

registered and that the purported affidavit was made for the purpose of challenging the registrant to remain on the roll of registered voters. Such affidavits were filed challenging every one of the 2,389 Negro voters in Ward 10. None of the 4,054 white voters in that ward were challenged. With respect to another ward, Ward 3, such affidavits were filed challenging 1,008 of the 1,523 Negro voters. Only 23 of the white voters in Ward 3 were challenged. The registrar accepted their affidavits even though she knew that each affiant had not examined the registration cards of each registered voter he was challenging. On the basis of these affidavits, citations were mailed out in large groups requiring the challenged voters to appear within ten days to prove their qualifications. Registrants of the Negro race responded to these citations in large numbers. During the months of April and May large lines of Negro registrants seeking to prove their qualifications formed before the registrar's office, starting as early as 5:00 a.m. The registrar and her deputy refused to hear offers of proof of qualifications on behalf of any more than 50 challenged registrants per day. Consequently, most of the Negro registrants were turned away from the registrar's office and were denied any opportunity to establish their proper registration. Thereafter, the registrar struck the names of such registrants from the rolls. With respect to those registrants who were lucky enough to gain admission to the registrar's office, the registrar imposed requirements in connection with meeting the challenge which were in violation of Louisiana law. The registrar refused to accept as witnesses, on behalf of challenged voters, registered voters of the parish who resided in a precinct other than the challenged voter or who had themselves been challenged or had already acted as witnesses for any other challenged voter. By these means the number of registered Negro voters in Ouachita Parish was reduced by October 4, 1956 from approximately 4,000 to 694.

