Upswing in Negro Registration Noted as Major Trend in State Said Sparked by Union Leaders

Registration Is Still Incomplete But 900 Now On Books In East Baton Rouge

OVERALL TOTAL SMALL

None Registered In St. Landry, Evangeline, Vermilion; About 60 In Lafayette

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 6 (AP)—An increase in registration of negro voters in Louisiana has been noted in advance of the January 20, 1948 Democratic primary, particularly in Southwest Louisiana. There organized labor leaders have been reported urging their members, both white and negro, to register for voting.

Labor leaders have become more aggressive in political campaigns, seeking the election of officials favorable to organized labor, since passage of the Taft-Hartley Act.

As to the negro vote, however, slight strength has been shown thus far among the half million or more votes that Louisiana Democrats cast in the party primary.

A cross section of the more populous centers of the state, on the basis of incomplete registrations, shows about 3,000 negroes registered in these localities to date.

Approximately 6,000 of the 8,000 negroes are registered in New Orleans, where registration reached a record of 183,216 yesterday.

Although the Democratic party formerly qualified and registered as Democrats may vote in the primary, under the recent U. S. Supreme court ruling in the Texas case.

The division between Democratic and Republican registrations among the negroes registered in Orleans parish has not been tabulated.

However, in East Baton Rouge parish the latest figures show 900 negroes registered out of a total of about 36,000 registrations. Of the negroes about 500 are Democrats and 400 Republicans.

A heavy negro registration is under way at Crowley, with 350 registered out of about 22,000 registrations to date in Acadia parish.

Calcasieu parish (Lake Charles), showed 150 negroes registered, Lafayette approximately 60. Rapides (Alexandria) 35 and Jefferson Davis 70.

No negroes had been registered in St. Landry, Evangeline and Vermilion Parish.

The complete registration figures will not be known until the books close on Dec. 30, or 30 days before the primary.