

Voting Rights
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For Newton County Attack—
Harrison 4/2/65

Fulbright Aims Sharp Barbs at Congressman

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., suggested Thursday that a New York representative who cited Newton County, Ark., as evidence of voter registration discrimination might be misinformed.

"No more than two non-whites of voting age reside in Newton County out of a total non-white population of eight," Fulbright said in a Senate speech. "There is some question even in the collective mind of the Census Bureau as to whether either of them is a Negro."

Rep. John V. Lindsay, R-N.Y., in seeking broader voter rights legislation, cited the county as proof that such laws were needed. The New York Times supported Lindsay's stand.

"Who can question the need for broader legislation when such oracles as Mr. Lindsay and the New York Times note that, and I quote, 'In Newton County, Ark., for example, 78 per cent of the whites are registered (as

voters) and not one Negro?'" Fulbright asked.

"It is laudable that it matters not to the Times and Mr. Lindsay that no more than two non-whites of voting age" live in the county, he said.

"Many among us would lay the failure of these two poor disenfranchised souls to register to apathy or accident, but not such stalwarts of justice as the Times and Mr. Lindsay who know discrimination when they see it," Fulbright continued, adding:

"Some of us might wonder how successful federal registrars would be in signing up even 50 per cent of the non-white population of voting age inasmuch as the hills and gullies of Newton County, which lies deep in the Ozark Mountains, have often shielded residents of the area from federal officers who in the past have sought to aid the local populace in computing their excise tax liabilities."