

the voice

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ARKANSAS HOLDS FIRST STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Little Rock,
The Arkansas Project of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) today ended its first statewide conference aimed at discerning the needs and wishes of people from various parts of the state. Fifty people gathered at Ferncliff Camp near Little Rock for two days of exchange of ideas and information about their home communities. Most of the persons attending were from counties in eastern Arkansas where SNCC currently operates projects. Representatives were also present from Little Rock and Fayetteville. SNCC conducted the conference so that the persons most affected by racial discrimination in Arkansas could participate in laying the guidelines for SNCC's future programs.

The first day of the two day conference included discussion of voter registration and other political activities, school desegregation, federal programs, and community centers. Highlights of these discussions include the following:

An intensive effort must be made to register as many people as possible under Arkansas' new voter registration procedures.

We must work to correct the widespread corruption of the ballot box which has frustrated political activity even when Negroes have been able to qualify as electors.

We must seek to expose to the eye of the public the many incidents of intimidation and harassment of Negro people seeking to vote and organize politically.

An effort must be made to demonstrate the numerous instances where the so-called "freedom of choice" method of school desegregation really offers neither freedom nor choice when the facilities of the segregated Negro schools are overwhelmingly inferior.



JAMES FORMAN, Executive Secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee addresses the conference, calling for increased communication between people similarly oppressed in the South.

for those of white schools.

-- We must seek to challenge, as militantly as circumstances require, those school districts and school boards which seek to evade compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We must seek better education for ALL the people.

-- We should attempt to observe closely the working of such federal programs as Operation Headstart of the Poverty Program. Racial discrimination in any such program should be challenged.

-- A high priority exists for the establishment of community centers. Racial segregation in Arkansas has produced gross deficiencies in recreational facilities for Negro youth. This, coupled with the prevailing inferior schools, creates a need for centers where people can play, learn, correct educational handicaps, and meet together without fear.

James Forman, Executive Secretary of the SNCC, addressed the group on Saturday night. He called for increased communication between people similarly oppressed in the South. He saw the Arkansas conference as only the first such meeting, and looked forward to the near future when people from all over the Southland might meet together to discuss their common plight and struggle.

Forman remarked that Arkansas must be concerned with its neighbor to the east, Mississippi, where conditions are often similar. Arkansas, for example, must find ways to act in support of the extremely significant challenge of the seating of Mississippi's Congressional delegation which is shortly to occur in the U.S. House of Representatives, Forman said. These five Mississippi Congressmen, although elected under undemocratic procedures and thereby representing only a small part of the people, can wield immense power in the Congress that will affect all the states, including Arkansas.

SNCC's Arkansas conference closed with a general session Sunday morning. Those in attendance expressed their desire for organization and leadership responsive to their needs and to their desire for action. It was resolved to maintain communication between communities.

UNION MEMBERS TALK STRIKE

MISSISSIPPI

Everybody should be on strike because you are not getting anything for your work. Why work and be hungry when you can gain the union get some support. All the people that have children really should be on strike as well as the parents. Why make your child work for low wages when you all of your life have been working for nothing? Why buy the white man steak when you can't hardly eat neckbones? As cheap as chicken is you can't even eat it but once a week on Sunday. Wake up and think. We as Negroes should want to be equal and get high wages. For over two hundred years we have been working for nothing. Please join the union because if you are not in a union guy just aren't anywhere.

HERE'S HOW WE GOT STARTED

The union started in January, a group of people at a freedom school discussion got together and decided that they weren't getting anything for their work. They form a union and started paying dues. They went to other counties in Mississippi spreading the ideal.

In March the people in Shaw, Miss., about 90 people canvassed trying to get people to strike for higher wages. At that time the union didn't have a name and they didn't have papers for people to sign to go in the union. But now the union have improved a lot since this. They didn't

have any way of knowing how they were going to get support then.

In April we found a name for the union and drew up the rules and they were decided on at the state workshop. Some of the people all over the Mississippi Delta are on strike.

