

SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference  
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010  
Transcript Video Recording #3  
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 1 (00:00:17):

My name is Charlie Cobb. And, And I was a SNIC field secretary in Mississippi from 1962 to 1967. And like all these panelists came off the campus of a historically black college and university outcomes. I'll speak to that in, in a couple of minutes before introducing the panelists. Uh, I'm sorry. I keep reading people. I apologize for the size of the room. Uh, we didn't, I, I was on the planning committee for this conference. We didn't anticipate The size of the number of participants that when we started out, We were saying, oh, well maybe we'll get 300 or 15 people. And last week we looked at the pre list and it numbered 804. I dunno how many people from the campuses in this area or, or guests show up without pre. So the room is smaller than I would like. It generates a certain amount of intimacy. I, But I wish I could have seats for everyone. Uh, maybe less heat too, but it is what it is. Uh, certainly the families up here have had meetings in far less comfortable surfaces, uh, are meeting here. As I said, I, I came off like wen Jean Dory who are sitting there. And I suppose Chuck duke will be here,

Speaker 1 (00:02:11):

Was peacock a legendary figure. Um, like all the people here are historically black colleges and New York, and there are two points I want to make about that to make sure that they're made, uh, before introducing the panel. One is something I wish was recognized more and celebrated more. The student movement that came off of these campuses, campuses like Shaw gave HB is the one and only time in American history that HBCUs collectively have had national political impact.

Speaker 1 (00:03:02):

And these be recognized and celebrated by much more, uh, by these schools. The second point I want to make, and I could tell you stories about each one of them that's reflected in what they represent is that for all the protests against segregation, for all of protests and struggles against white supremacy, what is extremely significant in, in terms of understanding the student movement that came off these campus and understanding relationship with these people? My friends is that for all of those kinds of challenges, what was also going on, we were challenging one another. We were saying, if you were young and black, like I was, and going to college as the citizens happened, when I was in the 12th grade. And you looked at those sit-ins and you saw Diane Nash or Julian bond, or, or, or John Lewis or anybody in Atlanta or Nashville places where the reached us by a television and newspaper photographs.

Speaker 1 (00:04:03):

In addition to seeing their protests, it seemed to me as a 12th grader, they were gonna, they were saying, well, what are you going to do when you get? Cause if you were black and going to school in 1960 or 61, you were probably going to be going to a historically black college, or if you were going to an H B, C U with one or two exceptions central state and will force out of Ohio Lincoln, uh, up in Pennsylvania, you were going to be going to school in the south to be confronted with exactly what they were challenging. So the question that came through in addition to protests against white supremacy was the question they were asking of me, what are you going to do? What strikes me as a relevant question today? Anyway, it's not my job to go on and on in the conversation, I want to introduce you to panel and I'll just start right here. Bruno Paris graduated from, um, ske, Uh, when powers graduated from Tuske in 1966 and went on and I'm not gonna elaborate on his war, uh, uh, with a cooperative movement in Alabama, uh, and his work with SNCC, he can elaborate as much or as little as he wants in his own presentation. Each panelists will have well, 10 minutes and then you all can ask him some questions, Jean Smith.

Speaker 1 (00:05:36):

I, We really, yeah, Howard's university's campus, you know, was involved with a nonviolent action group and later would go down to, uh, Mississippi. And if I'm right, I'd never asked you this gene, uh, after, uh, the murders of, uh, in Philadelphia of, of James Chaney, Michael Schriner, and Andrew Goodman COFA, the council of federated organization, the umbrella, which we operated it was you and who Featherstone, who hung up with black and white handshake in downtown Philadelphia to open up the office. What was he a peacock or Willie to some of us, uh, was off the medical school. Right? Thought it was, Excuse me. Okay. Uh, Portland are our CEO,

Speaker 2 (00:06:49):

Since

Speaker 1 (00:06:49):

There is a fire code. And then some of you are standing need to go to the third mall workshop. You it's an issue of, I find myself apologizing again. We just didn't anticipate. We just did not anticipate the

Speaker 2 (00:07:29):

Crowd.

Speaker 1 (00:07:40):

We're gonna have to do the moving around.

Speaker 2 (00:07:42):

Yeah.

Speaker 1 (00:07:43):

The moving would eat too much time up. You know, we don't want to bring the university to any harm, get 'em in any trouble with, but they have to deal. We'll be gone by Sunday. They're here and we have to respect, you know, their needs.

Speaker 2 (00:08:15):

Okay.

