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Steno-Clerical employment at U.S. National Bank, N.E. Union and Killingsworth Branch, competent typist required, see Jon Butler, Operations Officer at 5505 N.E. Union Avenue.

Project Equality

Eleven major religious bodies and institutions in the Pacific Northwest joined to commit their multimillion dollar purchasing strength to Project Equality, a nationwide interfaith program designed to encourage affirmative action for equal employment by the nation's employers.

The Northwest Project, encompassing five states, is the largest regional unit of 18 Project Equality programs. Local offices have already been established in Seattle and Portland and the regional operation will also include Alaska, Idaho, and western Montana.

Derek M. Mills, formerly director of training center for War/Peace studies in New York and assistant professor of Social Change at the Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, sees the Project as an opportunity for the religious community to function as an important agent of reconciliation in a crisis torn society. The project in his word can assist the movement toward affirmative action for equal employment that has already begun within the business community and can lengthen sources of job opportunities with sources of manpower in the minority community.

Dr. William E. Cate former Executive Director of Portland Council of Churches and now Pres. of Seattle Council of Churches said, "Project Equality is a basic tool for church involvement in society. The church should practice and voice equality in minority hiring."

Richard Boyd said, "Project Equality is relevant to every aspect of the life of the churches, whether in recruitment for ministry, hiring of headquarters office staff, or in the spending of any funds for goods and services."

Northwest business firms dealing with the participating religious institutions will eventually be listed in a national buyer's guide. Listing means a firm has pledged to hire and promote without discrimination, has filed a report form with Project Equality detailing the number of its minority-group employees and their job classifications, and has pledged to take further affirmative actions. Current buyers' guide contain the names of more than 4,000 firms. Nearly 20,000 firms have pledged participation in the program.

Blacks hold 600 offices in South

The Nov. 3 elections boosted the black office holders in the South to well over the 600 mark, as compared with fewer than 80 when the Voting Rights Act went into effect in 1965. However, the level of importance of office won by blacks in the region was not elevated. Marvin Wall, research director for the Voter Education Project in Atlanta, reports that the highest level in terms of power and authority for elected blacks remains as that of state legislators, sheriffs and local judges. The black voters' role Southwide is analyzed by Wall in a special report in this issue. RRIC (Race Relation Reporter) staff writer Bernard Garnett reports how black candidates fared in Alabama, where the predominantly black National Democratic Party of Alabama fielded 162 candidates and the state elected its first two black legislators since Reconstruction.

Librarians evaluate Black books

A group of young black librarians, who met last summer at a Fisk University program on black studies materials, has formed a new organization to "make library science relevant to the black experience." Helen Quigless, an officer of the Association of African-American Bibliography, said that the group, which now has 40 members, plans an evaluation of existing black studies materials - including bibliographies; a revision of Library of Congress subject headings to make them reflect more accurately the black experience; and compilation of a "Black Union Catalog," which would list all materials available in black collections. AAAB would try to make sure that black studies programs do not become a "capitalistic hustle for racist publishing companies out to make a buck" by issuing inferior materials, she said. The association's president is Alex Boyd of the University of Illinois.

Alabama elects Black

The predominantly black National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) enjoyed a bitter-sweet victory at the polls. NDPA candidates gained control of Greene County and won major seats in Lowndes County. The state's first black probate judge and one of its first black legislators since re-construction were elected on the NDPA ticket.

They also had hoped that the NDPA founder and president, Dr. John L. Cashin, as the first black bloc vote and deprive George Wallace of the overwhelming majority he desired.

The Huntsville dentist ran a distant second, in a field of five. Alabama's official tabulations still were being compiled, but the gubernatorial results for the three leading candidates, based on a report from 86 per cent of the state's precincts, were:

Wallace, Democrat 578,199, or 74.4%
Cashin, NDPA 114,811, or 14.8%

A.C. Shelton, Independent 68,029, or 8.7%

The NDPA won most impressively in Greene County, a Black Belt county near the Mississippi state line, where only 20 per cent of the residents are white. The Rev. William M. Branch was elected probate judge, and the Rev. Thomas Earl Gilmore was elected sheriff. Wadine Williams was named circuit court clerk by the voters, while Abner Milton was voted to the coroner's post. Ersie Chambers and John Head were elected to the five-member county Board of Education, completing the NDPA school panel sweep begun last year.

A total of four black sheriff candidates won in Alabama. The other three were: Lucius Amereson, of Macon County, the state's first black sheriff, who was re-elected; Red Williams, of Bullock County; and John Hullett, and NDPA candidate from Lowndes County.

Thomas Reed and Fred Gray became the first two black state lawmakers from Ala., since the Reconstruction. Reed ran on the NDPA ticket, and Gray a 39-year old Tuskegee attorney, was a Democratic Party candidate. Both will represent the 31st District, which encompasses Wallace's home county (Barbour) as well as Macon and Bullock Counties.

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