

Representative Frank F. Twitty of Mitchell, a Vandiver leader in the house, took the floor to oppose Hawkins' poll tax proposals to plug for passage of the bill.

"There has been some misapprehension on how the lieutenant governor and his friends stand on voter registration," Twitty said.

"I want to tell you here and now that all of us favor as stringent voter qualifications as possible," he said.

But Twitty said he did not "believe in taxing a man's right to vote." He said repeal of the poll tax had been a good thing for the State.

"Let's tighten voter qualifications, but let's not put a tax on a man's right to vote," he said.

He said the bill would give local registrars the "weapon" they need to combat "insidious organizations" such as the NAACP by keeping off the registration rolls those "who ought not to be there."

"Let's give the local registrars the weapon they need to preserve the southern way of life as we know it in Georgia," Twitty said.

Representative Raymond M. Reed of Cobb County warned that the NAACP would "school" Negroes to enable them to pass the 30-question test proposed by the bill.

"But who is going to school the poor white people who can't pass the test?" Reed asked. "If you want to play into the hand of the NAACP, this test will do it."

Representative William M. Campbell of Walker County warned that measures such as the voting bill would "drive the Negroes into the NAACP."

"We haven't got the Negro problem in our county that some of you have," Campbell said. "We control them and we don't have to come to the legislature and ask for help to do it."

Representative W. K. Smith of Bryan urged against any change in present voting laws.

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STATE LAW PAVES ROUGH, RUGGED ROAD TO BALLOT BOX—TOUGH ON REGISTRARS AND APPLICANTS

(By Margaret Shannon)

There's a strange new road ahead to the ballot box for Georgians who want to vote this year, but who hadn't registered by last Tuesday.

That's the day Governor Griffin signed into law the voter registration bill passed in the closing days of the 1958 general assembly.

With that stroke of his pen, he scrapped existing registration procedure and fouled up—at least temporarily—the machinery for qualifying to vote.

All persons registered by last Tuesday stay registered. Although some sources placed a contrary interpretation on the act, the attorney general's office has said no one already on the list has to reregister.

Since this is the year a governor and other statehouse officers are elected, as well as a whole general assembly, it's a big political year and a time when voter registration usually picks up.

It looks as if it's going to be tough on registrars and applicants alike for the next few weeks.

The new registration measure, as passed by the legislature, provided no future effective date and therefore automatically became effective when Governor Griffin signed it.

So there was no changeover period provided for, and the registration deadline for this year's election was only 6 weeks away. It is May 3.

The attorney general's office has been advising county boards of registrars just to shut up shop until they can get new registration cards and otherwise prepare to administer the new law.

That seemed likely to cut 10 days or 2 weeks off the remaining registration time and make for more of a jam than ever at the last minute, particularly in urban areas.

Nobody exactly plotted the squeeze that has developed. A spokesman for the legislature-created election laws study committee, which proposed the legislation, said that group expected its proposals to pass early in the session and be signed promptly by Governor Griffin.