Speaker 1 (00:08:16):

As I was saying, Monsignor was off the met school. When I guess Bob Moses brought you, uh, to your family's house, your mom's and you told them you were gonna work with sand block in Greenwood, Mississippi. Yeah. But y'all you talk about that do comes, comes out of Palm crossing, do Dory Ladner comes out of farmers crossing Mississippi out little community within Hattiesburg. I'm sure she has things to say about how me S influenced her in that community. Maybe she'll also tell us what I consider to be the most tragic story in Mississippi, which which has to do with, uh, adversely unknown, namely canard before James Meredith attempted to role in Ole miss. And what happened to him? Uh, any case she wound up going to two little college and Dory if I remember right. Cause maybe your sister Joyce, I have you been confused with, you talked about having to sneak off to demonstrations at today at Jackson state. We walk off again, but, um, we didn't anyway, let's go quickly. Let's go quickly. Well, since we're wish start, let's start with you do and then work our way back to window. Well, some to put, I'm overwhelmed to see so many, um, people here use mic, use the mic. Yeah.

Speaker 1 (00:09:48):

I'm overwhelmed to see so many to see so many people here today. And, um, it seemed like it was yesterday that we started out. I was talking to peacock about, um, the day that his father brought him to Greenwood and gave turn vote to Bob and Anza Moore. I happened, um, going back to my beginning, growing up in Palm cross, which was outside city lemon from Harrisburg. And I lived near the Gulf coast in about an hour and a half from Orleans. Um, and university of

Southern Mississippi is there. And also William here, college and it was sleep in town. Um, there was no farming, um, very little industry and most people in the LA on, um, their gardens and so forth made work teachers, preachers, and, um, somehow and within mass and my, uh, family spirit, we were independent people and I was taught at an early age to always be independent by my mother. And by watching your family and that you picked your signals up from your, your people around you, your environment, and everybody was not in the movement. I hear a lot of people have March and Martin Luther king, but there only a few of us, um, history be told who really every day, but to make a long story short, um, I grew up in Palm, um, middle schools, um, no access to libraries and, um, um, books were seven third hand from white students.

Speaker 1 (00:11:51):

No, um, public swimming pool. I out to swim today now being, I had to go to, um, Jackson, Mississippi, which was 90 of miles to college Jackson state, but Al digress. Um, IARD Mr. Vernon's name, who was killed coming out house at, through a fire bomb in his house. Um, he defend local NAACP and his sister used to take my sister, us and I two NAACP meetings in Jackson. We were 14, 15 years old and my mother, uh, did not, um, Evan tell us not to do anything I had. Um, I don't know many, some, you know, me, I may have a, um, a zeal or a, um, a fight in that, uh, that will never go out just that burning plain. And yes, I hear that, um, at age of 12, I'm, I'm going jumping back and forth, but I'm going carry you straight. Uh I'm. As, as things come to me, um, at age of 12, um, I was, uh, looking at jet magazine and the local store and Ebony, and I bought a bag of donuts and this, um, white man who worked in the store, the cash here came by and slapped me on the behind. And I turned around and started feeding him with this bag of donuts.

Speaker 1 (00:13:29):

That was my temperament.

Speaker 1 (00:13:33):

I told mother, she said, you should have continued to beat. And just so that was the environment that I came out. She always told us to always look for white men in the eyes when you're talking to them, never looked out, never looked out, always looked straight. And so, uh, she had come from a community, um, which was multiracial and Wayne county miss. And they, she had grown up that way. But, um, Mr. Damer and pat Pinard and, uh, Mr. Uh, DER's sister, sister beard used to drive us to Jackson, Mississippi to NAACP meeting. That's where I got to know maybe ever who was, who had found impact on my life. And, um, I, uh, so grateful that I was exposed to people who at that time had envision, but were not around here, but their spirits, uh, here had such an impact and only our growth and this, this country.

Speaker 1 (00:14:36):

And if truthfully told, um, we used to go to the NA C T meeting maybe once a year, and we could not enroll in Southern, which was segregated. The fact Kenard had attempted to, uh, enroll, um, and he was put in par penitentiary for seven years, chicken and had come home to take of his, and they, um, first time he went on campus by attorney R brown. He, um, they said that he Hadia car, which he, second time they arrested him and put jail and had Mississippi without legal. He had access to counsel, but the, uh, state is closed, said, we determined that you're not going register. You're not going school here. So this was how they handled it. You to years of labor attempt enroll. And by that time, I already had graduated, had gone to Jackson, Mississippi to Jackson state. And you can imagine what kind of impact that had on me and also, um, remembering the death till which was my, and I, although in till must have lived two or 300 miles from me, I went to bed and covered my head up every night, thinking that they were going to come and get me.

