the Florida Times Union of July 31, 1946, said:

"Every day there is some new expression of the communism that infests the CIO. Last week Joe Curran, president of the CIO National Maritime Union, tried to get the Communist out of his union, but when the election returns were in, they had control of the governing board, with three in as vice-presidents -- Ferdinand Smith, a Jamaica negro; Howard McKenzie and Joseph Stack. 'The Communist Party has become a strong influential factor in the maritime industry', boasts the Communist Daily Worker."

The Florida Times Union is a conservative paper in its editorial policy, and so far as I know, it has never waved the flag of racial prejudice; but even this conservative paper, on April 26, 1946, said:

"Money and workers are being poured into the south to organize labor and bring new registrants to the ballot boxes. The strategy is obvious and sound. To swing the party in the south is to rule the convention, and to swing the convention is to rule the nation. In very truth, the south is again Democracy's testing ground. A nation may not be avidly watching the outcome, for the quiet battles that go on behind the ballot boxes are not as glamorous as the movement of troops, but the result may be as revolutionary on our governmental processes. How will the south meet this challenge? The programs, plans and utterances of outside organizations, impinging upon a formerly stable political status, create a threat to conservative southerners. Are they menaced by a new invasion, or will individual expression of free, intelligent electors continue to shape the destiny of government?"

Again, in its issue of July 15, 1946, the Times Union carried an article of national scope quoting Attorney General Tom C. Clark:

"Attorney General Clark and his Justice Department agreed today that an American Communist "Fifth Column" exists in the United States, and that its extinction is the growing responsibility of the Department and the people. The Attorney General said that the Department has no doubt that an American Communist minority is infiltrating some legitimate organizations with the intention of creating disunity in the United States accompanied by dissatisfaction, violence, and -- ultimately -- revolution. The Attorney General observed: 'These American born Communists often try to get into organizations and get control of them for use as a Communist front. Their infiltration into some legitimate organizations has

been established. If they should get control of such organizations, the American ideals and principles of the majority of our people would be in danger."

And in commenting editorially on this article, the Times Union carried the following in its issue of July 17, 1946:

"Attorney General Clark makes an observation, however, that the people of the United States will do well to keep in mind -- that his Department has no doubt that American-born Communists are infiltrating some legitimate organizations with the intention of creating disunity in the United States accompanied by dissatisfaction, violence, and -- ultimately -- revolution.

"The Attorney General's statement is all right as far as it goes. The trouble with it is that he stops short of giving names. This matter involves the safety of the nation, and it should not be soft-pedaled to the extent of shielding the enemies."

The CIO-PAC became drunk with power, and decided to invade the south. To do this it was decided to conduct a campaign to persuade negroes, who had always been Republicans, to register as Democrats. They immediately ran into trouble because of the political system existing in the south, every state having a white Democratic primary with a membership composed only of white people. Candidates for public office were nominated in this primary, and the general election in November became more or less a matter of form.

The attempt of negroes to register as Democrats led to litigation whereby the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court, held that so long as the Democratic primary was financed, controlled and regulated by state law it was a part of the general election machinery, and under the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Federal Constitution the negroes had a right to register and vote as Democrats. In these same opinions the United States Courts pointed out the way by which southern ideals and institutions could be preserved and maintained and the primary of white people continued. It was pointed

SHALL WE HAVE A WHITE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY IN FLORIDA?

by

John E. Mathews, Senator 18th District

With the full knowledge that I will be called a rabble-rouser and accused of appealing to race prejudice, I feel that the question of the Democratic white primary in Florida should be openly, frankly and fearlessly discussed, and the activities and schemes of the communist-inspired CIC Political Action Committee and outside agitators exposed. There can be no soft-peddling of this issue.

The white Democratic Party in Florida, southern civilization, ideals and institutions, are in danger of being utterly destroyed unless we fully understand the problem and find a remedy.

We are not confronted with the immediate question of whether we should allow the negroes of Florida to register as Democrats, and under the control and direction of the CIC-PAC, exercise the balance of power in naming delegates to the National Convention, and in selecting the nominees of most of the district, city, county and state offices.

HISTORY

I think it well that we briefly consider a little history. Long before we were born, and long before the war between the states, the south was a land of farms and plantations, producing corn, cotton and livestock. Money-mad people from other sections of the country conceived the idea of entering into the slave trade, which resulted in the capture and movement of thousands of negroes to the farms and plantations of the south, where they were sold into slavery. The negroes were imported to this land against their will, but rapidly became adapted to their new environment. In all of recorded history no backward race has shown as much progress and advancement as the southern negroes under the leadership, advice, and help of the southern white people.

After the war between the states these people were made free, and after the days of reconstruction white people and negroes lived in the southland in peace and harmony. They understood one another. The only time there has been any real racial trouble has been when agitators from outside stirred up such trouble by preying upon the negroes and preaching the doctrine of political and social equality. This matter of political and social equality between the negro and white races was tried in the south at the point of the rifle and the bayonet during the days of reconstruction, and it was a miserable failure.

It has been said that hindsight is better than foresight. It is necessary that we study the experiences and history of the past in order to understand the present and prepare for the future.

#### COMMUNIST-INSPIRED CIO-PAC MOVEMENT

In recent years many organizations and societies have sprung up throughout the United States based upon some foreignism or doctrine. Prior to the war fascism and communism were rampant throughout the country. During the war fascism was stamped out, but communism has survived, and planted in the fertile soil of unrest and discontent, and continuously cultivated by agitators, it has grown and is still spreading a menace to Americanism.

It was the adopted and fixed policy of these organizations to bore from within and have individuals committed to such doctrines join all kinds of organizations. Finally an organization known as the Committee of Industrial Organizations or CIO, sprang up. To begin with the CIO was content to exist as a rival labor organization, but in certain sections of the country it grew and developed and became powerful. It was then decided that it would enter the political field, and under its domination and control the Political Action Committee was organized for the initial purpose of taking part in national politics, and exercising the