

## Democrats Rule In All States Of Old South

SENATOR BEALL'S efforts to pass legislation which will preserve the supremacy of the Democratic party in the coming municipal election is not unusual. Such action has been taken in almost every instance in the South where a clique has attempted to control elections through control of the colored vote.

The unusual angle comes in the apparent belief on the part of someone within the ranks of the present city administration that Pensacola Democrats would countenance such a thing as the organization and instruction of the colored vote.

The Florida law regarding the voting of colored persons is quite plain and it is unfortunate that the drafters of the Pensacola city charter did not make proper and specific provision for the observance of the same customs in municipal elections. Florida Democrats bar negroes from membership in the party. To make the case tighter, Florida law permits only members of the party to vote in primaries. The Republican party is the only other group recognized by law and entitled to hold primaries. Republicans in this state, however, use the convention system.

In Texas, home state of City Manager George J. Roark, citizens have demonstrated perfect ability to properly control the negro question within the constitution. A recent statement by Attorney General William McGraw of the Lone Star State, when he commented on the barring of negroes from jury duty, is quoted as follows: "Generally when negroes are drawn for service a suitable excuse is presented and always accepted." In addition Texas Democrats in state convention barred colored persons from primaries by ruling and this rule was upheld by the supreme court the early part of this month.

Arkansas Democrats control their party with methods similar to those of Florida Democrats. In Georgia there is no law, but it is a custom and voting by negroes in a primary "just isn't done."

Louisiana and Mississippi require persons registering to "interpret" any portion of the constitution the registrar may put his finger on. In the case of negroes the registrar is hard to satisfy.

Alabama requires the prospective voter be able to read, write and understand the constitution. The voter also may be a freholder.

South Carolina Democrats require both whites and negroes to read and interpret the constitution relative to voting, qualifications. Educational qualifications form an obstacle to participation in Virginia Democratic primaries. Another bar in Virginia is whether the negro has ever voted republican.

In North Carolina most negroes make no effort to vote although there is no legal barrier. Tennessee allows negroes to vote but Arkansas Democrats require that voters be white and the customary 21.

Republicans have sought, ever since the War Between the States, to grasp control of politics in the South. For a time they were successful in wresting control by force from the white people and placing it in the hands of colored people. History tells us what happened. Modern Republicans have not ceased the effort and are delighted to find a situation similar to the Pensacola municipal election situation in which they may swing the traditionally Republican colored vote into action to save this or that politician and thus enter an opening Republican wedge in the politics of a community. It has been tried elsewhere but tried and true Democrats have always found a way to keep control in the hands of the white population.