

THE STUDENT VOICE

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210,000 MARCHERS HEAR:

SNCC Head Call For New Protests

Lewis Speech Calls For Action Now

WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 28 - The March on Washington For Jobs and Freedom has been judged a success by all who witnessed it and participated in it.

The marchers, who numbered over 210,000, voiced their approval of demands which included:

Passage of meaningful rights legislation; immediate school desegregation; an end to police brutality; a Federal Public Works program, a sweeping Fair Employment Practices act; and the establishment of a national minimum wage of \$2.00 a hour.

While most speakers gave their support to the Kennedy administration civil rights bill, SNCC Chairman John Lewis gave the measure only half-hearted support. (see Lewis text, this issue)

The SNCC head called for continued demonstrations across the nation. Lewis pointed out weaknesses in the Kennedy bill and called for stronger measures to ensure Freedom.

He had been forced to delete portions of his original speech when the Most Rev. Patrick A. O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington, said he would not appear on the platform if changes were not made.

"Interorganizational relations are important," Lewis said, "but we are not interested in becoming Madison Avenue types. We live - eat, sleep and play - with the people we represent in Southern communities.



SNCC Chairman John Lewis at the Washington March

Text of Lewis' Speech at Washington

We march today for jobs and freedom, but we have nothing to be proud of. For hundreds and thousands of our brothers are not here. They have no money for their transportation, for they are receiving starvation wages ... or no wages at all. While we stand here, there are sharecroppers in the Delta of Mississippi who are out in the fields working for less than three dollars a day for twelve hours of work. While we stand here, there are students in jail on trumped up charges. Our brother, James Farmer, along with many others is also in jail. We come here today with a great sense of misgiving.

"We can only go forward - and at an accelerated pace," he said.

Possible effects of the March could not be judged. But observers here felt that the one day trek on Washington would have its biggest effect in the actions of those who came from the Delta of Mississippi and the plantations of Southwest Georgia, who took back home with them a new militancy and determination to be free.

It is true that we support the present civil rights bill in the Congress. We support it with great reservations, however. Unless Title Three is put in this bill, there is nothing to protect young children and old women from police dogs and fire hoses, their penalty for engaging in peaceful demonstrations. In its present form this bill will not protect the citizens of Danville, Virginia, who must live in constant fear in a police state. It will

not protect the hundreds of people who have been arrested on phony charges. What about the three young men -- SNCC field secretaries -- in Americus Georgia who face the death penalty for engaging in peaceful protest.

As it stands now the voting section of this bill will not help thousands of black people who want to vote. It will not help the citizens of Mississippi, of Alabama

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IN AMERICUS, GEORGIA:

POLICE SMASH DEMONSTRATORS FOUR FACE DEATH PENALTY

AMERICUS, GEORGIA - It was hot here, Thursday night, August 8, and policemen standing under the open windows of Friendship Baptist Church had no trouble hearing 250 Negroes singing and talking about freedom.

SNCC field workers had been here since January, living with the people, helping the Sumter County Movement to register voters and organize attempts to use the front door of a local movie theatre.

The people in the church knew the police were standing-by, but they decided to go outside, anyway. The 250, mostly teenagers, strode one block to Cotton Avenue and, standing in front of a "colored" cafe, began singing "We Shall Overcome."

"During the singing eighteen policemen, the city marshal, the sheriff and two state patrolmen showed up," one young Negro said. "They tried to surround us, but we surrounded them in the middle of the street."

POLICE SHOOT, SLUG; ARREST FIVE

"So they pulled their guns and started shooting in the air. They tried to tell us to disperse, but we just kept on singing. They started shooting, but nobody moved," he said.

Then policemen and troopers, wielding guns and billy clubs, slugged their way through the group to arrest SNCC field secretary Don Harris, whom they regarded as the leader. The 21 year-old Negro went limp, refusing to cooperate with police terror. So they beat him in the street and dragged him into a squad car.

