Larry Lieber, Comic Book: Your Future Rests... In Your Hands, 1964.
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09640.160)
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Once last week the real estate market has fluctuated. Values have increased. Property is scarce.

In just one week?

Honey, don’t you get it? The words are different. But it’s the same old story.

Mister Jones is asking us to pay twenty thousand more than the house is worth. Twenty thousand more than he would ask a white person to pay... because he knows that we can’t afford it.

Therefore he keeps us from moving here. The all-white neighborhood remains all-white... and we remain in our ghetto... that about it, Mister Jones?

Well, I wouldn’t put it exactly like that...

Why not? It’s the truth! Good-bye, Mister Jones. It was a real pleasure to meet an unprejudiced man!

And not far away, in an old, run-down, segregated school...

Can I use the microscope when you’re finished?

Sorry, but Joe is waiting to use it...

And Ben gets it after me; it won’t be your turn until tomorrow, pal.
GOSH! I haven't been able to get my hands on a microscope all week. How can I do the work they assign us?

We're all in the same boat, Paul. The class is so overcrowded. That there just isn't enough equipment to go around.

And even worse... the few gadgets we do have are all so old. That they're in crummy shape.

Yeah! There isn't a microscope in school that hasn't a scratched lens.

But you know, it would sure be different if we were white! Those kids get all the breaks!

They go to new schools that aren't overcrowded. They have the latest equipment.

Their classrooms even have bigger windows to let in more light so the kids don't strain their eyes when they study their lessons, like we do.

I sure wish we had a decent school to go to.

I wonder why we don't get one?

My dad says that's just the way things are... and they'll never change!
AND UNFORTUNATELY, THE LAST BOY SPEAKS THE TRUTH, FOR FAR TOO MANY GROWNUPS DO FEEL THE SITUATION IS HOPELESS! AMONG THEM ARE JOHN TRAVERS AND FRED WALKER...

They turned me down, even though I was qualified for the job. I tell you some of those folks would rather see us on relief, than give us a chance to earn a decent living.

AND EVEN WHEN WE DO EARN A DECENT SALARY, THEY PREVENT US FROM MOVING INTO A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD BY ALL SORTS OF DECEPTIVE PRACTICES.

Well, it don't do any good to complain. It's the white folks who run the show... and they run it to suit themselves!

RIGHT! THE BIG SHOTS DOWN AT CITY HALL DON'T GIVE A HANG ABOUT US TO THEM. WE'RE JUST AN UNIMPORTANT MINORITY!

We're a minority, all right, but you're wrong about us. We're not unimportant. We can really 'do somethin' if we want to.

That sounds real good, fella... but I don't believe a word of it!

Say, I haven't seen you around here before, have I?

Nah! He's a stranger! He don't understand our problems!

My name is Steve Baxter. I'm an N.A.A.C.P. VOTER REGISTRATION COMMITTEE MEMBER! And though I've just arrived here I've seen this same situation in countless other places and I know that things can be improved!

Yeah? Who's gonna do it for us?
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YOUR FUTURE RESTS... IN YOUR HANDS, 1964

**Panel 1:** Gee... I never thought of it that way before.

**Panel 2:** Well, start thinking about it now! Because they need your votes, officials on all levels of government will do things for you.

**Panel 3:** They'll pass laws to end segregation. They'll help you achieve better job opportunities. You'll no longer be treated like second-class citizens.

**Panel 4:** Now, the NAACP voter registration committee wants to help you to register so you can vote. There'll be a meeting Friday night and I'd like all of you to attend.

**Panel 5:** And so, that Friday night at the neighborhood church...

**Panel 6:** I don't know why I came here. I don't really believe that voting will do us what Baxter says.

**Panel 7:** I don't believe him either. But I figure, I'll hear his whole pitch before I make up my mind.

**Panel 8:** There he is now. Quiet down. Let's listen to him talk.

**Panel 9:** Evening, folks. I'll try to make this short and to the point.

**Panel 10:** Before a man can vote, he must register! Now every state has different requirements for registration, some are easy and some are hard.

**Panel 11:** But in almost every state you have to give these following things...

**Panel 12:** Your age where you were born, your address how long you've lived in the state, how long you've lived in the county, how long at your present address, the party you choose, if any.

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And Bentley is not alone in his appraisal. For even on election day, many negroes feel the same way!

Do you think we really have a chance to get Cooper elected? I mean, Bentley has all the town’s powerful forces in his corner.