Speaker 1 (00:16:23):

If they got him, I knew they would get me. So that was my waiting. I started studying the constitution and remember the 13, 14, 15 amendments, which I had never been exposed to and preamble and everything else America's pre to field empowered. Cause Mississippi such a closed was such a closed society, such a closed society, but it had its own, uh, socialization end it very hard to figure out. But if you, you could understand it. But for me, I always wanted to know what was beyond there. Cause Southern, uh, had a special dog built for like, uh, people from south America. And I looked at them downtown trying to figure out their, and they spend all the money for them to live in a special dorm. And we couldn't, we were living right there in the far county and we couldn't go to school there, but jumping to Jackson state, James Meredith was one of our strategists and I got to Jackson state and Megan Edward's office was across the street and every Wednesday we could, uh, have half day off and George and I would run across the street, talk to Megan about our freedom, but we didn't know what it really meant, but we, we just wanted to be free.

Speaker 1 (00:17:52):

Um, the Stiping, as I said, was a closed society and I, and I felt that. And um, now I laugh and I look, think about 50 years and all of it has been compressed to this and the public library that we tried to integrate. And I'm laughing now saying they didn't have anything on those. She literary,

Speaker 1 (00:18:17):

If they have word books, now I know they didn't have anything there, but, um, we had the right to attempt to, you know, that they just opened the state archives up in 1992 in Mississippi. But, um, me Evers had a profound impact on us. Uh, we demonstrated in solidarity with the students from two who attempted at the public library in Jackson and they were arrested the two nine we had met with the president OFTU college and some other people and Dr. Uh, Ryder who's quite Mississippi state suggests that we have a prayer meeting in Jackson state. And I thought, if you pray, cause I came from the community. If you have a meeting at a crab meeting, so we at library close circle around the pool and uh, saw your friend, president comes and slaps the, um, president of the student council and just running around, around like a man, a I've never seen such anger and all this was political.

Speaker 1 (00:19:36):

I didn't understand. Didn't understand. So, um, the next morning they had the, the K nine dogs on from Vicksburg. And so we said, we going March anyhow. So we attempted to go out the, um, gate and to go up Lin street, we saw a whole blockhead across the street. So we said we were going into the black community. And, um, we got into the black community and the we at freedom house road street. And, uh, all of a sudden someone said, turn, the dogs of them got damn near. And the, the dogs were, uh, being dead and, and tear gas was being thrown canvas and people were letting us in their house and they were running up and down the alley. And I know how our ancestors felt those. We were trying to run away. I, I, at that time, I really knew how it felt. I, I sustained tear gas, uh, stars now, but the point being was that we were still making a point and the people that I encountered the second year, uh, because I transferred to Jack to from Jackson state Toula, after my prayer was questioned, I asked a peace in the world and I had nothing with the church. The major way I'm told the students that I had asked the peace in the world.

Speaker 1 (00:21:16):

I said, if you don't want me here and you gonna question a friend, I don't want be around you. He said, you, I, I'm not gonna stay here. I don't wanna be around you. And, um, I wasn't being disrespectful, but I was standing up for my rights and we left and went to, went to Chicago and worked mill the house couldn't participate in the free ride basket. We could keep

Speaker 2 (00:21:49):

Going.

Speaker 1 (00:22:01):

I asked my father if we could ride. He said, no, that's the last time I asked him, If I can ask you to re I want you to take these people to be, instead of, instead of going to medical school, how you wound up going with Bob back up in the Tallahassee county and making the decision to then join sand block in, uh, in, yeah. Don't start with Frank. Okay. Well, you started however you want. Okay. Something about myself. Yeah. I know myself a little better than,

Speaker 1 (00:22:58):

And uh, some people know me a little better than that. Cause I dunno how to look at myself. Like they look at me, but the thing with is, um, I'm originally from Tallas county, a little town on the side of the county called Charleston, Mississippi called it the Delta. I started to tell you that, cause that had impacted my life. I was going lucky boy, I long time, days at a time. And um, I'm skipping through things now. And by the time I'm 11 years old, uh, uh, by crook got moved to a plantation and that had, uh, profound in fact, on my life to change me. We been study like, uh, we'd been study up that portion of history of Delta slavery, uh, just before we moved about sixth grade. And uh, and I got there. The, I saw slavery alive called she slavery was, and I didn't like it at all. Um, I was 14. I made decision that I would, I would leave plantation. I ran with what they call I ran with. And, uh, I was, I had a real baby face. So all the things I was trying to do to learn, to take care of myself, it just wasn't happen was why I ended up, uh, after it was a strategic move to make my parents move up the plantation. That's

Speaker 2 (00:24:54):

Why plant.

