

# THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS FREE PRESS

"... If there is no struggle there is no progress... Power concedes (gives up) nothing) without a demand..."  
Frederick Douglass

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## FREDERICK DOUGLASS - A GREAT BLACK MAN IGNORED BY HISTORIANS

Many years ago our black forefathers were brought to this country in chains, having been dragged away from their homeland, their families, and their heritage. considered property rather than men, our forefathers were victims of the white mans brutality - rape, murder, lynching, and other tortures untold. They were denied education, denied any voice in their future, denied any protection under the law. And yet, the black slaves survived. They lived to learn the language. They lived to reestablish some type of family life. They lived to be able to teach themselves how to read and write. They lived to see the day when President Lincoln, out of necessity, declared them free. They lived to become great lecturers, editors, statesmen, and to make contributions towards the building of the very nation that enslaved them. Black men fought and died for a country that did not even consider them human beings. Black men fought for a country and an identity, such had been taken from them. Out of this kind of era came Frederick Douglass, a man destined to plead well the cause of his people.

Ebony magazine called Frederick Douglass the father of the protest movement; Lincoln found him worthy of praise, and yet, we hear little of Frederick Douglass, because historians have tried to ignore his achievements, as a man and as a Negro.

Frederick Douglass was born a slave, son of an unknown white father and a slave mother. He was named Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. Frederick Douglass, the name he later adopted, escaped from slavery early in life. As he had been denied an education, he taught himself to read and write. He later became a great lecturer, editor, organizer, and spokesman for his people and his country.

The black man, Frederick Douglass, was the first of the sit-inners and freedom-riders. He dedicated his life to the achievements of the rights of all people. Mr. Douglass traveled abroad, after becoming one of the main spokesmen for the abolitionists (people who fought against slavery), people like William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, and John Brown, among others, all white men. He was, of course, well known to great black women like Sojourner Truth and Harriett Tubman who risked their lives to help slaves escape by way of the underground railroad (a network of secret roads and paths,

may through swampy areas).

Quoted below is a portion of a speech delivered at the West India Emancipation Celebration by Frederick Douglass, August, 1857.

"...This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress. In the light of these ideas, Negroes will be hunted at the North, and held and flogged at the South so long as they submit to those devilish outrages and make no resistance, either moral or physical..."

The Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee ("snick") is following in the traditions of protest which Mr. Douglass might well endorse. It is in this spirit that we acknowledge him and take the liberty of honoring our newsletter with his name.

The Staff

WHAT IS "SNICK"

"Snick" is the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). It has had an active group of FREEDOM FIGHTERS in Selma, Alabama, since February of 1963. Since that time it has enlarged its program from one of just voter registration to one of voter registration and education, helping school children with their school work (Tutorial Programs), setting up libraries, and carrying on a literacy program to help our adults to improve their reading and writing skills.

The Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee first began as an organization in 1960 after the first sit-ins; it began in Raleigh, North, Carolina. It was set up to give information about the demonstrations which were taking place. After the Freedom Rides, SNCC became a more active organization, started some demonstrations, and started trying to take the message of freedom to all who would listen.

SNCC has a full time staff of one to two-hundred persons, including an executive secretary, a chairman, and other necessary officers. All of these persons, both white and black, are dedicated to the proposition that all men should have a full opportunity to develop the talents which he possesses.

For more information about "snick" call 2-1426 or come by 31 1/2 Franklin Street.

A T T E N T I O N

Suit filed by the Justice Department to show patterns and practice of segregation in voter registration in Dallas County to be heard by Federal Judge Thomas on October 5, 1964 in Montgomery, Alabama.

ONE MAN - ONE VOTE