

Congress Of Racial Equality - CORE
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STATEMENT OF JAMES FARMER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, CORE, ON THE NOVEMBER 2nd ELECTIONS

New York City, November 5th, 1965 - "The Negro community flexed its political muscles on Tuesday. For those who thought we were tied to one political party's tail the 43% of Negroes who voted for John Lindsay in New York, the 85,230 persons who voted for Independent Assemblyman Carl Stokes in Cleveland, and the 52% of the Negro vote which meant the election of liberal Republican Kenneth Schmied as Mayor of Louisville showed that to be false."

It is now crystal clear for all to see that the Negro will use the vote as a weapon -- the captive of no party, the shaper of his own destiny, demanding that his needs be served."

"To receive the Negroes support at the voting booth action must be taken on the local and national level to merit it. As a first step in this direction, the federal government can and must 1) enforce the present laws and support new legislation to protect the lives and persons of Negroes, 2) make discrimination in housing illegal, 3) act to end unemployment among Negroes which is now nearly 10% and 4) block the expenditure of federal funds in school districts north and south where discrimination continues to exist -- and the place to start is in Boston, Massachusetts where, despite a massive Negro vote, five old-guard Democrats pledged to maintaining a segregated school system there were elected to the School Committee."

"To bring together those who have participated in this week's impressive display of voter independence and to share their experiences, I am calling for a national conference of independent voters to be held in New York early this winter."