Speaker 1 (00:24:58):

Cause I was one that wouldn't expect to. And so it made an impression on them. It finally found, uh, where I had ran away way too. I time I had never been 10 miles away him. And so I ran away too. I didn't go too far about 30 miles away. And then from there I went to, I, I, I, uh, I was trying to get to California for some reason.

Speaker 2 (00:25:34):

I ended

Speaker 1 (00:25:34):

Up in new Orleans And uh, and, uh, and actually, I didn't know what, and the ships, the boats came in bringing all stuff and the guys, you know, I was making my little running the unloads. And so they, they would me take this here and pick this one up and it to there. And only thing I knew was, and then the cops got at me, I knew I wasn't going to get caught. So, and, and I come to find out later that I was real trafficking.

Speaker 1 (00:26:22):

And so I thought I'd better get, I came back to Mississippi. I was, I was about years old and the next thing, so I had to, I had to come back home, uh, after my determined, if they ever found anybody or any people that, that were going to do something about the situation, uh, that black people were in, in Mississippi that I was gonna, and really, really made things, uh, made me angry. Uh, it didn't make me frighten. I was angry. And, um, and then I, I determined always. I always, I go, I go to college and I would fly there. I probably, while I was there, the, the started in, started in, we already started some off the campus trying to integrate stuff. Cause west college, my college was support of picking support of that particular city. Um, so I got, I got, I, I got, I, I was about to graduate from west college just about a few months. I think pretty Smith. The first person came Deon diamond, Deon diamond, uh, came to, we met, we talked, he was getting ready to do some. He heard about the different people on the campus who were, were, were activists from. And so we were getting it together and then he left. He left and, uh, and I, I

didn't know anything about these things. The next thing I heard, they said, well, uh, where's said, well, you went to angle. I said, oh,

Speaker 2 (00:28:55):

Went,

Speaker 1 (00:29:07):

I think you came, uh, uh, late 61 and checked things out and went back. Then he came in the spring, came in the spring of 62. That was the year. Uh, I was graduating. So I started working with Franks left. I graduated and I stayed on, worked with Frank Smith, uh, up until almost time for me to, uh, to, to go to another student. But anyway, I was very impressed with Frank was on S hall, balcony torch out there. And he had three books where reading, I said, why you reading? I said, what are you doing? Why are you reading so many books there? He said, I'm making a comparison now. It's I don't know enough to have an opinion about, Okay. And he starts putting running, you know, I'm a science and I didn't, I didn't even wanna hear about, he started talking about The become professional lecturer, Frank, they would be, they'd be, they would be battling out That's Anyway, he got my attention, got

Speaker 2 (00:30:50):

Me.

Speaker 1 (00:30:52):

And so I kind drank around and, and some days Frank wouldn't be want to go and I'd be pushing. Right. Cause I wanted to wanted him to go down. There we go downtown. And he talk crazy to the Cause the blacks, Their and would found out was a mean, boy, he, And I think it rub out for me. Cause like, see, he mentioned me and I carry the same to this, to the Mississippi Delta, you know, but people, they were mean, But I got, I thought they up, I got this as mean I'm they I'm a clown, man. That's very, but I, Frank had taught me, don't taking stuff off. I, he, but anyway that, uh, well really green. But anyway, I went, I Frank, I said, I said, you think I stay? I said, I'm so, uh, I said, well, do you think I still wanna work with man work with? He said, well, I don't have the authority to hire, to work with. Ain't no money. But I said, well, don't forget. Next thing I know Bob Moses and Moore was at my door. I hadn't even unpacked. I'm Hadn't even unpacked. And Bob told me, he said, said, you don't know. He said, when am knew, I was going say he came straight to my house direction. And I found out later, see the human. My daddy had me going to these meetings that they had and they, and my father knew each other, knew each other. And I didn't know, my dad was standing human talking, smiling, and talking to each other and giving the more funny sign

Speaker 1 (00:33:19):

To get it. That's basically what he Anyway. Um, so I ended up, I was supposed to go to Villes work and I ended up in, in Greenwood cause of the fact that, uh, brown and Sam block was about to get Lynch in Greenwood that night. And, uh, they called Bob, uh, Bob, I mean Sam black called Bob and said, uh, Hey, it's about, uh, it's about, uh, 30th, white, white t-shirt with a hounds and chains and what you think we should do. And Bob said, I think it'd be a good idea for get out. We got to go the Greenwood and see what 35 miles away and see what go over. So I, What we,

Speaker 2 (00:34:44):

I

Speaker 1 (00:34:44):

