

Delbert Hosemann, Mississippi's Vote Nazi

[An unpublished Letter-to-the-Editor of Jackson, Ms' Clarion Ledger (January 11, 2013)]

Peek-a-boo, what's that devil hiding under the incredibly, accommodating press cover? When news sources say "Voters overwhelmingly approved Voter ID in 2011 in a statewide referendum,"\* does anyone compare the ID initiative that was passed to the law the Mississippi Legislature enacted? The Mississippi voter disintegration (registered Mississippians may be unable to vote especially if their driver's license is expired) law has, paraphrasing a line for the recent Lincoln film, clothed the Secretary of State in immense power. Revealing the latent southern predilection for autocracy, the law says required material presented and verified for ID issuance could be "Such other acceptable evidence of verification of residence in the county as determined by the Secretary of State." So does that mean that, through an electorate's atavistic reliance on a plantation-styled noblesse oblige, the SOS can decide today that a paystub is good enough to acquire a photo ID and the next SOS can decide that it's not? Having Mississippi's quasi-Fuhrer decide what is "acceptable evidence of verification" kind of reminds me of the Soup Nazi episode of Seinfeld. Only in Mississippi, depending on who is Secretary of State, it may be "no vote for you."