ABCs Of Voting

They say the candidate who gets the most votes, wins an election.

But the real winner many times is the machine boss who nominates his men in the Primary Election.

The real "boss" is the wide-awake citizen who votes.

He is boss on election day anyhow.

But he cannot vote if he doesn't "register."

By JOHN JASPER

For election purposes any city is divided into precincts.

Baltimore has 551 precincts.

The precinct is the smallest subdivision. A precinct usually has one polling place in which voters cast their ballots.

The next largest subdivision is the ward. Baltimore has 23 wards.

The 14th ward has 12 precincts.

The 6th vard (Cherry Hill), 11 precincts.

The 15th ward has 42 precincts.

The 17th ward has 7 precincts.

Then comes the district: Councilmanic, legislative or congressional.

The district is composed of wards. For example, the 4th councilmanic district takes in the 4th, 13th, 16th and 17th wards.

* * *

A POLITICIAN starts out by becoming a leader in a precinct.

When he controls the majority of the precincts in a ward, he becomes a ward "boss."

As his ward control expands to include a whole district, he is a "big political boss." His organization is known as the "machine."

The politician who can get the support of enough big political bosses controls the city and elects our councilmen, legislators, mayors and even governors.

* * *

THE BIGGEST headache of any political leader is the independent voter.

An independent voter is one who registers as a Democrat or Republican, in order to take part in the primary election. There the party's candidates are nominated.

But in the general election the independent fellow votes for the candidates who best serve his interests, whether those candidates be Democrats or Republicans.

* * *

HARRY COLE was elected Republican State Senator for the 4th District, despite the fact that this district has more Democrats than Republicans.

Voters, evidently, believed him to be the best candidate on the ticket.

In the same way Theodore McKeldin, a Republican, was twice elected Mayor and Governor.

Both men beat the "machine" and its bosses.

Senator Cole carried with him Emory Cole, a member of the legislature on his "non-partisan" ticket.

* * *

CANDIDATES of the bosses and the "machine" are often defeated, but it is hard work to keep them beaten.

The City Council has no Republican members and can have none, unless Republicans nominate a candidate, who is a better vote getter than his Democrat opponent.

To regain control, when once defeated, the bosses may nominate one of their own men in whom the non-partisans are interested.

Their purpose is to split the independent vote and still get out enough machine votes to win that election.

In the last state senatorial election, the machine put up an "independent" candidate with the hope of splitting the Cole supporters.

It nearly succeeded.

The "independent" got 361 votes. Senator Cole won by 37 votes in the three-way race.

This year may bring further shenanigans.

FOR THIS there is but one remedy:

Every citizen, who wants the best possible candidate elected, one who will serve his best interests, must do three things:

1st. Register so as to vote.

2nd. Take a deep interest in his representatives in council, legislature, Congress and in the Mayor's office.

3rd. Vote on election day.

Vote in the men who served his public interests best or will serve them.

Vote out the men who ignored his interests while in office, or will make him no adequate campaign pledges before election.

This the ABC s of voting. It is the Voters' Primer.

"Come on pal, we can register together."

10,000 Down, 58,000 To Go

Baltimore City

Registered Voters — 87,496.

New voters registered in Dec. and Jan. — 1,940.

Baltimore's Register and Vote Campaign committee announced recently that 10,123 new voters had been registered since April, 1957.

The last date of registration before the Primary election is April 19.

The primary election, in which candidates will be chosen for Governor, Comptroller, Atty. General, members of the legislature, State Senator, Congressmen, U.S. Senator, and City Council, is scheduled for May 20.

* * *

SINCE THE Democrats registered in the city outnumber Republicans, almost two-to-one, in some cases, the primary winner is fairly certain of election.

Colored Democrats registered total 50,000 plus, Republicans, 35,000 plus.

That makes the primary important. It's also important that citizens register Democrat or Republican and not "Declined."

Declined voters, those that do not affiliate with any party when they register, cannot vote in primary elections.

* * *

The first point to remember, is to register, if you are a non-voter.

The Register and Vote Committee, located at 402 Dolphin St., will tell you how if you call LA. 3-8503.

The second point is that if you want to vote in this year's important primary elections, you must do it before April 19.

* * *

BEST CITY registration figures obtainable show 87,496 Colored voters registered and 56,720 not registered.

The goal of the Register and Vote Committee is 100,000.

Remember if you have just moved into a new home, you will want to vote in your new area.

You will have to notify the Supervisor of Elections and get a new Voter's Card.

The committee will tell you how to do that too.

Rev. John T. Tilley is chairman of the campaign.

He is the one who says the committee working mainly through the city's churches, has added 10,123 new voters on the books since last April.

With increased interest in elections, politicians watch carefully the registration by districts.

For example, the city is divided by lines one way to elect members of the legislature, another way to elect members of Congress and still a third way to select members of the City Council.

* * *

FOR ELECTION of City Councilmen, the city is divided into 6 districts.

