

MAY 31 1962

# THE ILLUSTRATED NEWS

PRIMARY AUGUST 7

# ELECT

# 3 PLUS

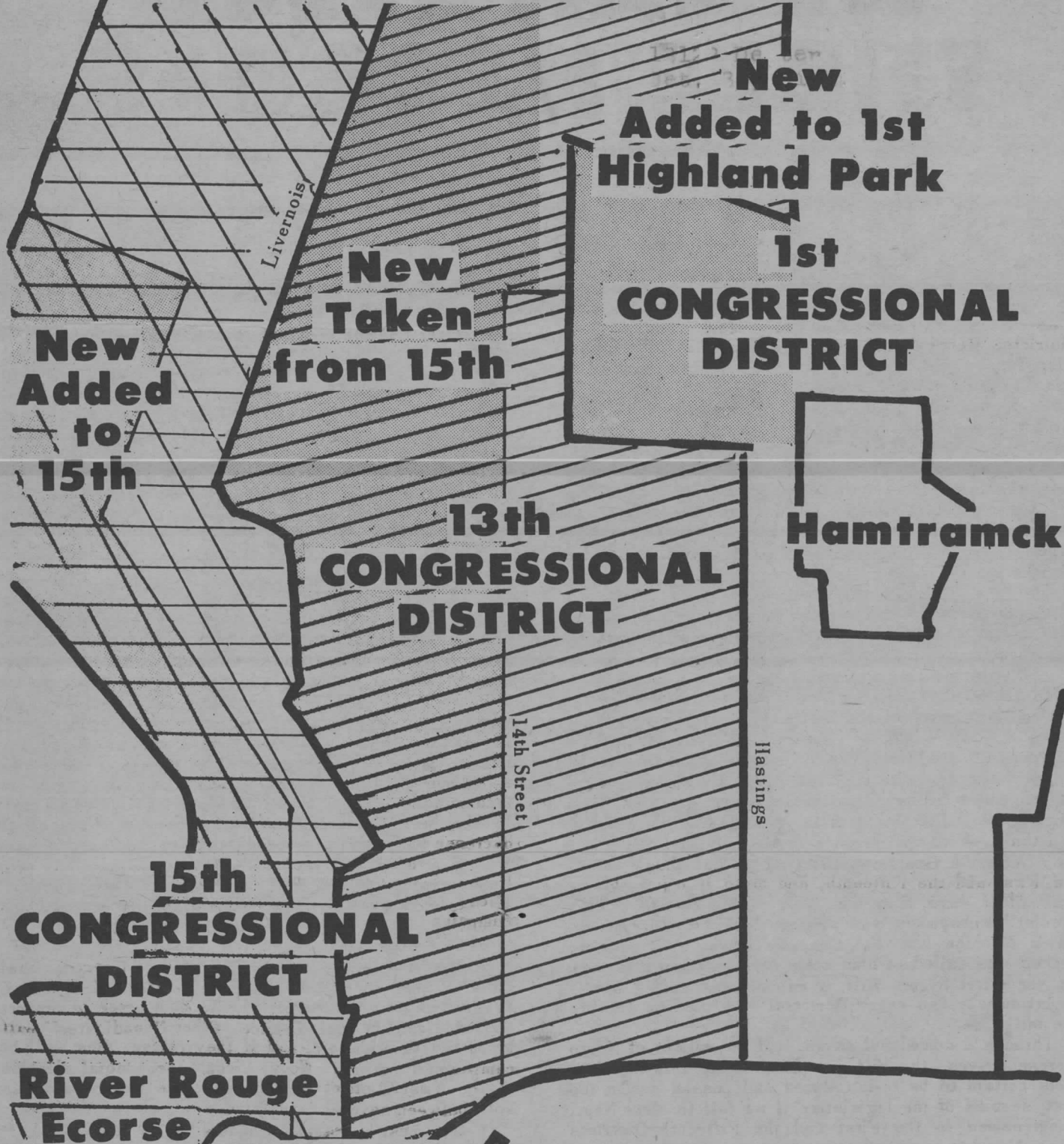
THREE  
NEGRO CONGRESSMEN

— PLUS —  
A NEW PROSECUTOR

SEE PAGE 3

REGISTER NOW - OR YOU CAN'T VOTE!

