

# the freedom news

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## WHY THE NEGRO OF MISSISSIPPI SHOULD VOTE

The Negro of Mississippi should vote so that he may get the things he wants in life as a citizen of Mississippi and the United States of America.

Some of us sit around and say "I wish I could have things that the white man has: for instance, houses, proper sewage, better schools, roads, and most of all better jobs."

Now say, "Mr. Charlie has a good asphalt street leading to his house. My street is nothing but sand. If a rain comes you can't even get to my house, but a flood can come and you can still get to Mr. Charlie's house." His children got a very good education here in Mississippi. My can't your children do the same thing or get better jobs.

You say, "If I vote I don't get a job." What will you lose? Not anything. Do you want to do all the hard work and get the lowest wages all your life? Of course not.

Some of us work for \$1.15 to \$1.25 an hour. This is about the highest we can get in Mississippi. The white man, who is on a higher scale.

So don't sit around and say "I wish" all the time. If the Negro is a white would go to the polls and vote he would have the things he wants and wouldn't have to wish for it.

God helps those who help themselves. So help yourself and go to the polls today. Tomorrow may be too late.

By Gary Phillip Paulner

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

I'm pretending I'm a white man businessman in Mississippi. The business I own is the only means I have to make a decent living for my family. My business is getting along just fine, so far, and so is my family life. In my particular business I need men to do some of the work. I'm not prejudiced against Negroes, therefore I'll hire Negroes also and pay them the same as I pay my white workers.

Everything is O.K. until a phone call saying, "If you don't get rid of the niggers we will run you out of business." Now I'm upset. What should I do? The Negroes are my friends and their work is excellent. I hate to turn against them. Will they understand? What can I say? If I keep them, my own family that I love so much will suffer. It isn't right that they should suffer nor is it right for the Negro to suffer. I'm not rich so I can't establish a business elsewhere. All of my money is invested in this one. I love my family more than anything else in the world, therefore they come first.

I called my Negro workers together and explained the

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situation. Bless them, they understood. I payed each one of them and told him that if he needed anything to let me know, I would do all I could without endangering my loved ones. I know I could have helped the Negroes if only I knew more businessmen who feel as I do. Together we would have won this battle, but who are they? Where are they? How would I go about finding them?

By Delia Polk

### LET'S TAKE A LOOK

I hear that Mayor Sam Coopwood of Holly Springs, Mississippi, has asked Methodist Bishop Marvin Franklin of Jackson, Miss., to investigate Rust College and Dr. Ernest Smith, its president. *Boy!* Things are getting touchy, aren't they?

He also wrote a letter dated June 29 to Bishop Franklin. The letter: "The good people of Holly Springs, both white and colored, are very much disturbed about the activity at Rust College."

"As you probably know there are about 100 white and colored students from Oxford, Ohio, and other parts of the country living on the Rust Campus." (How get this!) "White boys and girls are living together with the colored."

Then he goes on to say, "As Mayor of Holly Springs and as a member of the official board of the Methodist Church, I respectfully request that you and your group investigate Dr. Smith and Rust College."

Well! Let's go back. He says he's a member of the Methodist Church. I wonder if he believes all men are created equal. If he does I wonder what could be so bad about colored and white living together? I wonder if he has an answer that question. As Booker T. Washington said and I quote, "You can't keep a man in the hole without being down yourself." Don't you think that kind of fits Mayor Coopwood? While he's trying to keep the Negroes down he's really lowering himself as Mississippi! (That fits a lot more Southern states too.)

Most people in Holly Springs (and other places too) aren't quite citizens -- not excepting the whites. The colored people aren't quite citizens because they don't vote and some don't try to vote! The white people aren't quite citizens because if they were they'd accept the Bill of Rights. So see, we're even. Why keep fighting things back? You've got to take the medicine sometime or other, so why not take it now?

By Avelyn J. Mitchell