Here are the names of City Councilmen, the precincts and the registration by race in each of the 6 councilmanic districts.

All are Democrats.

Baltimore is predominantly a Democrat city.

1st Councilmanic District

Wards 1, 2, 3, — 4th ward — 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, precincts only
5th ward — 2, 3, 4, precincts
6th ward — 11, 12, 13, 14 precincts
26th ward — 1 to 20 precincts

Councilmen:
William Bonnett
James J. Duffy
Joseph J. Staszak

Registered voters:
Colored 2,346
White 38,593

2nd Councilmanic District

5th Ward — 1, 5, 6 precincts
6th Ward — 1 to 10th precincts
7th Ward — 8th ward — 18 to 22nd precinct
10th Ward — 11th precinct only

Councilmen:
Chester J. Ray
C. Lyman Schueler
James J. Welsh Jr.

Registered voters:
Colored 11,985
White 21,010

3rd Councilmanic District

8th Ward — 1 to 17th precincts and 23 — 26 precincts
All the 9th ward
12th Ward
In the 26th Ward — got from 21st to 45th precincts
In the 27th Ward from 1st to 77th precinct

Councilmen:
John A. Pica
Richard D. Byrd
J. Joseph Curran
Henry R. Hergenroeder

Registered voters:
Colored 9,863
White 112,016

4th Councilmanic District

4th Ward, 3rd precinct
13th Ward, 14, 15 precincts and 21 — 42 precincts
16th Ward, 1, 2 and 3 precincts
17th Ward

Councilmen:
Walter T. Dixon
Maxwell Alpert
Solomon Liss

Registered voters:
Colored 26,810
White 22,990

5th Councilmanic District

15th Ward, 1 — 20th precinct
16th Ward, 4 — 25th precinct
19th Ward, 2nd and 3rd precincts
All of 20th Ward
27th Ward — 78 — 105 precincts
28th Ward

Councilmen:
Jacob J. Edelman
Michael J. Hanlin
Leon A. Rubenstein
William D. Schaefer

Registered Voters:
Colored 22,549
White 80,933

6th Councilmanic District

18th (all)
19th — 1 and 4 to 11th precincts
21st Ward
22nd Ward
22nd Ward
23rd Ward
24th Ward
25th Ward

Councilmen:
Thomas P. Fallon
William M. Hudnet
Michael J. McHale

Registered voters:
Colored 12,003
White 36,723

(Note: these figures do not include the newly registered voters since these figures were compiled just recently.)

Important For Voters

Last Day for registration before
Primary ..... April 19, 1958
Primary Election ..... May 20, 1958
Registration reopens ..... May 31, 1958
Last Day for registration before
General Election ..... Sept. 22, 1958
General Election ..... Nov. 4, 1958

Candidates for office must file on or before March 10, 1958. Final withdrawal date, March 15.

AFRO Magazine Section
THE AFRO-AMERICAN, MARCH 22, 1958 PAGE 1

World's Newest Nation

- Area—One-third the size of Indiana.
- Population — 3 million, overwhelmingly colored.
- Name—The West Indies.
- Flag—Blue-white stripes with gold sun in center.
- Elections — March 27, 1958. New government takes office April 22, 1958.

By G. James Fleming

Next week the major islands of the British West Indies—three million people—will move a little nearer toward becoming an independent nation.

This step forward will be taken next Tuesday, Mar. 25, when elections are held for members of the first Parliament of the new federation, officially named "The West Indies."

* * *

ONE MONTH later, on April 22, another major step will be taken when the Royal Princess Margaret will preside over the formal inauguration of the new two - chamber Parliament, as the special representative of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth V.

On that day, also, the 45-member House of Representatives will elect the first Prime Minister of the entire federation.

He will undoubtedly be Sir Grantley Herbert Adams, presently prime minister of Barbados, prominent labor leader and lawyer, and one of "The Big Three" of the British Islands.

* * *

THE PRIME minister will be the topmost elected official of the federation.

He will share honors, for the time being, with the Governor General, Lord Hailes, who took office Jan. 3, after appointment by the Queen.

The governor general, in addition to being the ceremonial representative of the British monarch, will have "the last word" in regards to the defense, external relations, and financial stability of the new nation-to-be.

* * *

WHEN "THE WEST INDIES" becomes a full-fledged dominion and, therefore, a sovereign power, the prime minister will be the highest official.

There was great fear a few weeks ago, that none of the outstanding leaders of the islands would be available for the prime minister's position.

The constituion of the federation does not permit anyone to hold office both in an island government and also in the federation's.

For this reason the seasoned leaders had decided to remain with their respective islands, where they now have power and following. The pessimists saw only a "second best" heading the federation.

* * *

THE "BIG THREE" met recently, however, and the 59-year-old Sir Grantley decided to be a candidate for Parliament from Barbados. He is certain of election to the legislature and, in due order, to the prime ministership.

