

five years ago. Today, one prong of the attack is under way—the crusade to organize Negro voters. But the other prong, which can prove decisive, is not yet even in the talking stage. Organizing the unorganized in the South is the next great historic task the American labor movement must tackle. Its significance for this period is the same as was the organization of industrial unions a few decades ago. The entire labor movement must be given to understand that there can be no progress of major proportions for labor, North and South, or for Negroes and other minority groups, until powerful trade union organizations are built in the South. This is the main task we now confront.

This fall, we are going into a crucial election campaign. The Negro vote can prove decisive in affecting the outcome. The Negro vote is the balance of power in 31 key congressional districts of the North. This vote should help to retire all of the Right-wing and ultra-Right candidates who make up the Northern counterparts of the Dixiecrats. This should be done regardless of party label. The Negro movement, as well as the labor movement, should assist the voters by making known the records of these candidates and what they represent. Of key importance, even for races at the congressional level is what the Executive branch of government will do between now and election day. If the Kennedy Administration continues to half-heartedly tackle the civil rights issue, then many Negro voters are going to become disenchanted. The bulk of them will still vote the Democratic ticket, but a large percentage of them will stay at home. The voters who stay at home can be the difference between victory and defeat for many liberal-type candidates. But if the President undertakes bold steps before election day, then the fight to oust Northern reactionaries will be greatly enhanced.

The people's movements should press the President for action on the following problems:

1. An Executive Order abolishing discrimination in housing.
2. An Executive Order abolishing discrimination in all phases of governmental activity.
3. Action to illegalize all Dixiecrat state regimes and officials who are elected under conditions of disenfranchised Negroes and poor whites.
4. Action to proceed under the authority of the recent Supreme

Court decision in the Tennessee case, illegalizing state-reapportionment plans and systems which discriminate against urban areas in favor of rural areas.

5. The appointment of a Negro to the Cabinet when a vacancy occurs, and the naming of a Negro to the Supreme Court.

Power of the Negro Voter

Actions along these lines by the President will help insure the election of a more liberal type of candidate at the congressional level.

Following the congressional races in 1962, municipal and state elections will take place in many of the major cities and states throughout the country.

In the industrial complexes of the North, especially in the Midwest, the Negro vote is already the balance of power. As a result of this situation some progress has been made, but nothing comparable to what is possible. Civil rights forces should begin now to formulate a program of action. Such a program should press upon state and city plans to end jim crow now. City and state commissions on human welfare should be urged to convene peoples' assemblies where such programs can be worked out. Programs from these conferences should combine problems of an immediate nature as well as long-range goals.

Overcoming the economic inequalities and plight of the black worker should be one of the main objects of such conferences. Armed with a comprehensive program to end jim crow on the city and state level, civil rights forces should canvass all aspirants for political office. Without regard to partisan considerations, all prospective candidates' position on these programs, as well as their previous records, should become the main criteria for support or rejection of candidates. Non-party and non-partisan organizations within Negro communities should unite their forces to educate Negro voters on how to effectively use their balance of power status. Actions along these lines can complement what is done at the federal level as well as in the South. They will help to lay the basis for a major breakthrough in the 1964 Presidential race, and hasten the process of ending the jim crow system now.