Said about this, I didn't have to with, with Frankie, from Holly, explain, I didn't have to be confronted with too much non that stuff. You know, so far demonstrating that you were so I, so I

didn't know a lot about, you know, how this work, I said, I said, you gonna nonviolence the hell outta

Speaker 1 (00:35:14):

Did get, they did do what Bob said. They, they got out the building and papers were all over the floor, excuse me. And they, and, and, and, and one of the, and Bob came on in and was one of the noise box fans in the world and he turned it on and it was making all that noise. I said, man, trying to get his kill. People don't know we up in here. And I followed suit. He made his little, his little, uh, his little, his little pallet. I mean, man, we went to bed sleeping and uh, woke up the next morning. We still alive and, uh, Lu gone brown. And we, some that kept very went well. The, I never made

Speaker 1 (00:36:20):

Because as he spoke, you know, you know, in the plenary, but I, again, gene, I wanna ask you, I wanna ask you a very specific question, which is because time is so limited. That's, that's the problem I love for really each person on this panel to have an hour herself. It's gonna talk about that there involved, but anyway, Jean, how does somebody like yourself, a Howard university student from Detroit, Michigan wind up at Mississippi. That was what I wanted talk about, worked out. And I, I wanted to especially think, uh, direct my comments to the, uh, students who are here, because I think that you might find some similarity in my experiences, uh, in how I being at Howard and finally joined movement. I, um, when I went to Howard in 1960, I was, uh, dive going, heaven. Beautiful. I mean, there were Queens, fantastic looking, black people on a great clothing.

Speaker 1 (00:37:23):

They had cars and it look like you couldn't ask for anything more, but after I'd been there, not too long, like, so maybe just that first after about the first semester it became empty. I mean, they had a lot of stuff, but they weren't, there was no substance there, you know, you go to their parties. And I, I had no idea what they were talking about. I don't even even talk. They were just, so it, it was, uh, kind of pretend, uh, life that they were living. These people that I was, was seeing when I was there. And, uh, I was, I couldn't figure out what to do. I just know that I knew I, I didn't quite fit in with them. I was a real good student and I, um, that's how I got there. Cause I was a real, um, God scholarship and I, so I said, well, I'll focus on my education.

Speaker 1 (00:38:15):

I'll become, I'll, I'll look toward being the best chem chemistry major. And I, um, I got a scholarship to go to the university of West Virginia for a summer of the national science foundation. They worked horrible to me. They, they were, this is my first real true, um, experience of total discrimination. Nobody would talk to me. The teachers hardly would talk to me, nobody. I was, I was like, I was walking around all by myself on this huge campus. And, um, I had a, um, I used to have to go down to, um, uh, one of the things that I had to do is, um, these chemistry experience would take like three hours or something. The other one you cook, but you cook the chemicals for three hours. I'd be sitting there with this, uh, brown liquid brown Nu experiment going up and down in this tube.

Speaker 1 (00:39:04):

Refluxing and thinking that I, my life was going nowhere, you know? And then I went, I, one day I went down, I had some money. My mother had given me and I wanted a dress. I paid all the money I had for this dress, uh, at, um, little, in a little stripping town. And, um, it was a special dress. It would be like a, I dunno, a, I can't think of a brand name. It would be a brand big brand name now. And, um, what you say Louiston. Okay. So something like it is like Louiston first or something like that. And I went and I, after I bought it, um, I went next door to get a Coke and I could not, they said, no, you cannot buy a coat in, in our store. I had just spent with the equivalent of a whole, you know, my mother's salary weeks out or something.

Speaker 1 (00:39:52):

And I was so mad. I was paralyzing language. So I went back to my, the chemicals going up and down and in the reflux tube. And I looked down at a newspaper at New York times and I saw a picture of Penelope patch and Penelope paint patch and, and, uh, the scene, I think it was Southwest. It was, and these dogs were attack from penny. And I remember saying myself well, if penny patch, whoever she is can do this, I can do this. And that's how I got joined, uh, how I got my mind back, uh, toward movement. And then I came back to Howard in the September and I joined nag, which is, uh, non about action group. It was SNCC, um, um, Howard's campus. And I, I, time is short and I want say this about what was so special about nag for, for the young people here.

Speaker 1 (00:40:41):

Um, they, um, we had very, very smart people working on great ideas. It, it was, uh, we built an organization on campus to take, to, um, uh, work against this sort of mindless party that they were doing. And, uh, and our organization, uh, we was called project awareness and we brought Malcolm X. We brought, uh, bio dust. We brought James bald to the campus. I mean, it was fantastic. So after, um, so, so the, so year after I was thinking, oh my gosh, my life's going nowhere. And I'm, I'm even think about I'm sitting in the room and, uh, and Malcolm bay. So, and the same room I was sitting in with Charlie and with, uh, Portland Cox, and still C James would talk for like four hours. He talk And, and maybe take a nap, maybe you still talking. So I found these great ideas that I could really just understand and connect with. And that's how I, and so when then one day I said so many, I think I said to Stok one day, you know, I think I liked it post out the next day Stok showed up in the middle and he gave me this ticket to go,

Speaker 1 (00:42:09):

No tickets to tus and Alabama, oh, Up here, I stand up long. You can see me.