The Negroes scattered to find rocks to defend them-

selves against the onslaught of flailing weapons. But SNCC field workers Ralph Allen and John Perdew, and local youth Thomas McDaniel were trampled on by police and beaten. Allen required three stitches to close a



Ralph Allen, one of three jailed SNCC workers who face the death penalty in Americus. Photo by Lyon.

wound above his eye. Another local youth, Miss Sallie May Durham, was punched several times by local officers. Harris, Allen, Perdew, McDaniel and Durham were arrested.

The three SNCC workers -- Harris, Allen and Perdew -- face possible death sentences. They have been charged with attempt to incite insurrection, a capital offense in Georgia. No bonds have been set for the capital crime charges and they will have to remain in jail until the Sumter County Supreme Court meets in November. In addition, each individual has been charged with eight peace bonds totaling \$40,000.

All of the five have been charged with unlawful assembly, unlawful rioting

and obstruction of a lawful arrest. All but Perdew have been charged with assault and battery. Durham and McDaniel, the local youths, are in jail with bonds of \$20,000 each.

Police brutality was not new to Americus Negroes. But it could not be ignored. The following evening, August 9, 175 Negroes left Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church to protest at the police station.

"They intended to pray and protest the arrests and brutal beatings of last night," said John L. Barnum, Jr., Treasurer of the Sumter County Movement. "They left the church," he said, "and walked four blocks in orderly columns of two's, not blocking the sidewalk. The police officers were armed with guns, two-foot clubs, electric cattle prodders and black jacks. Officers came down into a field where the group had walked. When they got there the City Marshal and Police Chief Chambliss asked them if they had a permit to parade and told them to disperse. But before any response could be given the officers started bludgeoning groups of boys and girls with clubs, and the (battery-operated) cattle prodders, which gave a severe shock and left burn marks on the flesh."

Most of the persons in the group were arrested. The police, troopers and deputized white citizens brutally beat the peaceful demonstrators. Milton Wilkerson, 19, required twenty stitches to close the wounds on his head. Emanuel McClendon, 67, required three stitches on his head. Thomas Douglas, 16, needed six stitches on his head. He also had scars on his back and arms from cattle prod burns. Collin

McGhee bled profusely from the nose and face after being beaten with clubs. Another 16 year-old youngster, Johnny Boynton, had four stitches to close head wounds.

POLICE RAMPAGE, JAILS LIKE CAGES

But you didn't need to be in the demonstration that night. Rudolph Brown was walking along a main street after the demonstration -- he was arrested and clubbed. Bobby Simms was sitting on the doorstep of his home -- he had not demonstrated -- and the police came up and arrested him. Gene Mann and James Williams were walking together after most of the demonstrators had been arrested and were grabbed by state patrolmen. Williams protested he had done nothing -- for that he was beaten and his leg broken. The list goes on and on.

The arrested are stored away in jail facilities similar to animal cages. "The conditions in what serves for a jail are unbelievable," Barnum said. "The male juveniles are sleeping on the floor in a dirty building that has been abandoned for over a year. It formerly housed a newspaper. There are no working toilet facilities or showers. The toilet upstairs was stuffed and overflowing on the floor. The children have been receiving four hamburgers daily, nothing else. The girls are locked in a room with no windows and no ventilation; the odor is unbearable."

On Sunday, August 11, another group of 25 knelt in prayer at the police station and was arrested.

That night Archie B. Porter, 18, was shot at

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IN MACON, GEORGIA:

FEDERAL JURY INDICTS NINE

Rights Workers Accused In Anti-Bias Demonstration

MACON, GA.---"Is the Federal Government a white man?" ask Southwest Georgia Negroes.

Albany Negroes have fought a bitter two-year struggle against intransigent local authorities. Their reward--the Justice Department led a vigorous effort to indict nine Albany Movement leaders on Aug. 9 before a Federal grand jury sitting in Macon.

Three leaders have been charged with conspiracy to injure a juror and six with perjury before a grand jury.

WHERE WAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

Albany Negroes were confounded by this display of Federal strength in black-belt Georgia.

When Albany police arrested hundreds of Negroes peacefully demonstrating their protest, as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution - where was the Federal Government?

When Mrs. Slater King of Albany was beaten and kicked by Albany police, causing the death of her unborn child -- where was the Federal Government?

When Albany attorney C. B. King had his head cracked open by Dougherty County Sheriff D. C. Campbell -- where was the Federal Government?

