

## 'Discrimination' Against Virginia

# Byrd Charges Vote Bill Exempts Tex

WASHINGTON, April 1— (AP)—Senator Byrd called the administration's voting rights bill Thursday a "vicious bill" which "clearly bears the unreasonable stamp of hysteria."

In a statement, Virginia's senior senator said he has analyzed the bill's provisions and "they are iniquitous in effect and contemptible in design."

"The proposal is made in the name of voting justice. It

would be less hypocritical and more accurate to describe it as federal law designed for vindictive use against six states selected in advance.

"It is a proposal grossly to offend Virginia; and not only this. It is subversive of the Constitution of the United States and the whole system under which we are governed."

Byrd said the administration and Attorney General

Katzenbach "demonstrate the bias and prejudice under which the bill was conceived and with which it will be enforced. The bill itself is literally based on discrimination as between states."

He said that Katzenbach "has said he will incriminate Virginia and exempt Texas."

"When the federal Attorney General was asked why Texas was to be exempt, he said 'Texas is out for the reason that it does not have

a literacy test. The literacy tests are the devices that have been primarily used in order to prevent Negroes from registering."

Byrd compared the voting tests and other requirements for voting in Texas and Virginia, and produced copies of the election codes from the two states. But, he said, "they would pin a rose on Texas, but incriminate Virginia."

Byrd said the Civil Rights Commission has failed to find

any racially motivated incidents to voting rights.

He said there "in the Virginia Constitution or statutes which honestly interpret discriminatory voting rights or registration. I doubt that the attorney General can state where it is easier for any one than it is in Virginia where election practices are cleaner."

## West Point Mail Hopes Brighten

Times-Dispatch News Bureau

WEST POINT, April 1—John A. O'Brien, chief of the delivery services branch of the Washington regional office of the Post Office Department, told the board of directors of the West Point Area Improvement Association Thursday night that there is a "good chance" that door-to-door mail delivery will be started in the town if the department can be assured that local citizens would patronize the service.

"The association has been trying to get home delivery established in the town for several years."

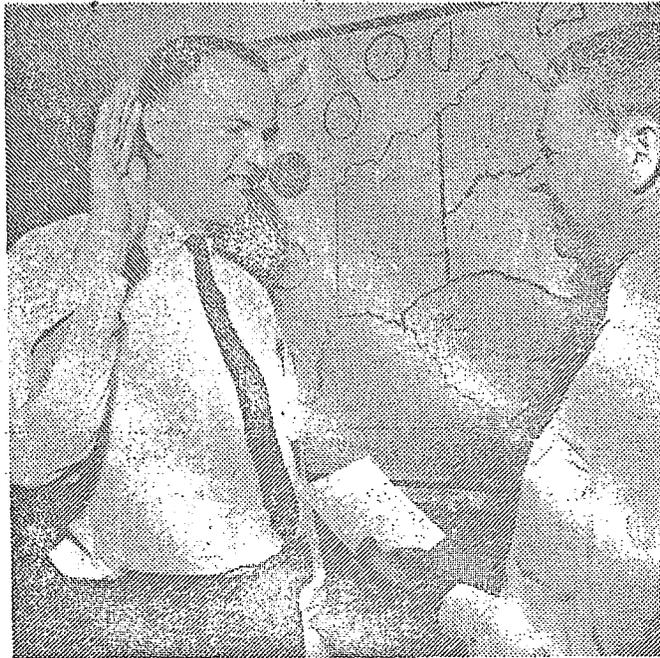
O'Brien told the board, the Post Office Department has requirement under law which must be met before city delivery can be established.

For city delivery to be established in any town, O'Brien told the board, the local postoffice must show receipts of at least \$10,000 for the previous fiscal year, have a population of at least 2,500, have hard-surfaced streets, street signs at every intersection, a uniform numbering system in the area to be served, nailboxes or slots at each building, and at least 50 percent of the delivery area must be comprised of homes or businesses.

Most Requirements Met

"You meet the requirements in most instances," O'Brien said. He noted, however, that the original "old" part of West Point does not meet the population requirement. He said that 2,500 population requirement does not apply to the entire incorporated area of the town but only to that part which would receive home delivery.

