

ON POLL TAX

Vote suit appears imminent for state

With a Justice Department suit filed in federal court Saturday to strike down Mississippi's poll tax law, a similar suit appeared imminent in Alabama.

However, a Justice Department attorney who has worked extensively in Alabama said he knew of no immediate plans for such a suit.

U. S. District Atty. Macon Weaver, at home in Huntsville, said late Saturday he hasn't received orders to file such a suit. He said Justice Department attorney might file themselves by-passing him.

In Alabama, the poll tax is \$1.50 a year, with payment for the previous year required to vote in a current election. Thus a voter who had paid no tax in 1964 would be required to pay \$3 in 1965 to vote in a current election, unless he had just turned 21.

Veterans and those over 45 are exempt from the poll tax in Alabama.

UNDER MISSISSIPPI'S LAW, state voters must pay \$2 a year to cast ballots in state elections. Federal elections in all states were made exempt from the tax by a recent constitutional amendment.

"We are confident the poll tax requirements will be struck down as unconstitutional," said Atty. Gen. Nicholas B. Katzenbach, in Washington.

Poll taxes have long been criticized as having been imposed to discourage voting by

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—The Alabama State Sovereignty Commission filed suits in Federal Court seeking to keep registration in the hands of Alabama registration officials. The suit seeks a complete re-registration in eight counties on a non-discriminatory basis.

—The Justice Department was expected to file a suit this morning seeking to nullify Alabama's poll tax requirement.

—The Rev. Martin Luther King said a 25-member task force is ready to move into the four Alabama counties to urge Negroes to take advantage of the federal registration.

Suit Strikes At Alabama Poll Tax

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The opening of a new front in the federal war on voter discrimination was completed today with the filing of suits challenging the poll tax in Alabama, Texas and Virginia.

Justice Department attorneys led suits in federal courts at Montgomery, Ala.; Austin, Tex., and Richmond, Va. seeking to abolish the \$1.50 poll taxes in those states.

A similar suit was filed Saturday against Mississippi, the other poll tax state, under a section of the newly enacted voting rights law directing that all remaining poll taxes be challenged.

Today's suits, like the one in Mississippi, supported a congressional finding in the law that the poll tax bears no reasonable relationship to any legitimate state interest in the