Shaw is the headquarter since it started in Shaw. Every month we have a state meeting. Some of the things we do at this meeting are people from every precinct give us a report on what they have been doing in their county. We have officers. We have 1325 members in the union and 350 people on strike. The way we got these many people is talking to them and showing them the point of how important it is to form a union. We talk to people in the homes and on plantations at stores, churches and towns.

CITY WORKERS

The city workshop was held in Shaw by the chairman with local people to discuss what we would talk talk about at the Statewide workshop. We also elected committees to issue. And we selected the rules for the union.

STATEWIDE WORKSHOP

In the Statewide workshop we had people from the following places: Glenallen, Winstonville, Louise, Greenville, Batesville, Vicksburg, Thorn, and Marks, Miss.

Out of these places we have 100 people on strike. Continued on Page 4



STRIKE

Don't Work For Less
Than \$1.25 An Hour

MISSISSIPPI
LABOR UNION

MFU members picket for higher wages and decent working conditions in Shaw, Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI IMAGE AND REALITY

Part II

THE CHALLENGE

After the January 4th challenge, Mrs. F.A. Parker, editor and publisher of the *Prentiss Headlight*, wrote in her column: "There is no place for rejoicing over the vote that seated the Mississippi Delegation in Washington Monday, but rather deep misgivings that in that august body there were 148 members who voted against the seating of the duly elected representatives against 276 who voted for seating them. There is cause to be alarmed when we find that many jackasses in the greatest deliberative body in the world, the legislative branch of our three part federal government."

"...with a little intelligent planning we should be able to kill off this political monstrosity (The Freedom Democratic Party) altogether," the *Tupelo Journal* editorialized on January 5. "And if white leaders can so handle state affairs," the paper continued, "that the Freedom Party is provided no issue which will thrust it back into the national spotlight that was turned on it by the walkout of our delegation at the Democratic convention, there is a good chance that it will wither away completely."

Thus the work of making a good impression continues.

Lt. Gov. Carroll Gartin, on January 20, spoke before the Greenville Industrial Foundation. He told the group of an Ohio industrialist who refused to consider expansion of two Mississippi plants until the state "decides to become part of the union again."

Gartin commented, "I am deeply concerned about the impression we make on the people in other parts of this nation. We cannot build a fence around ourselves."

But if Mississippi was now joining up with the other 49 states it was doing it on its own terms. As governor Paul Johnson pleaded to the rest of the nation at U.S. Civil Rights Commission hearings in Jackson on February 16, "Get off our back and get on our side."

And Edward P. Moore covering the Greenville meeting for the Memphis Commercial Appeal reported: "Mr. Gartin, maintaining his personal belief in segregation, urged businessmen, civil leaders, and industrialists 'to speak up and speak out' in a positive manner about conditions in the state."

Mississippi leaders don't

want another January 4th and feel that a new "image" will help.

The new "image" then is coming from speaking "in a positive manner about conditions rather than from doing much to change the conditions."

Mississippi Manufacturers Association (MMA) president Ed Palmer told a Jackson civic club on February 10 that the MMA is "convinced, as you are, that much of the radical thinking towards Mississippi is based not on fact but on rumor and supposition." He then revealed that the MMA was going to mount "a massive public relations campaign" based on the approach that "with the good and the bad, Mississippi's net picture is one favorable to investments and economic growth."

The financial worries of state leaders not only pertain to tourist trade, developing industries and selling products, it also extends to federal aid. Mississippi wants to be considered part of the union so that it will continue getting federal aid in an amount that, according to Drew Pearson, totaled more than one billion dollars in 1964.

"Leadership on the state level agrees that we cannot afford to lose federal aid," Erle Johnson, Jr., told a civic club meeting in early February. Johnson is head of the segregationist State Sovereignty Commission.

NEXT ISSUE: Mississippi Image and Reality Part III

TERRORISM AND THE LAW

FBI Finds No Trace Of Missing Family

GULFPORT, MISS.

- Leon Acker, his wife and his children disappeared from their home in the Catahoula area of Hancock County in the middle of March. Evidence of their hurried departure was a cooked meal, untouched, on the stove, and a freshly tered hog. One of the family two cars was also missing.