Appeals by the Albany Movement leaders to the Justice Department for protection of Negroes against state, county and local suppression of fundamental freedoms have been fruitless.

RACIST SUPPORTED

But when a racist white grocer in Albany claimed he was put out of business by a one-hour picket line last April -- the Federal Government, acting through the Justice Department,

conducted the most vigorous prosecution effort yet seen in the history of the civil rights movement.

Grocery-store owner Carl Smith charged that a fair employment boycott and picket line were started against the store because of his verdict in a grand jury trial, Albany leaders said.

The trial, WARE v. JOHNSON, took place April 8 and involved a young Negro, Charles Ware, who charged that Baker County Sheriff Johnson shot and beat him. On April 12 a federal grand jury found in favor of the sheriff.

The Albany community was indignant. The case was discussed at the regular Monday night mass meeting by Dr. W. G. Anderson, then president of the Albany Movement. The government alleges that in the course of his remarks he mentioned Carl Smith, whose store is located in an all-Negro section.

The following Saturday, April 20, some high school students set up a picket line at the Smith store. They demanded that Smith upgrade Negro employees to responsible positions, such as cashiers. All Negro employees held menial jobs. Similar campaigns had been started against employers throughout Albany during the previous eighteen months.

No picket sign made reference to Smith's service on the jury. The line lasted about an hour, during which time several pickets were arrested, effectively breaking the picket line. The line was never renewed.

Within the next few weeks Smith sold his store, contending he had been driven out of business by the boycott conducted against him the Albany group said.

NINE LEADERS INDICTED

Smith complained to the Justice Department, which began a grand jury investigation at the end of July.

On August 9, nine Albany leaders were indicted. Anderson, Luther Woodall and Robert Colbert were charged with conspiracy to injure a juror for assent to a verdict in a federal case.

Slater King, Goldie Jackson, Rev. Samuel Wells, Thomas Chatman and Robert Thomas were charged with perjury before the grand jury. The charges state they either denied having been at a lawyers' meeting during the week of July 29 or denied remembering having been there.

King is now president of the Movement. Mrs. Jackson is the Recording Secretary and the only full-time employee of the Movement. Rev. Wells is one of the most active voter registration workers in Southwest Georgia.

The final indictment was against Joni Rabinowitz, a SNCC field worker, the only white defendant and the only person not a resident of Georgia. The three counts against her allege she falsely stated she had not remembered seeing the picket line. The other counts allege she falsely stated she had not seen the picket line.

All the defendants are free on bonds ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000. The trial is tentatively set for October. The sentence for conspiracy is ten years and/or \$15,000 fine. The sentence for perjury is five years and/or \$5,000 fine.

At present SNCC has been receiving lists of hundreds of names attached to petitions to Attorney General Robert Kennedy which were circulated at the August 28 March on

Washington. The petition asks for an end to persecution of the Albany Nine.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Justice Department to dismiss the indictments of nine civil rights workers in Albany, Georgia," the petition blank states.

"We ask for proof," it states at another point, "that in Southwest Georgia 'the Federal Government is not a white man.'"

Lewis' Speech

(Continued From Page 1) and Georgia who are qualified to vote but lack a 6th grade education. "One man, one vote," is the African cry. It is ours, too. It must be ours. Let us tell the Congress: One man, one vote.

We must have legislation that will protect the Mississippi sharecropper who is put off of his farm because he dares to register to vote. We need a bill that will provide for the homeless and starving people of this nation. We need a bill that will ensure the equality of a maid who earns \$5 a week in the home of a family whose income is \$100,000 a year. We must have a good FEPC bill.

Let us not forget that we are involved in a serious social revolution. By and large, American politics is dominated by politicians who build their careers on immoral compromises and ally themselves with open forms of political, economic and social exploitation. There are exceptions, of course. We salute those. But what political leader can stand up and say, "My party is the party of principles". The party of Kennedy is also the party of Eastland. The party of Javits is also the party of Goldwater. Where is our party? Where is the political party that will make it unnecessary to have Marches on Washington?