Let me tell you something about voting. It’s the great American equalizer!

What do you mean? A bank president may be bigger and more influential than a truck driver, but when they’re in a voting booth, they have exactly the same power. They can each cast only one vote.

I get your point! Voting is the thing that makes our country a democracy!

Right! The ballot is the way the people throughout this land make their needs known to those who govern us.

And we have as much right to express our will by voting as any other citizen!

And when the election returns are in... but only by a margin of 356 votes out of a total of 28,865 votes. Do you realize what that means?

Of course! Without the support of our negro vote, Cooper never could have won! We put him into office.

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AND THAT FACT DOES NOT ESCAPE THE TOWN’S NEW MAYOR!

WHAT DO YOU INTEND DOING ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN PROMISES TO THE NEGROES?

I INTEND KEEPING EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM! AFTER ALL, THERE’LL BE ANOTHER ELECTION IN A COUPLE OF YEARS AND IF I RENEGE ON MY PROMISES YOU CAN BE SURE THOSE FOLKS WON’T VOTE FOR ME AGAIN!

YOU CAN BE SURE IF I EVER RUN FOR OFFICE AGAIN, I’LL DO ALL I CAN TO WIN THEIR SUPPORT!

AND MAYOR COOPER ISN’T THE ONLY ONE WITH NEW-FOUND RESPECT FOR A LONG IGNORED MINORITY GROUP!

LOOKS LIKE WE MADE A MISTAKE IN UNDER-ESTIMATING THE NEGRO VOTERS!

SURE, THE TRiumPHANT VOTERS RECEIVE THE FRUITS OF THEIR VICTORY...

I’M PROPOSING NEW LAWS OUT-LAWING ALL DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING, PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT!

WE’RE ALSO RE-ZONING THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE MORE INTEGRATION THROUGHOUT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM!

THAT’S WONDERFUL!

AND BECAUSE I REALIZE THAT EVEN THE BEST LAWS ARE NO MORE PERFECT THAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES ARE, I WILL MEET WITH YOUR COMMITTEE REGULARLY TO DISCUSS WAYS OF IMPROVING RACE RELATIONS!

WE COULDN’T ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE!
Your Future Rests... in Your Hands, 1964

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AND THE CHILDREN
ALSO KEEP THE
BENEFITS OF VOTING!

NOW WE HAVE A
CLEAN BUILDING,
LOTS OF LIGHT, AND
ALL THE NEWEST
EQUIPMENT!

GOSH IT’S
WONDERFUL!
GOING TO A
SCHOOL THAT’S
NOT OVER-
CROWDED!

NOW THEY WILL
ALL HAVE THE
SAME OPPORTUNITY
TO LEARN AND
GROW!

MORE THAN THAT! BECAUSE THEY
WORK SO CLOSE TOGETHER, THEY
WILL COME TO UNDERSTAND EACH
OTHER AND LEARN THE TRUE
MEANINGS OF FRIENDSHIP
AND CITIZENSHIP!

AND ALL THESE IMPROVEMENTS
CAME ABOUT BECAUSE MEN AND
WOMEN EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT TO
VOTE!

NOW HOW ABOUT
YOU, FRIEND? ARE
YOU BEING
TREATED LIKE A
FIRST CLASS
CITIZEN? ARE
YOU GETTING
A FAIR SHAKEN
FROM THE
SOCIETY IN
WHICH YOU
LIVE?

"IF NOT... IF YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO GET THE JOB
YOU'RE QUALIFIED FOR, SOLELY BECAUSE OF
YOUR RACE OR BACKGROUND..."

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"...if your children are prevented from attending a decent school, just because their skin is too dark...

...or if you can’t live in a respectable neighborhood, simply because you’re a negro...

...remember that you have the power to change things...to improve these conditions! You can make racial discrimination a thing of the past!

It’s all up to you! The future...the promise of tomorrow...all of it rests...

...in your hands!!

PRINTED IN U.S.A.
REGISTER!

If you fail to register, you cannot vote…….
If you are not registered to vote, politicians will disregard your views…….
When you are registered, no political party or candidate will ignore your views…….

And when you vote…….
You will help control the future for your child…….
You can demand that the political parties and candidates consider all necessary laws…….
You will influence your nation, your state, and your city…….

Give the Negro child a hold on the future by registering and voting…….

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
20 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10018

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