

EDITORIAL

BLACKS' DESTINY IN OWN HANDS..

put your vote where your MOUTH is.

By Paul Dawkins

In understanding the voting process, one must have an understanding of the basic principles of the democratic theory. When there is a society of people who have problems and conflicts that cannot be solved among themselves, then representatives are ELECTED by popular vote in the form of general elections.

These elected representatives are elected to the public office in behalf of the MAJORITY to settle the problems of the MAJORITY. The point here is that A PUBLIC OFFICE IS A PUBLIC TRUST, and ultimately the final decision of the welfare of the governed is the people.

In view of the Selma-Montgomery march of 1965, President Johnson recognized the clear need for additional legislation to protect the rights of voters. This is an example of democratic theory. A few days later the president sent to Congress his proposals for a "right to vote" law.

Still more attention was attracted by the decision to march from Selma to Montgomery. When the Alabama public tried to prevent the march, the United States District Court Judge in Montgomery ordered state officials to permit the march and President Johnson called the Alabama National Guard into Federal service to protect them. On the final day of the march the 300 demonstrators were joined by some 35,000 supporters from all over the country; another example of democratic theory.

Discrimination in housing was not only private practice but public policy. Between 1935 and 1950 eleven million homes were built. Wherever there was federal assistance, the racial policy was laid down in the manual of the Federal Housing Administration, which declared, "If a neighborhood is to retain stability, it is necessary that properties shall be continued to be occupied by the same social and racial classes." By 1962 some seventeen states and fifty-six cities had passed laws or resolutions against housing discrimination; another example of democratic theory.

In view of the coming elections on November 5, the voter has the right and the privilege to choose the best representative, who will utilize the public office in the public interest. The aforementioned focuses on the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED!

BLACK POWER is in the voting box

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