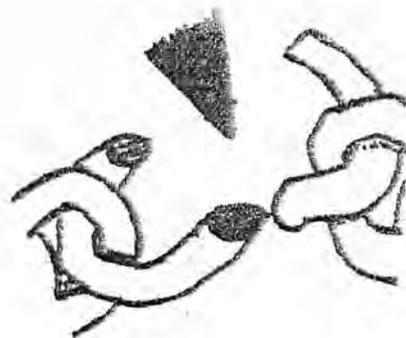




MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



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ASCS PETITIONS due Thurs. Aug. 24

WELFARE RIGHTS

Mrs. Geraldine Smith of the Hinds County Welfare Rights Movement, spoke to people gathered at the Masonic Temple Monday for the poor peoples march (see page 3 story).

She said members of her organization were marching for: 100% of need to be paid to those on Welfare; to make Need the only requirement to get on welfare; clinics for rural areas; free food stamps to those on welfare and others who need them; enforcement of basic housing codes; low-rent housing projects set up so poor people can end up owning their own homes.

The group asks that these "minimum steps" be taken "on an emergency basis."

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→ A Negro policeman who killed a Negro man a month ago has been put back on the police force. The NAACP is planning strong protests.

IF YOU FARM BUT DIDN'T GET THE ELECTION INFORMATION BY MAIL, GO TO YOUR COUNTY ASCS OFFICE RIGHT AWAY. THEY WILL BE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON THE LIST SO YOU WILL GET A BALLOT.

It's A.S.C.S. election time again - earlier this year than last year.

And in order for Black farmers to be represented and help make important decisions, FARMERS MUST GET PETITIONS IN RIGHT AWAY TO NOMINATE PEOPLE FOR COMMUNITY COMMITTEES.

The State A.S.C.S. office says that "all farmers of record" - that is, all that they know of - received information about the elections on August 14. All farm operators, tenants, and sharecroppers are eligible to vote, to nominate people, and to hold office on the community committee.

To nominate a farmer for the committee, 6 or more farmers should sign their names and addresses to a petition that says:

We, the undersigned, ask that who is a farm operator/tenant/sharecropper inCommunity,.....County, Miss., be placed on the ballot for nomination to theCommunity ASCS Committee, to be voted on Sept. 9th to Sept. 18, 1967.

The petition must be turned in to the ASCS office by midnight, August 24th.

FIVE farmers are elected to the committee from each community, so you can nominate 5 good Black farmers, and be sure that everyone marks their ballot for them.

poor people ask \$tate help

Over 700 of our poorest people marched in Jackson Monday, to show the state of Mississippi that jobs or welfare are needed by thousands of its citizens.

The march was planned by Charles Evers of the NAACP, with the cooperation of the Freedom Democratic Party and the Hinds County Welfare Rights Movement. People began arriving around 10 a.m. in farm labor buses, school buses, pickup trucks with chairs in the back, and cars at the Masonic Temple on Lynch Street.

They were seated by counties, with large groups coming from Greene, Washington, Forrest, Marion, Jefferson, Adams, Holmes, Hinds, Copiah, Coahoma, and Wilkinson counties. Smaller numbers came from Yazoo, Pike, Bolivar, Rankin, Claiborne, Warren, and Harrison counties.

At the rally, which started just before noon, Evers said that the Highway Patrol had stopped some buses and charged a driver with having an improper driver's license.

Evers said the people were not there to make trouble but to demand welfare and medical aid they needed. He said they did not need police to take care of them. (About two dozen police were around the meeting place, including several Negro police inside the hall.)

Speaking of rumors that there would be a riot or other trouble, Evers said that if "some of you start something, we're going to take care of you." He said there were some people who would try to "take advantage of our poor people: some who are not concerned about the welfare of the poor Negro, the disfranchised Negro."

He reported that there were supposedly groups in from Chicago who would start trouble. He told them they "better go the hell back to Chicago and straighten Chicago out."

He spoke against those who would burn down our houses. "We're trying to build our state," he said.

He also said some people were trying to split Negroes up by talking about the upper class and the middle class and the poor class. He said we should stick together as Negroes and "raise all of us up."

Rev. R.L.T. Smith told the crowd that "when one is suffering, we're all suffering.... We're in this condition because America has too long looked the other way while we were suffering."

Evers spoke of loads of food stored by the government while people are going hungry, and he spoke of the millions of dollars the US spends trying to get to the moon.

Dr. Aaron Henry said that our message is that if the state and federal governments don't do something about poverty, "we ourselves will do something about it."

What was done Monday was to walk about 19 blocks to the state capitol, with Evers, Henry, and Smith in the lead. Highway Patrolmen told Evers the governor was not at the capitol and that the marchers could not go onto the capitol grounds. Newsmen and many whites were walking freely on the grounds.

Aaron Henry told the crowd that then gathered on the street and sidewalk that it is the "philosophy of the NAACP and the people of this area that the State of Mississippi has an obligation to employ its people or to support them." He said that "everyone on welfare would rather be working," and the crowd shouted its agreement.

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