Speaker 2 (00:42:19):

That's right.

Speaker 1 (00:42:20):

I'm with Paris. I I'm bringing greetings from the Alabama black belt and the Mississippi Delta. I have dual citizenship, Temporary citizenship. I temporary citizenship. Cause the best that we were able to get out of the civil rights struggle was to give the temporary rights to people we have. And we need to make that clear. The reason I've come to talk to you, young people is cause as you can see, we we've been in this race a pretty good while we get ready to pass this. And we can't give you this Baton when yout tr around with your pants down below your, With your process, with your Afro head and your process mind, right? When you take this Baton, you gotta take it at four speed and we get ready to give it to you. Just like it was given to us. I said, bring you greet in front of black belt. The black belt was so named cause of Booker T watcher, not cause of any kind of, uh, martial arts stuff, but cause

Speaker 1 (00:43:28):

Land, the productive land stuff that is there. The black belt probably starts, uh, just starts south of, of Washington, goes down through North Carolina, South Carolina, uh, Georgia, and through Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana in the Texas. And then I guess if you took the, the top part of it, of the sickle, that's called the black belt, uh, you'd go, uh, uh, what Florida? No, no, no, let's go the other way we went that way. Then you go Louisiana, Arkansas. Yeah, Missouri, Missouri. But that's the territory basically called the black belt. And this black belt is the most volatile political area that we have in the country. It's volatile because of the people who live there, black folks range in the black belt counties from probably a lower 35% to a higher, in some counties of 90%. Most of those counties in the black belt are over 50% black population. So there's no AC it's no accident. Then that all what they're talking about and what happened in the south, it was really an effort to keep people under control. That's what it was all about. It took killing you. So



what We got control and we, we put in place to read, I got involved in the movement. Make sure you, you tell this, get the call of a young lady named faith, Bella,

Speaker 1 (00:45:07):

Faith Genius up there, reading all this, that stuff about you. I don't know, whatever philosophy

Speaker 2 (00:45:16):

That

Speaker 1 (00:45:18):

All my philosophical stuff. And there are three things I wanna talk to you about three things I want to talk to you about that really, uh, got me involved in the movie. Um,

Speaker 1 (00:45:43):

Um, the first, the first one I talk about is, uh, in, in, in, in February of 1965, uh, uh, a fellow was killed named Jimmy Lee Jackson. Jim Lee Jackson was a resident of Perry county, Alabama Mar in Alabama. And as you know, uh, many of you heard of the SEL Montgomery March really didn't start in Selma. It started in, in low county in Barry county, in Marion, Alabama. And the reason that they were marching in Marion was because of one of two counties that I know that the folks had won the right, the vote prior to passage of the, uh, uh, the vote rights act in 19 for the 1965, August of 65. But Perry county had gone through the courts and they had the system had gone through and they had won the right to register folks to vote prior to, uh, the 1965 voting right. That they were marching because even though they had won the right to get people registered in Perry county, they still weren't registered. So the people were, were complaining to the local officials. They were stand complaining to the state officials, but they were also complaining to the federal government.

Speaker 1 (00:47:06):

See the federal government had issued the order for them to register the vote, but the federal government wasn't prepared to enforce the law. So the folks had to mark, they said, we gotta go out here and complain. We gotta do whatever we can to get us right to vote. So as a result, George Wallace called for the, for the Alabama state trooper to come in and kill somebody. And the person that they killed was Jim Lee Jackson. So they said we are first going to March from Marion to Selma to the federal courthouse in Selma. And we are going to put a replica of, of, of his stack, excuse me, casket of Jim Lee Jackson, a on the, on, on, on, on the steps of the federal courthouse, did y'all hear what I said, relegate the movement to Mississippi, Alabama, the south, the federal government is as much a corporate in stopping black people from having rights.