# "GERRYMANDERING"



## DEM'S PLAN

TO BUTCHER 1st & 15th DISTRICTS

# WE CAN ELECT THREE NEGROES TO CONGRESS

By Rev. Albert B. Cleage Jr., Contributing Editor

The big political upset in the fall election may well be the election of three Negro Congressmen from Detroit's First, Thirteenth, and Fifteenth congressional districts. Representative Diggs will have serious opposition for the first time in a number of years (and while Adam Clayton Powell's recent charge of "absenteeism" won't do him any good, it won't do him any real harm either) Diggs still has the best political image in these parts. He's a "race-man" and a fighter, and the fact that he was temporarily forced to shoulder greater business responsibilities during and immediately following his father's recent illness is not in itself a fact which will turn the voters against him. The re-election of Diggs in the Thirteenth Congressional District appears certain.

The real struggles are shaping up in the First and Fifteenth districts where white incumbents must be unseated and where Democratic-Labor Machine money and influence must be defeated in primary fights.

The Negro-white population shifts in Detroit have taken place faster than the politicians were able to gerrymander the Congressional Districts, so today we have a Negro majority in three Congressional Districts. This "oversight" the Democratic Party tried to "correct" a few weeks ago with the most obviously anti-Negro reapportionment bill ever presented to the Michigan State Legislature. The intent of the bill was to gerrymander two thirds of all the Negroes in the City of Detroit into the Thirteenth Congressional District and thus "save" the First and the Fifteenth, and make it impossible to ever elect more than one Negro Congressman. This "racist" conspiracy was supported by the Democratic-Labor Machine from the Governor down. Although no caucus was called to bind state representatives to vote for the Civil Rights Bill, a caucus was called on reapportionment and every Democrat was pledged to vote the party line.

Through a comedy of errors, and the efforts of Negro representatives, the bill was blocked for this session. It is certain to be re-introduced and passed during the next session of the legislature if we fail to elect Negro Congressmen in the First and the Fifteenth Districts now. For this reason there is a sense of urgency about our task. We must elect three Negro Congressmen in 1962 or not at all! In each district we have the votes if we organize properly and take the real issue to the voters.

Why is it important to elect two additional Negroes to Congress? It is important because the Negro is discriminated against by virtue of inadequate representation on all levels of American Government. Although we are more than 10% of the total population we do not have 10% representation in the Congress of these United States. In the South we are largely disenfranchised and have no representation. In Detroit we have a majority of the population in three Congressional Districts, and we find it peculiar that the Democratic Party is not as anxious to find good Negro candidates for these Congressional Districts as it is to persuade Ralph Bunch or Charles Weaver to run for the Senate in New York.

The Negro is entitled to proportionate representation on all levels of Government. This is not "racism" this is "democracy" We are approximately 35% of the population in the city of Detroit so we are entitled to 35% of the elective and appointive political jobs. This is not "racism" this is "democracy". We are approximately 25% of the population in Wayne County so we are entitled to 25% of the elective and appointive political jobs. This is not "racism" this is democracy." In the same manner we are entitled to many more representatives in the U.S. Congress. Our efforts to elect two additional Negro Congressmen in districts which are predominantly Negro is not "racism" but "democracy" in the best American tradition. Any act designed to decrease the potential representation of the Negro in American government is "racism" Any act designed to make Negro representation more equitable is "democratic." These facts must be born clearly in mind because our campaign to elect three Negroes to Congress will be termed "racism."

A series of leadership meetings in each Congressional District must be called immediately to determine which candidates are to be supported. We must agree to support one candidate in each district. Other "candidates" will be asked to withdraw, and if they refuse, they will be campaigned against. Nedzi "won" the special election in the First District only because the Negro vote was split between several candidates.

Voters must be trained to ignore "labor endorsement," "paid precinct workers," and candidates who are placed in the race to split the Negro vote. We can nominate three Negroes for Congress on August 7th if we are willing to work now!