

INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTION NEEDED



PRIMARY AUGUST 7

ELECT

3 PLUS 1

THREE
NEGRO CONGRESSMEN
— PLUS —
A NEW PROSECUTOR

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

The "3 plus 1" campaign announced by the Illustrated News is catching on in the Negro community. Russell Brown is being urged to run in the First Congressional District. Charles Diggs will run for re-election in the Thirteenth District, and State Representative Frederick Yates appears certain to get the nod in the Fifteenth District. Joseph B. Sullivan, Mayor Cavanagh's former executive secretary, will be endorsed to oppose Sam Olsen.

This campaign to elect three Negroes to Congress must be undertaken now because the Democratic-Labor Organization has served notice that during the next session of the State Legislature, the districts will be gerrymandered to prevent the election of more than one Negro. The growing conviction that our total fight for freedom and equality everywhere will be strengthened by the election of two additional Negro Congressmen from Detroit dictates that we must make an all-out fight here and now. We cannot be diverted by hypocritical cries of "Racism." Let those who would decry "racism" denounce the disenfranchisement by which more than one half of the total Negro population is denied representation in the South. Let them denounce the gerrymandering by which the Negro in the North is systematically denied representation except by token representatives from Michigan, Illinois, and New York. Neither Republicans nor Democrats speak out against this token representation. Together they gerrymander in the North to keep Negroes out of Congress, and together they maintain the great conspiracy of silence which permits the South to disenfranchise the Negro upon the one hand, and to count him upon the other in the determination of representation.

The great "liberal" voice of organized Labor has uttered no word of protest nor criticism of this Democratic-Republican conspiracy to keep Negroes out of Congress. The white press which is silent when the Negro

is being systematically excluded from public office, sheds copious tears of indignation and sorrow whenever the Negro Community unites to elect a Negro to office and bemoans "Racism."

Charges of "Racism," however, will have little to do with the result of our campaign to elect three Negroes to congress. We have the necessary votes in the Negro community. We need no outside support. We can be defeated only by our own confusions and divisions. For several reasons this effort will be more significant than the recent successful campaign to defeat Miriani and the Councilmen who had voted against the Patrick Amendment, and tremendously more difficult!

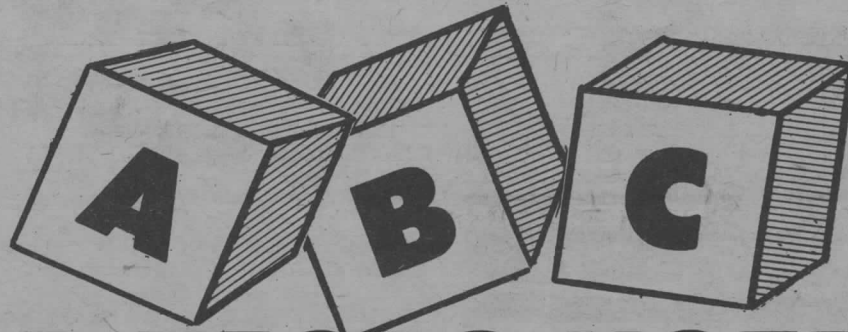
Miriani and the Councilmen had succeeded in making themselves completely repulsive to all segments of the Negro Community. No Negro leader or leadership organization of any stature actively supported Miriani. Although Miriani had the nominal endorsement of organized Labor, the UAW-CIO did little or nothing to prevent his defeat. Then we were voting against. Now we must vote FOR. The city election was non-partisan the coming election is partisan.

Every organization in the Negro community which is independent of outside control must play a part in this campaign. Block Clubs, Social Clubs, Churches, and Community Councils which are free of Solidarity House dictatorship must take an active part in the election of Negro candidates.

We must remember that in a democracy a Negro candidate is better qualified to represent a Negro Community than a white candidate. In America it is generally conceded that a Jew should be elected to represent Jews, a Pole should be elected to represent a Polish community and an Italian should be elected to represent an Italian Community. Why then is it so difficult for the Democratic-Labor Organization to accept the right of the Negro community to elect its own representatives?

BOTH PARTIES IGNORE "BALANCE OF POWER"

POLITICAL



FOR NEGRO VOTERS

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

As we head for the primary campaign in Michigan's most crucial political race since F.D.R. and G. Mennon Williams first built a Democratic Party in Michigan, it becomes increasingly clear that neither party is willing to recognize the fact that the Negro holds the "balance of power" in the coming election. Both Democratic and Republican Negro "Leaders" are going through the same empty partisan motions designed to curry personal favor with the candidates, without daring to demand anything. Neither party recognizes Negro "Leadership on a policy making level. The Negro is expected to accept whatever is decided and handed down to him. Most Negro "Leaders" and "Leadership Organizations" are controlled from outside the Negro community. They say what they're told to say and they do what they're told to do.

This is a basic fact which we must recognize on all levels of the Negro Community. Our political leadership is not free to fight for full Negro rights and representation. This fact will be indisputably clear in our efforts to elect Negro Congressmen in the First and Fifteenth Congressional Districts. Negro "Leaders" and "Leadership Organizations" (even those seeking to appear militant) will be afraid to oppose the Democratic Labor Machine. They will be afraid of personal reprisals if they endorse Negro candidates. So we will find "established Negro Democratic Leaders" going along with Dingell and Nedzi on the silly grounds that they are "better qualified" than Frederick Yates and Russell Brown. The only special qualification Dingell and Nedzi have is the fact that they vote the Liberal Democratic Party line. Any moron could do the same if someone would just point him in the general direction of the Congressional Chambers every morning

The Republicans don't suffer from this outside control because they are completely disorganized. They don't even bother trying to control Negro Congressional Districts (At least they didn't until the Birch Society controversy developed.) They make no effort to support Negro candidates in Negro districts because they are convinced that any Democrat can beat any Republican. They have never even considered the possibility that the Negro may be forced to vote Republican to elect a Negro to office against the wishes of the Democratic-Labor Machine.

This is the crux of the problem. Only an independent Negro vote can be politically effective. The Democrats ignore the Negro vote because they think that it "belongs to them." The Republicans ignore the Negro vote because they think they can't get it. Negro political Leaders sit helpless, chained to one party or the other.

In the coming election the Negro can determine the final outcome. Certainly political control of Wayne County and the State of Michigan is worth more than either party has offered so far. It ought to be worth a general agreement to endorse and support Negro candidates in the First, Thirteenth, and Fifteenth Congressional Districts.

Negro politicians ought to be willing to put everything on the line to insist upon this agreement.

If the Democratic Party defeats Negro Candidates in the First and the Fifteenth in the primary, we should be ready to campaign for the election of Negro Republicans in the First and the Fifteenth. This kind of Campaign is already taking shape, and if the Negro politicians are afraid, then it will be a rank and file fight. We have the votes to elect Negro candidates, and there aren't enough scared Negro politicians in either district to out vote the people.