Speaker 1 (00:48:09):

That's what we have to, that's the reason we come at you all to get you to get a good understanding of stuff. Cause you gotta take this Baton and you gotta run with it. Go, go ahead. Okay. So here what here, what these folks that were, were getting ready, trying to get to vote and he to say Jimmy, he was killed, but then when they got to Selma, they said, well, PO George Wallace is also responsible. Therefore we need to March from Selma to Montgomery and y'all know the rest of that story. Right? None of, you know, the rest of that story, the Selma of Montgomery March is, uh, kinda, I guess, peacock been at tu ski. What, uh, get ready to go back, trying to get ready to go. So, uh, Ock was there and as he was all and fascinated with, with Frank reading books, we were all inated with peacock for the fact that he didn't take no jump off the white. He said to us and listen, I have been arrested for the last time. I'm not going to jail anymore. Ain't nobody can feed me, cross my head. And I don't suck nobody to fight back. And that's what, that's what, that's what really helped us in our that's coming to coming, uh, essence and coming to being that we had folks there who did not play our civil rights movie was called Tuske to the master. That's right, George, ready for let get all the folks who worked in the hand or

Speaker 1 (00:49:59):

We hall said called peacock and said, listen, miss Haer, uh, in, in FA Haer, uh, in sun flower county has also won this right to vote, proud to try to get registered. Excuse me, proud to the passage of the, uh, voting rights act. And Ms. Hamel said, I need some students to come in and help me get folks registered to vote. So peacock headed the delegation, George and I in it that went to first, we stopped in Greenwood. And then we went on to Mrs. Ha's house. And I can't tell y'all a lot. Cause you see the shot standing up here. So lemme, we got ha's house. Mrs. Ha said to us one more, she front opened a shut. She didn't have a window. She from open Michelle on her door and said, y'all see that hospital. Yes. Ma'am say any black woman that goes to that hospital of child bearing years. Come back still.

Speaker 1 (00:51:03):

Why that hit me so hard? Cause here I am thinking to the look we hear about genocide in other countries. We don't nobody talk about genocide in the United States. No, I heard anything about the dust simple study at that time. Right. You know, but here was folks actually practicing genocide on our people in Mississippi. And guess what guess who was financing? He, the federal government sponsoring these folk to jail, all black folk in the Mississippi Delta. So here we were and needs to say, now I'm, I'm, I'm getting some political cloud or, or understanding of, of foreign concept by this man. And I came to understand that we had to struggle continuously unre likely if we were going to be successful in this fight for free. So here we were Selma, uh, excuse me, Perry county into Selma into Montgomery. And here we were already vote and we were successful.

Speaker 1 (00:52:10):

Uh, Ms. Hamel said to us, I want y'all to get 200 folk register to vote this week. And we were able to do that. The last lady I register vote. George, you remember this was Ms. Catherine Jones, Ms. Catherine Jones could, she could write, but she was so afraid of this system that when she got down registrar office, she couldn't write her name. So every time she would write her name, she would erase it. So every afternoon after we got back, George and a few of us would go to Ms. Catherine Jones house to Ms. Jones. Do Ms. Jones, Ms. Jones, you could, you could write your name. Look, write. And Friday that Friday when the poll was getting ready to close about 10 finish before they closed, Ms. Jones came out there, had a written name,

Speaker 1 (00:53:05):

Young in with us at Tuke. He was like a money to me. And when you talking about deaths, really impacting folk, the death for Sam young is what really impacted me. Okay. Why was it so important? Here was the first black student to die in the movement. Okay. Here we were there. And, and we, that day, when here, when had gone the work was I guess, NSA that, but anyway, they had some money to get folks to register the vote. And that would've been immediately after, I guess the vote rights act was put into place in 1965 and November was 65. So the, uh, here we were December of 1965, getting folks ready to go register the vote, uh, in, uh, Macon county, Alabama. Tuske the first Monday in January of 1966. So when we showed up that morning to get people registered to vote, we came down about 154.

Speaker 1 (00:54:13):

Not only did we make the white folk mad, we made the black folk mad. The Tuskegee civic association. Kathleen had a standing order that you couldn't get more black, 12 black folks register today here where the black folks had cut agreement with white folks that they really didn't want no folks living from the community to get registered. You just class people from college campuses, white folks. I no vocabulary. So here we were. And here we were yet folks registered in boat, registered 150 to 200 people that day. And that night they killed that night. They killed that night. They killed them outside of that night. I vow that night. I would fight injustice until I die. I decided that night, that night I would fight until I die. I just left a

battlefield. Before I came here, I'm giving a veteran, uh, who was a civil excuse me, uh, uh, Vietnam era veteran to get his rights.