The background of the disappearance centers around a special election held March 6 for County Supervisor of Hancock County. Acker's niece, from Gulfport says Acker was run out of town "because of how he voted in the election".

In early April Mrs. Annie Devine and Mrs. Grace Palmer of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) went to Hancock County and talked to people who knew the Acker family. Soon after that the Miss-

issippi State Sovereignty Commission put out a statement refuting allegations made by Mrs. Devine that the family was missing.

The MFDP in Jackson, Miss., then attempted to discover the make and model of car missing from the Acker home, but the Mississippi Highway Patrol refused to release this information.

Then the MFDP asked the FBI to investigate.

Continuing their stand the Sovereignty Commission said they had evidence that a check signed by Acker was received by a local finance company after Mrs. Devine had reported them missing. In May MFDP was informed that a spokesman from the Department of Justice had stated that the FBI were unable to find any trace

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WHO RUNS SOUTH WEST GA?

One of the most important things in a man's life is his job, the nature of which determines his standard of living, the sort of education he aspired to when he was young, and ultimately how much he has to say about the issues which concern him. The man he works for not only hires and fires him, but also, as we shall see, decides who will pay the tax bill and what it will be spent for, whether he will be allowed to vote, where he can eat a hamburger, and just what he can expect from a police officer.

Businessmen themselves occupy many of the most critical positions in state and local government, from presidency to mayor, and representatives of business interests occupy a large part of the remainder of the political seats in this country.

Look at Southwest Georgia. The mayor of Americus, a town of 15,000 known for mass arrests and brutality in August, 1963, owns a nail factory in the town. When representatives of the local movement there went to talk with the mayor, however, he sat in a corner behind a more powerful businessman, Charles Wheatley, who did the talking for him. Wheatley is a truemonopolist. He owns the land and the build-

ings to the city hospital, bus station, the town's largest factory, four of the town's five supermarkets, one of the three banks and 25 of 30 dilapidated houses which he rents to Negroes. He also owns one of the town's two construction companies. His role in politics? He is the city engineer, who decides which company will get city construction contracts!

The local state prosecutors, who tried to "solve the race problem" in the town by charging four SNCC workers with the capital crime of insurrection, is an aristocrat of sorts, whose wife's family owns a dairy concern in the area and whose father is a former Congressman. The foreman of the grand jury convened at that time to draw up additional indictments against civil rights workers--the foreman is an insurance man well-known for his rabid statements on civil rights. The judge in the court where the indictments were prosecuted is part owner of a local bank, of which his brother-in-law is president. Perhaps a third of the county offices are occupied by members of one family, which owns several thousand acres of land worked by Negroes who, to put it mildly, have trouble registering to vote. Members of this family hold the offices of voting registrar, sheriff, postmaster, agricultural agent, county commissioner, and three state patrolmen, all stationed in Americus. Two of the county's three members in the state legislature are businessmen.

The Congressmen from that area, Third District Congressman Howard "Bo" Callaway, is a textile manufacturer. His family owns Callaway Mills, which employs over 3000 in LaGrange, a town of 23,000. Callaway also sits, with two members of the Morehouse College Board of Trustees, on the controlling board of directors of the Trust Company of Georgia, the third largest bank operation in the state, and of Georgia Power Co., the state's utilities monopoly. Callaway's political attitudes? He is a director of the Freedom Foundation, a well-known right-wing group, and his

YOU CAN HELP

Negroes have a chance to register for the first time in Sunflower County, Mississippi.

Workers continue the door to door, day to day work in Alabama.

Arkansas workers are preparing for a small summer project.

Voter registration continues in Georgia.

You can help.

I want to keep SNCC workers in the field. I enclose

\$ _____ toward SNCC's Program.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

(Contributors of \$3.00 or more receive a 12-month subscription to *the voice*)

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charlie's poem

1

i want to say
about all the dead people
killed by the triggers
we've been taught
it's our responsibility to pull

all the people killed
so that interests
can be protected
and secured

all the dead people
who look alike dead

all the killers who kill
people all over the world
and not just in SELMA

all the reasons for killing
that are
given uniforms
to match the teaching .