The "Big Three," all well known in New York and Washington, also include:

Norman Manley, Socialist in politics, lawyer by profession, and now prime minister of Jamaica, largest of the islands;

Dr. Eric Williams, college professor, formerly of Howard University, and presently prime minister of Trinidad, second largest island of the federation and its capital.

* * *

A "DARK HORSE," who is being watched by everyone, is Sir Alexander W. Bustamante, for several years a resident of Boston, former prime minister of Jamaica, cousin of Prime Minister Manley and his bitter opponent.

One American, so far as is now known, will be a candidate for the federation parliament from Trinidad. She is Mrs. Margaret Abrams Wyke, a native of Jersey City, N.J., and wife of Dr. David Wyke, American-trained physician.

* * *

IN ADDITION to the popularly elected House, the federation will also have a Senate of 19 members all appointed by the governor general.

In addition, there will be a Council of State — "the principal instrument of policy"—made up of the prime minister, ten other ministers and the governor general.

In American terms, the Council of State will be the Cabinet.

* * *

THE SENATE has the power to prevent any bill passed by the House of Representatives from becoming a law, by a legal delay of from three to twelve months.

This device is intended to prevent hasty action by the popularly elected lower house.

If the Representatives recall such a bill, it becomes law anyway, after the cooling off period.

* * *

MEMBERS OF the legislature have terms of five years, but the House of Representatives may be dissolved by the Prime minister, as is true in parliamentary systems.

A Federal Supreme Court is also provided for. It will be presided over by a Chief Justice and will have a membership of three or four associate justices.

This branch of the government is more nearly like its American counterpart than is any other area of the new governmental structure.

It will be principally a court of appeals, but will also have original jurisdiction in some types of cases, including questions as to the interpretation of the Constitution.

Unlike the American practice—and for better of worse—no one is eligible for the supreme bench unless he has practiced law at least fifteen years before appointment.

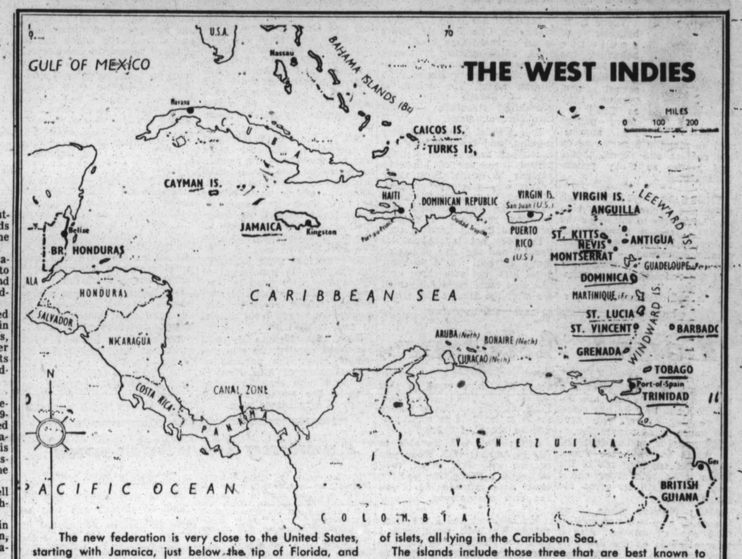
* * *

IN THE years ahead, as "The West Indies" becomes an independent dominion its voice and vote in world councils will be inclined toward supporting the United States and the free West, unless something happens to destroy the historic friendship between the two peoples.

In the United Nations and in the areas of diplomacy, the representatives of "The West Indies" will undoubtedly join the representatives of African nations in getting recognition for peoples of color the world over.

It may well be that colored Americans will have a stronger voice, indirectly, as their West Indian cousins are able to speak up, and to maneuver, politically, in those high places where

(Continued on Page 2)



The new federation is very close to the United States, starting with Jamaica, just below the tip of Florida, and stretching over 1,000 miles in a crescent ending with Trinidad, off the shore of Venezuela, South America.

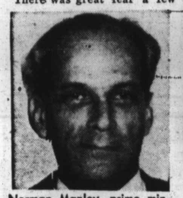
It has a land area of about 7,973 square miles. Its population of three million is of European, African and Asian background.

The overwhelming majority is of African descent.

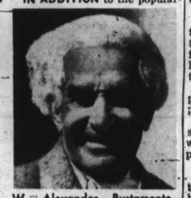
The new, federated West Indies is comprised of ten territories, including fourteen sizable islands and hundreds of islets, all lying in the Caribbean Sea.

The islands include those three that are best known to Americans—Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad. The others are Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Antigua, St. Christopher (including Anguila), and Monserrat.

The new federation does not include Bermuda and the Bahamas, which are not considered part of the British West Indies, and, for the time being, at least, British Guiana and British Honduras have chosen not to federate.



Norman Manley, prime minister of Jamaica.



W. Alexander Bustamente, leader of the opposition party, loser to his cousin Norman Manley.

Sir Grantley Herbert Adams, presently premier of Barbados, is expected to be Federation's new prime minister.