Speaker 1 (00:55:34):

He had, he, he got hurt in the, uh, uh, doing PT training and they refused to give him his better. And we have been fighting that fight since 1975. He got five federal judge that is rule in his favor, but the da refused to give him his right. Cause they said they, they, they LPN right in his record that he had a congenital birth defect and they gave him a medical leave as a result of having a defect. So says this LPN and the United States government has used that for over 30 years to deny his man his benefits. I'm saying when we got bit by that freedom, it doesn't die out. It. They said, miss Hamo one time Ms. Hamel, why do you, why did you, why did you choose to do this kind of work? Ms. Hamel said that I wouldn't choose to do this work. I was chosen. So what you have Again again, and I apologize for the squeeze of time, we absolutely have to be outta here at noon. So that's why I'm kind of pushing everybody. All right. Um, just before I let this thing, but I want you all personally to know who mentioning

Speaker 1 (00:57:24):

My time, the person here was vital important to the movement. When we, uh, after the sit-ins we decided that we were gonna make this full-time movement. We asked, you know, everybody who was interested in black struggles to help us. One of the people, the first person who, who answered that part was Harry Beon. When the time was the biggest black star in, in the world, biggest black entertainment star in the world. He put all us together and, and, uh, ballroom Washington was doing concert. And, uh, and we talked and he said, and we said, we were thinking of dropping out school, but we didn't know what, uh, how we were going to live, how we could support ourselves. And we knew things were gonna happen with repeating, we going to jail. And Harry said he would support us. He would back. He is, uh, the single most important persons in the development of SCC. Thank you, Chuck. Uh, I, I am here first of all. Cause SNIC has meant so much to all us with young men and women come together to make this organization what it has been and aspires to be, uh, is worthy of all that we can invest in. I first met young singers, not quite sure what I was getting into all the Renegade kind of crowd.

Speaker 1 (00:59:10):

They all looked like they should have been in school instead of this passion to leave school and to get on the streets and to make a difference. But it didn't take long. Once I heard their passion, their lead, their point of view, and I understood, uh, how much it lead so much a part of them and any resources that I had for celebrity an intellectual capacity, somewhat minimal from that perspective. And anything else that could be done sick was my call. I'm very grateful to the person who alerted me to their presence. She was a woman that, uh,

Speaker 1 (01:00:12):

Ella working with her on the staff king. And I watched Dr. King in his frustration. Uh, some frustration the way in which many in the church were ING. Uh, the agenda you saw it and the big fall up and that agenda were the young people felt quite frustrated. The snail space was not the kind, they were interested. Something were commanding something more closely kni to their thoughts and theirs and their passions. Ella understood that. And then she called and for a period of her, it was easy for me to meet Chuck and others who at that event. And, uh, I kind thought of for a year or two and a way of life and I just achieve what they did each. And one of them gave me opportunity, the experienced experiences I and others have had and to continue to be in service. I would hope that from this gathering, we do more than just nostalgia

Speaker 1 (01:01:44):

Father talked about what used to be father, take a good hard look at what is, and where did we miss the vote and where do we have to go? And are we still of the will and the mind and St to go there as some reason to do somewhat skeptical. Cause often the young people in this country

have reached out to us S and very strong waves, and more often than not, they find themselves at the end of the line, uh, dismiss reject. And there is a pain there that is hard to fathom. I spend a lot of time with young and the, of America, and I see their counterpart in other of Latin America, Caribbean. I live I'm young cause it keeps me alive. It's a selfish as long I And that voice. And I hope this is all over it. Set some kind of agenda or make some kind of declaration or come to some sort of decision as to how much space do we continue to take on. And we shouldn't be not to get out of the way and let somebody else go and help in that process. Come here just to sleep. The next phase of this thing goes and how much gonna cost

Speaker 1 (01:03:47):

Just before we wrap up, uh, how Wakin stands for a minute or so. I just want to say in reference to Harry in terms of what he did for Mississippi during the year of 1962 and 63 of the years, when mechanization in the Mississippi Delta came for women. And because of that, a lot of people didn't have no work to do. They also stopped giving away commodities and didn't allow food stamp to come into the death and had it not been for Harry and Dick Gregory grazing tons of food and clothes, facilitating those to company, to the Delta that we gave to the people of the Delta. Many of those people would have star and are frozen death. So I just want to say that as a result of har and big great, we were raising all of that food and clothes. They literally saved it lives of people from the Mississippi Delta depart. I just had to bring that peace forward. Adjourn. I apologize. Y'all adjourn. Let me say one thing.

Speaker 2 (01:05:25):

Council,

Speaker 1 (01:05:26):

The federated organizations of Mississippi, um, Jackson state university will get ready to board those. The building. Now we have saved the building. We now have whole building Inc. And we Mississippi civil rights and within the next two months, so y'all needed something to do

Speaker 2 (01:05:54):

Tonight. There's nine 30 for students about my age else.