2

Jimmy Lee Jackson shot
by a cop
protecting Alabama
as he'd been taught

And as he'd always seen
the country protect itself

Just the uniform
was different
but wars
are all fought alike
on battlefields

You try and kill
the enemy

to have the best killers
and win the war
you teach
the Morality of the cause

And give uniforms
and sanction and
law and orded to preserve
interests to protect

that's just Standard
Procedure

we do it in boot camps
around the country

Also the same song's sung
in Saigon

Not in strange at all about
that

3

Now we're told about
ALABAMA
that Rev. Reeb's killing
was senseless
shocking
shameful
brutal
and many other things
i could etcetera on about

The Reeb killers
were simply uniformed
with the spirit of their duty

to the
State of Alabama
in what's been called by
a lot of newspapers
the
BATTLE OF SELMA

How many wars has
the USA fought
where it asked the enemy
to fight it's way

Why then Alabama ?



4

the cop
in Selma
pulls the trigger
that
kills for alabama
for god and alabama
as he's been taught
just like his brother
who fought
or bombed
or gassed
in south viet nam last week

and all the people
who don't make wars
but just kill
and get killed in them

kill some more

or bury the dead

wishing mostly
that it
all would end

so they could go home

which is not
on the battle field killing
that's just Patriotic Day
And Responsibility

So people who cry for
Rev. Reeb
and the Jimmy Lee Jacksons
should really cry
for all the killing
that has got to stop
and all the uniforms
that have got to be torn off

6

Who's always killed
everywhere in the wars ?

it's people who are
always killed everywhere
in the wars

THEY are the ENEMY
to be
shot at
Bombed
and Gassed
in the wars
that are fought
all over everywhere
that have to stop.

7

the cops
that have shot
all the people
white and black
that
they have shot

have shot because
they were given guns
and told
it's alright to shoot
people sometimes
and kill them
to preserve
Law and Order
and Our Way Of Life

We have been taught
it's alright for people
to be killed by the cops
and the u.s. army
Like in viet nam
where our interests
are being threatened
by the DISORDER
of the people of viet nam
who think they can run
their own country

And after all
how can they think
they can run
their own country
when they won't even help
us fight
their own people
who don't like us
and don't want us

and besides

they're not even White
these people in viet nam
who want us to stop
killing in their country
and blowing it up
with bombs
like Birmingham
also a place
where

8

**LITTLE CHILDREN
COME DOWN
BLOWN APART
IN PIECES
cause they're the Enemy too**

And now the people
have marched
to protest
the senseless
shocking
shameful
brutal
killings in Selma
and the denial
of the right
to learn
the Standard Procedure
for Enslavement
which is not really learned
but
intergrated into
Responsibly

And someday
maybe
if i give america a chance
i'll be able to
wear the uniform
and have the gun
of the cop
that shot
Jimmy Lee Jackson

Or be the comander
of the army
that will send the bombs
to blow up more people

i won't have to cry
for the Jimmy Lee Jacksons
cause i'll have the right
along with the Responsibility
to kill them
for god
and my country
which i'll have learned about
standing at attention
in uniform

that's what will happen
to me
when i'm given
equality.

9

so cry not just
for Jackson or reeb
schwerner, goodman
or chaney
or lee

cry for all mothers
with shovels
digging at hovels
looking for their dead

Continued On Page 4



the voice

STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

in Rosedale, 68 in Glenallen and 135 in Shaw.

WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT

We talked about the support of the union and we adopted the same rules for the state that we had in Shaw.

We also discussed ways of getting fund for the union strikers. We decided to write letters to people everywhere and ask for help. We also talked about why it was important for people to join the union.

OFFERING HOUSES

The people in the union stated they would let people live in their homes if they get thrown off of the plantation. So far none have been thrown off.

THE UNION HANDED OUT \$50.00 FROM DUES

We gave 50.00 to three union members who need it very badly. One member needed it because they were threaten to be thrown out of their house and it was used as a center. The second was threaten by the man she owed. And the third member and family was starving, living in poverty. So that is how we use our dues to help the members.