O'Brien said that, including the recently-annexed Port Richmond area, a survey indicates that West Point has approximately 2,236 residents in the area which would be served. Under his plan, there would be home delivery by walking carrier in the old section of town and home delivery by city carriers on vehicles in the Port Richmond area.



A. T. Baskerville, New Secretary, Sworn In  
Dinwiddie Clerk H. Barner Batte Gives Oath

## Executive Secretary

# Dinwiddie Man Assumes New Post

By James Ezzell

Times-Dispatch News Bureau

DINWIDDIE, April 1—A native of Dinwiddie county, 30-year-old A. Terrell Baskerville, began work here Thursday as the county's first executive secretary.

And his first day on the job saw him issue a building permit—but "only after making sure everything conformed with the zoning regulations," Baskerville cautioned as he discussed his first few hours in his new position.

Baskerville, who lives near McKenney, was appointed to the \$6,000-a-year post March 23 by the board of supervisors. It interviewed more than a half-dozen applicants before selecting "one of our own."

As county executive officer he will be administrator of the county's zoning and subdivision ordinances, handle personnel matters, and serve as secretary to the board of supervisors and planning commission, besides carrying out other duties assigned by the supervisors.

Friday the young administrator plans to confer with Thomas

Batchelor, Prince George county's executive secretary, who recently took the reigns in that county. "There's much to learn and I want to read and talk with those who can assist me," Baskerville said.

Batte Will Help Him

Since he was hired late last month Baskerville has spent hours reading the zoning and subdivision ordinances. "I learn something new each time I go over them," he said in an interview.

For the time being Baskerville will be quartered in a small office located in the circuit court clerk's office. He noted this will be an asset since it will be H. Barner Batte, the clerk, who will be "showing him the ropes" for the next 30 to 60 days.

Already Baskerville is doing homework reading the minutes of board meetings to acquaint himself with the problems he might be facing in future months.

His first meeting with the supervisors in his official capacity will come Wednesday when the board convenes for its April session.

## Voting Rights Bill Sham, Says But

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discrimination in voting, it arbitrarily applies to certain states "which both the administration and Congress know are guiltless of racial discrimination in this field."

Some Excluded

At the same time, Button observed, the bill excludes "other states in which racial discrimination is known by the administration and Congress to exist."

The Congress could easily achieve fairness and effectiveness by approving a bill applying uniformly to every political subdivision in the country where racial discrimination exists, Button continued.

He thus endorsed a suggested amendment offered by Kilpatrick during his two-hour morning appearance before the committee.

Kilpatrick proposed that every political subdivision in the nation—there are some 3,100 of them—be required to submit annually to an appropriate federal agency statistical data, by race, on voter registration.

Basis for Decision

He suggested that there be a prima facie assumption of racial discrimination if the percentage of non-white (Negro) registration is less than half that of the white registration.

Even in this event, under Kilpatrick's proposal, no corrective action would be taken unless someone formally complained of discrimination to the authorities.

Kilpatrick said a federally appointed registrar would then come into the community and, with local authorities, register citizens in accordance with local statutes.

He stressed that Virginia would not be excluded from his bill, observing that the percentage of registered Negroes is less than half that of whites in 32 of Virginia's 96 counties and in four of its 34 independent cities.

He told the committee that Virginia shouldn't be automati-

cally punished as the registration bill would require because of some "legislative shams" in some Deep South states.

In response to a question from Sen. Tydings (D-Md.), Button said he favored the bill because it would raise the poll tax and local elections, "violently" so.

Button, responding to questions from Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) about "blank paper" registration, he has approved a form which has been distributed to registrars throughout the state.

Button said he has "advised" that the form be used under the Constitution he cannot be used for their use.

Defended Literacy

Gray suggested to the committee an amendment which Virginia would not be required to accept from the administration bill. He defended the literacy tests.

To outlaw the tests they have been used in places to effectuate discrimination "is like motherhood because children grow up to be men," Gray declared.

The Virginia NAACP's statement that registrars have been barred by federal courts from being required to register Negroes brought their own blank forms when they came to qualify to vote.

"We do not know of any who have not heard of any who have been denied registration for failure to make application," Tucker said in his statement.

No Application Required  
"We do know that there have been registrars being required to write an application."

In rural Southside "some of the officials often unavailable when they want to register," Tucker said.

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