

AUSSIE PAPER SLANDERS RACE

Texas Citizens Vote In Primaries

First Poll Tax State Bows To Court Edict

HOUSTON, Texas. — Dr. Lonnie Smith, local dentist, upon whose case the United States Supreme Court ruled that colored citizens had the right to vote on the Texas Democratic primaries led hundreds of colored voters all over the Lone Star State to the polls last Saturday.

Wherever colored citizens had paid their poll tax in the state they voted.

In Dallas, it is estimated that 1200 colored voters went to the polls and voted without incident. Colored people in Dallas have been voting in city elections in the past. Rev. Maynard H. Jackson, president of the Progressive Voter's League, hailed the voting in the primaries as a "progressive step."

Following the example set by South Carolina, a group of colored voters here organized a Democratic precinct convention on Saturday, while another group elected delegates to the county convention on July 29.

Democratic party officials described the action of these two groups as the first of its kind taken here by colored people.

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Right To Vote Used By Many

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The precinct convention was called by E. H. Harrison, a union official and vice president of the Third Ward Civic Club. Harrison was elected temporary chairman by the 50 to 60 colored and three white woman, Miss Lottie Wallis, was named to cast the precinct's vote at the Democratic county convention.

Each precinct is entitled to one delegate for each 25 votes and the precinct organized by Harrison is 96 per cent colored. Miss Wallis said that with colored people voting in the primaries here for the first time, 400 votes were tallied compared with 16 cast by white voters only in the 1942 primary election. There are said to be 1000 colored voters to 25 white in the precinct.

Harrison, financial secretary of Local 2457 of the United Steelworkers of America, CIO, estimated that 9000 colored voters had paid poll tax this year in Harris County, of whom 2,627 voted on Saturday.

He claimed that the precinct was "100 per cent pro-Roosevelt."