

ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE

Screening Committee Minutes of the March 21, 1970 Meeting

The Screening Committee of the Alabama Democratic Conference met Saturday, March 21, 1970 at the Whitley Hotel in Montgomery, Alabama at 1:30 p.m. Joe Reed, Chairman, presided.

Invocation was given by the Rev. F. D. Reese of Selma, Alabama. Following the Invocation the chairman asked each member present to introduce himself.

The chairman gave a brief history of the Conference, pointed to some of its successes, and stated its purposes. He reminded the group of the challenge ahead, and stated that it could only be met through a united effort on the part of everyone, which could best be achieved by having representatives from all Counties in Alabama involved.

The chairman then asked the group to react to certain questions.

I. What should be considered when selecting a candidate?

Answers from the audience.

- A. Background and qualification.
- B. What the candidate will do to advance the cause of Black People.
- C. The candidate's chances for winning.
- D. The candidate's supporters and his source of finance (how independent he is financially).

II. Should the ADC have a Marked Ballot in the May Primary?

After a healthy discussion the chairman called for the advantages and the disadvantages.

A. Disadvantages

- 1. Marked Ballots have been sold in certain areas.
- 2. Candidates have lost because their names appeared on the Marked Ballot, and because some people automatically vote against them when our group endorses them.

B. Advantages

- 1. Ballots will aid those who do not read well or fast.
- 2. Since there is no way to stop others from distributing ballots, people need to know what organizations are recommending certain candidates. In our case, the ballot should show identity with ADC.
- 3. Organize the local unit in such a way that the ballot can be gotten out late and yet be effective.

The group unanimously agreed to support the ADC Standard Policy that "People should be encouraged to vote in all elections", and that a special effort should be made to vote in the May 5 Primary.

- III. The group considered the question of printing the ballot. It was agreed that the County Unit would try to endorse their candidates before the State Meeting so that when the ADC makes its endorsement the County and State endorsement can be added to the same ballot and sent to the printer. Because of the cost each County Unit would be expected to pay for the printing of its own ballot. However, in counties where there is a shortage of funds, finance from ADC will be given.

For Legislative Congressional State Board of Education and other races, where more than one county must elect a candidate, the chairman informed the group that provision would be made for those county leaders to make their endorsement at the State Meeting.

- IV. The chairman then took up the structure of the Screening Committee. He said that requests had been sent to leaders throughout the State and over three-fourths (3/4) of the persons had returned their cards indicating that they would serve. He noted that only one person was unable to accept. Mr. Reed pointed out that there would be several Sub-Committees but that no person would be officially appointed to a Sub-Committee unless he had signed and returned the card.

He then asked the group to suggest the number of Sub-Committees we should have. By common consensus the group suggested to a Sub-Committee for each office except the Attorney General and the Justice for the Supreme and Appeals Court. The latter two officers would be placed under one committee. The Sub-Committees are as follows:

- I. Governor
- II. Lt. Governor
- III. Attorney General, Supreme Court and Court of Appeals
(Arthur Shores was appointed Chairman)
- IV. Auditor
- V. Treasurer
- VI. Commissioner of Agriculture
- VII. Public Service Commissioner

Each person present was asked to list three committees he would like to serve on in order of preference.

The chairman assured the members that he would do everything possible to put them on one of the committees they requested. He indicated that he would consult the other officers in making the appointments.

Each member of the committee was asked to forward to the chairman, as soon as possible, any information (good or bad) he or she had on any candidate seeking a State Office.

The committee agreed to meet Friday night, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 to review the records and screen candidates and make a final report on Sunday, April 26. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Each member pledged himself to support the candidates endorsed at the Statewide Meeting on April 25-26.

Jacqueline Jacobs, Secretary
Joe L. Reed, Chairman

ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE

853 THURMAN STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

CHAIRMAN:

JOE L. REED
853 Thurman Street
Montgomery

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members ADC Screening Committee

FROM: Joe L. Reed, Chairman

RE: Minutes of the Screening Committee

VICE CHAIRMAN:

PETER HALL, ATTORNEY
1630 Fourth Avenue, N.
Birmingham

Please find enclosed a copy of the Alabama Democratic Conference Screening Committee Minutes of the March 21, 1970 Meeting. Please read them carefully and make plans to attend the next meeting, which is scheduled for the week of April 24-26.

SECRETARY:

MRS. JACQUELINE JACOBS
2063 Tucker Avenue
Mobile

For those of you who were not present, please note that a Sub-Committee for each Statewide Office has been created. Please forward to me in order of preference the names of three Sub-Committees to which you desire to be appointed.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

ORAN F. FRAZIER
210 Shipp Street
Evergreen

In the meantime, we are enclosing the Screening Committee Registration card for those persons who do not have a card presently on file. You may have returned it previously, but somehow, it was misplaced. We are, therefore, requesting that you complete another one.

TREASURER:

Dr. C. G. GOMILLION
308 Bibb Street
Tuskegee

Please return this by April 10 so that we may officially assign you to the committee.

Remember, if we do not enclose a card in your letter--we already have one on file for you.

The Committee will meet Friday, April 24 at the Whitley Hotel.

PARLIAMENTARIAN:

ALVIN H. HOLMES
P.O. Box 6064
Montgomery

Please remember also to return the form with the names and addresses of the Negro candidates from your County seeking office in the May Primary by April 11.

JLR

CORRESPONDING AND
PRESS SECRETARY:

JOHN L. BUSKEY
1020 Faculty Circle
Montgomery