Where is the political party that will protect the citizens of Albany, Georgia. Do you know that in Albany, Georgia, nine of our leaders have been in-

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4 Faces Death

while walking home. Seventeen police officers stopped him, then beat and arrested him. His mother, Mrs. Maybelle Porter, heard of the arrest, went down to the police station to inquire about his condition and was arrested, too.

That night the police went to a local drive-in to harass Negroes. The police shot into the crowd. No one was reported hurt, however.

On Monday, August 12, the police arrested Sammie Joe Haynes on the street. "He is 13, but looks much younger," Barnum said. "They kicked and beat him unmercifully because he had been in prior demonstrations. He is now being held in the county jail for the juvenile authorities."

F B I SAYS "NO BRUTALITY"

On Tuesday, August 13, the Justice Department announced that FBI investigations in Americus did not uncover any evidence of police brutality.

On Saturday, August 17, another 35 were arrested while praying at the police station, bringing the total to more than 200 locked up for voter registration work, participation in peaceful demonstrations, attempting to use the front door of a movie theatre, or for whatever else satisfied the whims of the agents of law and order.

Among the 35 was Zev Aleony, a field worker for the Congress of Racial Equality. He was charged with attempting to incite insurrection.

There is no question that the police take the initiative in enforcing a rigid segregation system. One Negro youth described a demonstration he was in during July at the theatre where he had worked as a janitor.

"The manager of the theatre said he would be willing to sell us tickets if we would not come in large groups. He wanted us to come two at a time," he said.

But the police would not permit that. So the groups were arrested. This made the third arrest of this particular fighter and he returned for 20 days to a four foot by four foot box, with no water or toilet facilities.

TENSION MOUNTS

When air is compressed, the pressure builds. When people are oppressed, the same thing happens.

The people here aren't working together to improve school and hospital facilities, nor to expand the library, nor to improve wages and working conditions, nor to provide jobs for the unemployed, nor to make Americus a community where every citizen, black or white, can hold his head up and say, "I'm proud to be here."

Instead Negroes must fight desperately to gain the right to speak their minds without reprisal, to walk in the streets with signs and literature, to express their desire for a new way of life in Americus and America.

Lewis' Speech

dicted not by Dixiecrats but by the Federal Government for peaceful protest. But what did the Federal Government do when Albany's Deputy Sheriff beat Attorney C. B. King and left him half-dead? What did the Federal Government do when local police officials kicked and assaulted the pregnant wife of Slater King, and she lost her baby?

To those who have said, be patient and wait, we must say that we cannot be patient, we do not want to be free gradually. We want our freedom and we want it now. We are tired of being beaten by policemen. We do not want to go to jail, but we will go to jail if that is what we must pay for love, brotherhood and peace.

All of us must get in this great social revolution sweeping our nation. Get in and stay in the streets of every city, every village and every hamlet of this nation, until true Freedom comes, until the unfinished revolution of 1776 is complete. In the Delta of Mississippi, in southwest Georgia, in Alabama, Harlem, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia and all over this nation -- the black masses are on the march. You must go home from this March and help us to get our Freedom.

We will not stop now. All of the forces of Eastland, Barnett, Wallace and Thur-

mond will not stop this revolution. If we do not get meaningful legislation out of this Congress, the time will come when we will not confine our marching to Washington. We will march through the South -- through the streets of Jackson, Danville, Cambridge, Nashville, and Birmingham -- with dignity and spirit we have shown here today. By the force of our demands, our determination, and our numbers, we shall splinter the segregated south into a thousand pieces and put them together in the image of God and democracy. Wake up America!

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Please send news of your group, your plans, ideas, to us and we will be glad to publish them.

What Needs To Be Done!

Please protest the Macon indictments and the lack of state and federal action in the Americus beatings and jailings to:

Robert F. Kennedy
Attorney General
The Justice Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Carl E. Sanders
Governor of Georgia
State Capitol
Atlanta

Your Senator and Representatives in Washington.

Berl I. Bernhard
Civil Rights Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Urge your friends and civil rights and human relations groups in your area to join in sending letters and telegrams of protest and to engage in action against Federal buildings in your locale. (i. e., picketing your Federal Courthouse or Post Office.)

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