

BOSWELL AMENDMENT DEAD

When a three-judge Federal court at Mobile last week ruled that Alabama's infamous Boswell Amendment is unconstitutional, it knocked the last prop from under the Southern diehards who have sought to keep voting a lily-white privilege in the South.

The Boswell Act, passed after Judge J. Waties Waring of the Federal District Court of South Carolina had held the white primary illegal, provided that all voting applicants in Alabama "understand" and "explain" the U.S. Constitution to the satisfaction of registrars.

Obviously this was a device to disfranchise thousands of prospective voters and now, after a two-year fight, three U. S. judges have come to the same conclusion.

This latest ruling will immediately put a crimp in the plan of Georgia's Hummon Talmadge to get similar disfranchisement legislation on the books.

One by one, the decisions against voting restrictions have been handed down in our favor. The U. S. Supreme Court set the pattern for later decisions in the Texas and Florida primary cases. The high court's decisions have now been implemented to take care of any evasions which Southern States might try to make effective.

Now that the way has been cleared, there must be increased registration and voting in all areas where any restrictions have existed. And in those areas where restrictions have long since been removed, there must also be increased political activity.

The ballot is still our strongest and most effective weapon. Let's use it wisely.

THREE FEDERAL JUDGES

President Truman, under the McCarran Bill, will have the opportunity to nominate 23 new Federal district and appellate judges.

At least three of them should be colored.

Let no one think this suggestion premature because Congress has not yet passed the McCarran bill.

The bill has the kind of support to guarantee its passage and already there are hundreds of applicants for the 23 posts.

We ought to have special preference in the nominations because one-tenth of the people should get one-tenth of the jobs.

But aside from this, we are entitled to more than one-tenth this time because of the 297 trial and appellate Federal judges now on the bench, not one is colored.

The situation is disgraceful.

Fortunately, something can be done about it because heading the new Administration is a President who is pledged to a fair deal.

The President, and Senators like Francis J. Myers of Pennsylvania, are under terrific pressure from their constituents of wealth or influence to restrict nominees to white persons only. That would be a grave misfortune.

There should be no fooling and no misunderstanding about colored Federal judges.

Three out of 23 are not too many to ask.

AIRPORT'S ABOUT FACE

Last week in discussing segregation at the Washington National Airport, we made bold to ask whether or not the laws of the State of Virginia were bigger than Federal government regulations.

Operators of the airport's dining concessions said that they were obeying Virginia law, by refusing indiscriminate service to colored persons, until advised differently by counsel.

Before the end of the week, colored patrons, among them an AFRO reporter, were served in the airport dining room. The service was a bit slow but service it was, and there were no cases of prostration or violence reported.

Elimination of segregation is not as painful as some would lead us to believe. Like going to the dentist, it's the anticipation which gives us the most anxious moments.

There is no valid excuse for segregation at any time, certainly not at a facility under Federal government control. Now that the Washington mess has been cleaned up, it's time that we looked into this whole segregation matter further to see whether there are any other violators who need to be brought into line.

ANOTHER ARMY ROTC UNIT

Approval by the First Army of a Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) unit at Delaware State College, Dover, Del., calls for a round of congratulations.

Much credit is due to President Truman, to Congressman William L. Dawson (D., Ill.) and to James C. Evans, advisor to Secretary of Defense Forrestal, for this recognition, and because the AFRO has been in the forefront of the fight to obtain ROTC units for all qualified land grant colleges, we, too, are taking a modest bow.

President Howard D. Gregg and Delaware State College as well as the Association of Colored Land Grant Colleges, are to be commended for their persistence in following through their requests for approval after they met the Army's qualifications.