

# Manasco Says Reds Seek to Oust Southern Congress Members

Assails Anti-Poll Tax  
Measure as House Debates  
Bringing Bill to Vote

By the Associated Press.

Representative Manasco, Democrat of Alabama, told the House today that "the Communists who are so active in behalf of the anti-poll tax bill \* \* \* are not nearly so anxious to extend voting privileges as they are to replace Southern members (of Congress) with members of their own ilk."

Mr. Manasco's comment, embodied in a speech prepared for the Congressional Record, came as the House prepared to vote on whether the Rules Committee shall be discharged from consideration of the anti-poll tax bill and the measure brought to the floor for a vote. The legislation would outlaw payment of a poll tax as a voting prerequisite.

Without mentioning any sponsors of the bill by name, Mr. Manasco labeled the American Communist Party—"The party that hates everything American and is too red for Stalin, who has just dissolved the Communist International"—as the source of dissension in this country.

## Plea Is Denounced.

The sponsors, Mr. Manasco said, "make the appeal that we must pass it now to show that we are for the Atlantic Charter and to prevent some of our Allies from withdrawing from the war."

"Could any intelligent American fall for this tripe?" he asked.

Southern members of the House, meanwhile, pinned their hopes on the Senate as a second line of defense to block the bill.

Leaders of the Southern group conceded there was little chance of defeating a move to force a vote on the floor.

Behind the move is a group of Northern Representatives led by Representative Marcantonio, American Labor, of New York, who contend that poll taxes amount to disfranchisement of Negro voters in the South in violation of the Constitution.

## House Passage Expected.

Against them are arrayed Representatives of seven Southern States levying poll taxes: Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi and Arkansas. Their contention is that the Constitution expressly reserves to the States the right to fix the qualifications of electors and that Congress would be exceeding its authority by attempting to lay down statutory qualifica-

tions.

Privately, the Southern bloc admitted there was no chance to stop the legislation in the House, which last year passed a similar bill by a vote of 252 to 84, only to have it killed in the Senate by a threat of a filibuster.

## Marcantonio Confident.

"It will get through the House again," one of their leaders declared, "but it will never get out of the Senate. Senator Norris, who helped bring it to the Senate floor last year, no longer is there, and Majority Leader Barkley won't be so anxious to get tangled up in another poll tax battle such as he went through last year, when his leadership of the Senate was in jeopardy for a time."

But Representative Marcantonio was unperturbed about the Senate outlook.

"We waited too late last year," the New Yorker said. "When the bill finally reached the Senate, the session was nearing an end, and a filibuster could be more effective. This year we are moving early, and I doubt if any one in the Senate could sustain a filibuster for a year and a half."

## Repeal of All Poll Taxes Urged by Mrs. Roosevelt

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, May 24 (AP).—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt favors repeal of all poll taxes as "a good thing," not only "for the colored people, but for all people."

Speaking here last night at the inauguration of the second annual city-wide Harlem week observance, attended by whites and negroes, she said questions of race prejudice would have to be faced by the Nation after the war, and "the patterns we set here will build foundations for the future."

She also suggested that "there should not be German communities, Scandinavian communities and other communities of the foreign-born" in this country, but there should "just be American communities."

Mrs. Roosevelt said that whenever she speaks on race prejudice she receives letters calling her "Enemy No. 1," and declared that persons writing the letters accuse her of stirring up the problem which, if left alone, would be solved by individuals.