



MRS. NELLIE ALEXANDER right, owner of Portland Cleaning Works and one of the helpers, Mrs. Willa M. Cash. Cleaning, sewing and knit blocking is a specialty with them.

### Soul Sisters Cleaning Works

Mrs. Nellie Alexander is more than just a 'Soul Sister' and owner of the Portland Cleaning Works at 3954 N. Williams and 3947 N. Mississippi. She is a warm and compassionate human being whose concern for her Black brothers and sisters is reflected in her very style.

The seven years she has been in Portland she has made her presence felt - a member of Community Care, Portland NAACP and a good citizen that works behind scenes continually to upgrade her race and community.

Nellie Alexander believes that in order to be a success in business you must believe in yourself, your community and have a special talent. With a big beautiful smile she says, "personality goes a mighty long way with the public."

Around 25% of her business comes from other ethnic groups who live in the "Hills" of Portland.

She has faith in the community that it will continue to make progress. Not only is she cleaning clothes but also she does her part to clean up injustice and crime in Albina.

### Black Political Power

Black political power was seen in the last Congressional elections. Black got into the state legislatures even into confederate states. Almost unbelievable victories were achieved in California and Maryland.

In congressman-elect Parren J. Mitchell, Baltimore elected the first black man below the mason-dixon line to Congress. Mitchell, who is professor of sociology at Morgan State College, said that his victory was based on new development.

In the golden state of California, the election of Wilson C. Riles to the post of Supt. of Public Instruction was an unexpected triumph against his opponent, Max Rafferty, darling of his right-wing sponsors. The perceptive voters who elected him have good reason to be proud of the results. And so can every American who believes that political campaigns should be fought hard on issues—not race.

All these electoral victories, one encouraging factor stood out with significant prominence, the gravitation of some white voters toward black candidates. This isn't only true in Baltimore, Md., but also in California, in Ala., Georgia and a few other segments of the Deep South.

The hopeful sign we hope is that more and more issues and not race are becoming a dominant factor in election of candidates to important public office.

When the struggle for principles can triumph over prejudice, the democratic process will attain its highest goal.

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