

Black Political Potential in South Shown

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BLACK POTENTIAL IN SOUTH IS SHOWN

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

counties form what has been referred to as the historical Black Belt across South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi from 2,362 in Webster County, Ga.—1,379 blacks, or 58.4 per cent—to Dinwiddle County, Va., where there are 31,325 Negroes of a total 61,149, or 52.7 per cent.

Few Outside South

The figures showed almost a total absence of predominantly Negro counties outside the South. Several small counties in Maryland and Delaware were around the 50 per cent figure. A few counties in the North, notably Philadelphia county, and Essex County, N. J., had percentages near 50 per cent.

The 16 cities with predominantly black populations were Willow Brook, Calif., 82.3 per cent; Westmont, Calif., 80.6; Washington, 71.1; Compton, Calif., 71; East St. Louis, Ill., 69.1; East Cleveland, Ohio, 58.6; Florence-Graham, Calif., 56; Highland Park, Mich., 55.3; Petersburg, Va., 55.2; Newark, 54.2; East Orange, N. J., 53.1; Gary, Ind., 52.8; Bessemer, Ala., 52.2; Greenville, Miss., 52; Atlanta, 51.3, and Prichard, Ala., 50.5.

The most dramatic increase over the 10 years was in East Cleveland. In 1960, East Cleveland was 2.1 per cent Negro. Today, 23,196 of its 39,600 residents are black, or 58.1 per cent.

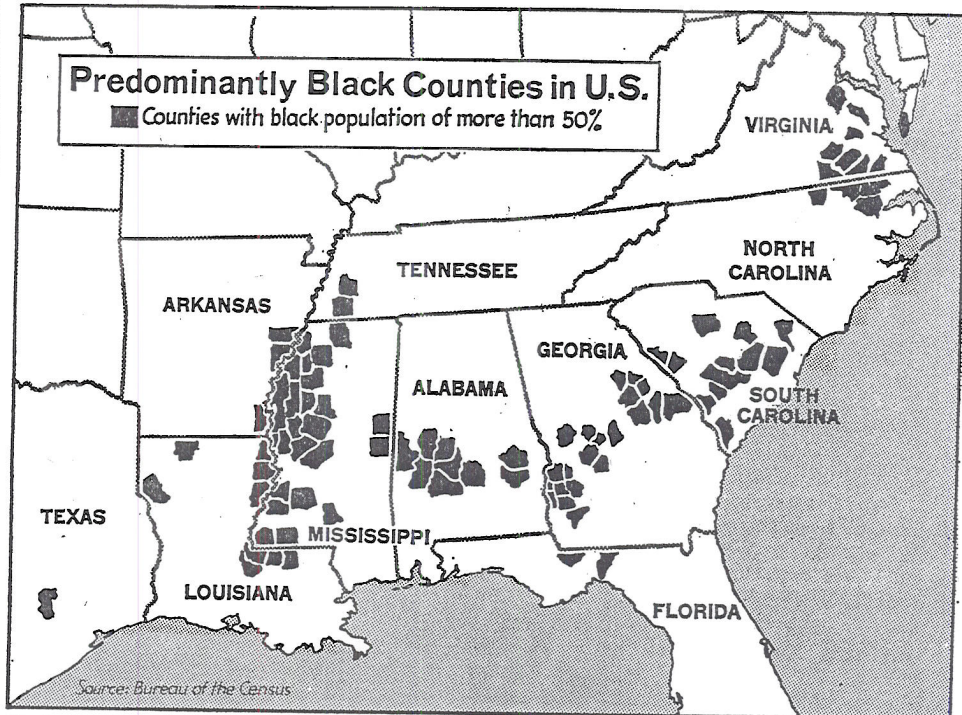
In Major Cities

Washington and Atlanta were the only two major cities with predominantly black populations. Others with high proportions of Negroes included Baltimore, 46.4; New Orleans, 45; Detroit, 43.7; St. Louis, 40.9, and Cleveland, 38.3.

New York City was still far ahead of others in over-all total of Negroes, with 1,666,636, or 21.2 per cent. Chicago followed, with 1,102,620, or 32.7 per cent. Detroit replaced Philadelphia for third place, with 660,428 to Philadelphia's 653,791.

Other census studies have shown that nearly half the Negro population is concentrated in 50 cities, with a third of the total in 15 cities. They also have disclosed that Southern blacks continued their migration North in the nineteen sixties at nearly the same high level of the two previous decades.

The absence of Charleston from the list of predominantly Negro cities is indicative of the outmigration of blacks from the South. The city was 50.8 per cent Negro in 1960 and 45.2 per cent in 1970.



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By PAUL DELANEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 5—The Bureau of the Census released today data that reaffirm the immense potential political power of Negroes in the South.

The latest findings, drawn from the 1970 census, show that 102 counties in the nation are at least 50 per cent black, all of them in 11 Southern states. The states are Virginia, North and South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

The list of the 102 counties did not change over the period between 1960 and 1970. All

but three of the counties lost percentage points — some as much as 10 points—indicating that Negroes were still leaving the South, as the Census Bureau previously reported.

However, in the context of the greatly improved political climate for Negroes since 1960, a census official said, "the political potential for blacks is tremendous." That potential can be seen in the fact that more than 200 blacks are running for office in Mississippi this year.

The data also show a dramatic increase in the number of cities where Negroes constitute at least 50 per cent of the population. In 1960, only three

cities with populations of at least 25,000 were 50 per cent or more black. They were the District of Columbia, Charleston S.C., and Bessemer, Ala. Today the total is 16, most of which are small cities.

The 102 counties that are predominantly Negro form almost a contiguous band stretching from south Virginia to Louisiana. Only one county in Texas, Waller, is predominantly Negro, while two in Tennessee and Florida, three in Arkansas and nine in Louisiana are mostly black.

Thus, the heaviest concentration of predominantly Negro

Continued on Page 16, Column 4