On April 14th and 15th people from 8 counties picketed the Motor Inn Hotel in Greenville. They were having a U.S. Department of Labor meeting. We were trying to get them to let us in and meet our demands. The second day

They let us come in listen to speeches. Mr. Hawkins a Shaw union member ask question about wages for farm work. Mrs. Hamer spoke inside the meeting the first day and she read the union forums her and 6 more people went in.

The people are on strike in other places like Greenville, Winterville, Lay-

mont, Rosedale, Batesville, Tribbett, and Anguilla.

The most strikers we have are cotton workers that mostly what about 100% of the Negroes in Mississippi depend on.

Two maids quit jobs to join the strikers and one tractor driver which was very good.

On plantation 37 people in Issaquena county went on strike for .50 an hour and they were successful on Monday they will strike for 1.00 an hour. They only work 9 hrs. a day.

There are 9 tractor drivers on strikers on a plantation in Glen Allen. On a place in Shaw they struck for more money. Friday they found out they got a raise from 6.00 to 7.50 for drivers. They are planning to strike again as soon as it dries up.

The strikers started with the people who chop and pick cotton and tractor drivers and now the people on various plantations are striking.

Each town is organizing their strike and officers. The chairman in Shaw is George Shelton, Jr., Shaw.

The way we got land to raise gardens they land-owner gave us a few acres to plant gardens on. The union started because the colored people weren't getting anything for their work. We will help the Negroes farmers that gave us land to raise the gardens.

MISSING FAMILY

Continued from Page 1

of the Acker family and that there was absolutely no validity to the Sovereignty Commission's story about the check received by a finance company.

The MFDP demands retractions by all Mississippi papers "that attempted to spread rumors of a hoax by the MFDP"

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and they ask that all of the resources of the Justice Department and the FBI be thrown into a nationwide search for the Acker family. "We ask that all people who are concerned with change to join with us in this search. Remember that only last year the disappearance of Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner was called a hoax by these same papers."

SOUTHWEST GA.

Continued from Page 2

campaign for Congress was a virulent attack on the civil rights movement, complete with promises to get the Civil Rights Bill of 1964 repealed. His town LaGrange recently got War on Poverty money to train "homemaking aids" (maids), who could, according to a supporter of the project, earn as much as \$20 a week when they finished their training.

Now, who are the men who control the jobs of the people living in southwest Georgia? About one-fourth to one-third of the jobs (4600 out of 20,000) in manufacturing are controlled by companies owned out of the state. Many of the remaining companies are partially controlled by absentee owners. One of these absentee parent companies is the Minerals and Chemicals Philipp Corporation, the Chairman of which is C. W. Engelhard who has sizeable holdings in South Africa. Engelhard seems to like the sort of operation you can conduct in a racist area.

We could go on endlessly with examples of business control in politics and with family control of business, but the examples here should at least support the idea that if you want to change things, you have to look at who owns what, for businessmen are the ones who really swing the billy-clubs.

charlie's poem

Continued From Page 3

cry for all the blood spilled
of all the people killed
in the Standard Procedure

of the country
which is not ours
but belongs
to those who run it
and can't be seen
but are very few
who

listen to each other
and not to us
cause we don't know
what it takes
that makes
Standard Procedures

10

I must say
about these guys
who uniform us
in lots of ways
and makes us each
the enemy of the other
the world around

that what we've been taught
we should get
is theirs
and not for everybody to get

and what they do
is teach us
to beat
everybody down
who's trying to get
what they already got

and what everybody can't get
So we throw away
our lives
and take instead
their things

and the things they have
are like
missles & guns
money & cars
slots & walls
we take these things
and use them to
kill and hurt
be AFRAID
and be Unhappy
and to lose life

but to mostly kill
cause we want to die
cause deep down
we know
WE are life
and we have been taught
that's bad
and must be destroyed
(our life)
cause that's a threat
to
missles & guns
money & cars
slots & walls

cause life can be ours
to be planted and grown
in 2 Billion ways
we can each call our own

charlie cobb

