

## Beall Properly Wants Democratic City Rule

(AN EDITORIAL)

DEMOCRATS of Pensacola will commend Senator Beall for his action to prevent what is alleged to be an attempt on the part of the present city administration to organize, and use for its own purpose, the negro vote in the coming municipal election.

No one objects to the negro voting. A large number of them use the ballot intelligently. But every person, including most of the negroes who are recognized as good citizens, will resent any effort on the part of any clique to manipulate the colored vote as a balance of power in the city election.

It is regrettable that City Manager George J. Roark, recognized as the political strategist of the present administration, had to inject this sort of politics into the election. Colored folks have been welcomed at the polls heretofore because the white population of the city felt that they are entitled to a free expression of their desires in the matter of municipal government. However, it is doubtful if they, themselves, desire to participate in an election in which they are given the franchise on a marked-ballot basis, or in which they would be expected, as a condition, to support any given slate.

Two years ago this newspaper was successful in its fight to exclude partisan politics from the municipal election. It felt at that time that Pensacola, being overwhelmingly Democratic, could hold a city election without dividing the people into parties. With the threat of Roark to use the colored vote, always a Republican vote, as a balance of power, however, it appears that the only thing to do is to have a Democratic primary and an election. The burden of the additional expense, if any, is upon Roark and the present city administration.

Members of the city and county Democratic executive committees, who have petitioned Senator Beall for the primary, appear to have good and sufficient grounds for their action. It is a well known fact that Roark is in almost daily conference with the recognized leader of the Republican party in this section. It also is a well known fact that another Republican and the erstwhile candidate for representative and other offices on that ticket is an almost constant companion of the city manager behind closed doors at the city hall.

Pensacola is a city of white folks. Negroes have their place. A great majority of them are good citizens. But, when we are selecting men who are to govern us, we do not want any balance of power to be in the hands of the colored people. Nor do we believe they want it.

Pensacola Democrats should wire Senator Beall expressing their appreciation of his measure and encouraging him, and other members of the Escambia county delegation, to expedite action on it.