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Southern Voice
Helps Vote Bill
Get House Okay

**State Not Excluded
 From Inspection
 By U.S. Registrars**

From Gazette Press Services

WASHINGTON — The House, spurred on by Southern voices supporting the measure, passed a rights bill Friday night designed to end the last resistance to Negro voting in the Deep South. The vote was 333 to 85.

The legislation, a major follow-up to last year's sweeping Civil Rights Act, now goes to a Senate - House conference committee to work out a compromise. The Senate passed a somewhat different version May 26.

The Arkansas delegation opposed the measure, which did not exclude Arkansas from its federal registrar provisions as did the Senate bill.

Representatives Oren Harris of El Dorado, James W. Trimble of Berryville and E. C. Gathings of West Memphis voted against it. Representative Wilbur D. Mills of Kensett was in Arkansas because of a death in his wife's family but was announced as opposed.

The Senate exempted Arkansas because the registration system adopted by the voters last fall is designed to prevent any discrimination, as well as to eliminate the poll tax.

No attempt was made on the House floor to win such an exclusion. Arkansas congressional sources said the strategy was to get the Senate exemption written into the bill during Senate-House negotiations. It was feared that a House floor attempt to win the exemption might be beaten.

Seven Southern states—Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia and parts of North Carolina—would have their voting rights literacy tests suspended under the House bill. Federal officials could be sent in to register Negroes.

The measure also outlaws poll taxes in state and local elections, a provision that could lead to difficulties with the Senate in working out a final version of the legislation. The Senate refused to ban poll taxes, but would subject them to a quick court test.

The bill was passed with the votes of 221 Democrats and 112 Republicans. In opposition were 61 Democrats and 24 Republicans.

**House Applauds
 Southern Backer**

Before the final vote, the House was brought to its feet in a rousing ovation for a Louisiana congressman who urged its passage.

Representative Hale Boggs, the assistant Democratic leader, who voted against last year's civil rights bill, told the House that, to his sorrow, there is discrimination against Negro voters in parts of the South.

"I shall support the bill, drastic though it may be," he said, "because I believe the fundamental right to vote must be part of this great experiment in human progress under freedom which is America."

Later, another Southerner, Representative Charles L. Weltner (Dem., Ga.), also pledging his support for the bill, said if the bill is drastic, "the problem is drastic, and the need is drastic."

Representative Emanuel Celler (Dem., N.Y.), sponsor of the measure, praised Boggs and said his speech "will go ringing through the ages."

Representative William T. Cahill (Rep., N.J.) hailed Boggs for his courage.

"This is what the South needs," Cahill said. "They need to be told the truth. They know the truth, but they need the leaders to tell them. They need someone with the guts to come out and say it."

The House adopted several amendments to the bill but rejected a Republican substitute by a 215-to-166 vote, a far wider margin than had been expected.

Many Southern Democrats, who had been expected to support the GOP proposal, apparently were scared away when the House added the poll tax ban.

**Poll Tax Rider
 Costs Some Votes**

Representative Robert McClory, (Rep., Ill.), offered the poll tax amendment. Representative William M. McCulloch, (Rep., O.) author of the GOP substitute, opposed the amendment but the House put it in by a 82 to 33 vote.

Also adopted—over the opposition of Celler and many Democrats — was an amendment by Representative William C. Cramer, (Rep., Fla.), designed to prevent vote frauds. Similar to one in the Senate bill, it would provide criminal penalties for giving fraudulent registration information.

Celler argued it could be used to hamper Negro vote registration drives. The amendment was approved at first by a narrow 136 to 132 on record vote. On a roll call demanded by Republicans it passed 253 to 165.

Despite the praise given him, the House handed Boggs a painful defeat on an amendment he proposed, which he said was particularly applicable to parts of his state where Negroes vote freely.

After adopting the amendment, 123 to 77, on a non-record vote, the House later reversed itself on a roll call and defeated it, 262 to 155.