

[1944?]

Statements by Hubert H. Humphrey Jr. - Friday evening
January 7, Unitarian Center -

"The Green - Lucas bill for federal administration of a simplified ballot system provides a workable method of permitting the men and women of our armed forces to vote in the 1944 elections. A bi-partisan commission would be established empowered to draw up all the necessary regulations and to insure adequate supervision of the national poll among the members of the armed services.

The substitute Eastland - McKellar bill approved by the Senate 42 to 37, which practically disenfranchises members of the armed services by ~~asking~~ asking the States to ease absentee voting, should be defeated by our Congress as a cheap fraud and political trick.

Yes, the Senate substitute bill is the worst type of subterfuge. All of our Senators ^{their} reactionary associates of the North know full well that no effective system of State absentee election laws for the soldier can be or will be devised.

Here are the facts as to State absentee ~~elect~~ voting election laws:

- (1) Seven (7) States do not provide for absentee votes in their primaries
- (2) Three States do not permit any absentee votes ~~over~~ from overseas
- (3) Most States require that each absentee voter apply by mail for the ballot
- (4) Eleven (11) allow only 20 days or less between the time ~~of~~ ^{the} application is received in the home State and the time the absentee ballot arrives for counting
- (5) Thirty three (33) States (including Minnesota) allow only thirty days for the absentee

vote process.

6. nine (a) States have poll tax requirements and other States have other ~~reg~~ regulations and procedures which literally exclude the possibility of absentee voting.

Remember, in the elections of 1942, only a little over 27,000 soldiers cast valid ballots under a law similar to the proposed Eastland-McKellar substitute measure.

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The year 1944 ~~is~~ will be one of the most crucial in our history. Can anyone dare defend a contemptible political trick on the part of reactionary forces to deprive 12,000,000 of our men and women of their right & privilege of voting.

To those who are at home, I say,

the 12,000,000 members of our armed forces are the selected youth of America. These men and women are far above the average in mental capacity; they are informed, educated, and experienced people. They have a right to vote, and to vote without unnecessary handicaps of out-moded ^{peace-time} regulations.

If our government and our nation can ask men to fight and die for democracy, then surely it can and must see to it that these same american citizens be protected in their right to vote for democracy.

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We have no time to lose in setting into motion the machinery required to insure the voting of our armed forces. This waiting, and passing the buck by the States to the Congress, and the Congress to the States, is

nothing but boondoggling ~~the~~
and a mockery of democratic government.
Congress must Act and Act at once.

~~##~~

~~The granting of~~

" apparently some body in America is
afraid of the results which may follow
from the votes of the members of the
armed forces, the Green-Tucas
bill

makes a mockery of our democratic
processes of government. Congress
alone can act.

" If the Federal Government sends citizens forth to die, it can likewise protect their voting rights and privileges in so doing "

Scuttling of Green - Lucas Bill is part of a conspiracy to keep the 1944 elections safe for reaction.

We have the spectacle of our finest men making every sacrifice to win a war for the survival of democracy, while the Senate prevents them from exercising their basic democratic right - the right to vote.

Green - Lucas bill provides:

Bi-Partisan Commission of 4, to be reinforced
by an additional member if necessary,
to draw up all the regulations & supervise
the national poll among men & women
of armed forces.

In 1942 - only 281 servicemen voted in Va.

only 89 in Mississippi

only 28,000 total absentee soldier votes

Lucas - Green Soldier vote Bill

Labor Repres A-7-L Eastland Substitute
C. I. O
Brotherhood

2 1/2 million trade Unionists in Service

12 million men in armed forces will not be able
to vote under present arrangement.

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The substitute Eastland - McClellan - McKellar
bill passed by the Senate, which practically
disfranchises members of the armed forces
by merely asking the States to facilitate
absentee voting, should be defeated in the
house as a despicable subterfuge.

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only 7 state Legislatures meet in 1944.
under Fed conduct of vote - no Poll tax requirements

1942 Election



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