

SNFC Newsletter



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POLITICS AND THE MOVEMENT

In a mock election conducted by the Mississippi Democratic Party (MFDP) just before the regular election, President Lyndon B. Johnson received 63,839 votes, compared to 52,538 cast for him in the regular election. It was the first time in the history of the state that Negroes cast more votes than whites in the election of a Democratic presidential candidate.

President Johnson lost every county in the state, but he would have won at least one county, Benton, if MFDP votes were added to those cast for him in the regular election.

For years the fear that political power could fall into the hands of Negroes and other minority groups has haunted racists and other reactionaries in both the North and the South.

In the South, Negroes are simply denied the right to vote. In a report published by the Federal Commission on Civil Rights under the title, The Negro and the Ballot in the South, it is estimated that only 25 per cent of the Negroes eligible to vote registered in 1960, compared to 60 per cent of the eligible white Southerners. Intimidation and violence on the part of Southern racists is responsible for creating and maintaining this situation.

Only recently have groups like SNCC and MFDP made significant gains in increasing the number of Negroes registered to vote.

Political discrimination in the North is more subtle. This type of discrimination includes special weighting of rural-area representation in Congress and in state legislatures and the fixing of election results.

The problems of political discrimination are serious ones and must be dealt with before the Negro can achieve any real political victories. However, the Negro faces an even more perplexing problem: When he has obtained the right to vote in all areas of the country, and
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SNCC COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

The Community Organization Committee was formed in October, 1964, for the purpose of improving the relationship between Negro and white members of the Carbondale community. Since one effective way to do this would be through contact with the teenagers, C. O. C. has been spending much time at Hogan's Center. The committee has also adopted other programs to achieve its goals.

REPORT: COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

On Saturday, November 7, the Community Organization Committee of SIU SNCC sponsored a dance contest for the teenagers at Hogan's Center at Jackson and Washington Streets. Eight prizes were awarded to winners, Louise Robinson, Ernestine Miller, Melvin Taylor, and "Bobby", (a visitor from St. Louis), won SNCC sweatshirts. The four second prize winners, Barbara Ann Greer, Sylvia Green, Earl Mitchell, and Louis Van Hook, won SNCC buttons. By wearing these prizes they are eight more voices speaking up for FREEDOM NOW! The two supervisors of Hogan's Center, Mr. Hayes and Francis White, and four C. O. C. members, Alan Hopkins, Sandy Johnson, Roy Trickey, and Karen Miller, acted as judges; Nate Griffen was the Disk Jockey.

* GROUP PICTURES *
* * * * *
* Group pictures for the Student *
* Non-violent Freedom Committee will *
* be taken at the Ag. Arena on Monday, *
* November 16, at 8:45 P.M. *
* * * * *

Members of the C. O. C. who have been regularly attending Hogan's Center to join in the dancing, pool playing, etc., have been readily received by the teenagers there. On Saturday nights, C.O.C.
(Cont. on Page 2)

when his vote is counted equally with those of others, how can he best make his political voice heard?

One suggestion that has been made is that Negroes form a third political party and have nothing to do with either of the major political parties. This might be effective in some areas, but it would not be effective in solving discrimination problems on a national scale. The American Negro is in the minority in most parts of the country. He can not gain complete political control over his own destiny by removing himself from the American political structure.

On the other hand, if he goes into one of the major political parties lock, stock, and barrel, he will more than likely lose his bargaining power even though he would be able to exert some direct influence by being in the inner circle.

We must give critical support to one of the major political parties. It would seem logical that we support the Democratic Party except in areas where our interests and its interests are at total odds.

We must form organizations of independent Democrats and others who will work for a Democratic organization that will pay attention to our needs and demands. We must work for a Democratic organization that will provide jobs--without discrimination; quality schools and decent housing--without segregation; and adequate health and welfare legislation. We must work for a Democratic organization that will work for Peace, Freedom and Social Justice for all men!

Ed Clark, Editor

has been selling cokes and popcorn, each at 5c, to raise money for the center. This money will be turned over to the teenagers, who will decide how it will be used.

We want to extend special thanks to our Committee members for their excellent work. Alan Hopkins has donated much of his time by playing pool, cards and ping-pong, and by giving up a whole evening of exam study; Sandy Johnson has furthered our cause by cutting loose with the "jerk" and busying herself with general committee work; Roy Trickey, who has persuaded local businesses to donate refreshments to the Center, has put in much time and energy and popped the most popcorn.

Our committee has broken up into several teams for the purpose of checking out specific addresses for a SNCC headquarters. At least twenty addresses have been checked, mostly by Jim Jones (who has also donated much time to Hogan Center), Alan Hopkins, and Sandy Johnson. Jim Peake gave considerable time in this area and has been the chief strategy consultant for C.O.C.

Jim Jones, while talking with some of the teenagers, came up with a Freedom Chorus. The first rehearsal was scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, at Hogan's Center. Chester Neblett was to help with the singing and teaching.

At the invitation of Charlie Dixon of Hogan's Center, an SNFC member attended the Sunday service of Rock Hill Church. We would like to encourage more SNFC members to also attend; the service is reportedly excellent.

A group of approximately ten Hogan's Center Members attended the SNFC Freedom Now Dance on Friday, November 6.

Our Committee meets every Wednesday night at 8:00 p.m. at 422 West Jackson, Carbondale. The Chairman, Keith Miller, can be reached at 549-3674.

Karen Miller, C.O.C. Secretary

"Of all the modes of escaping from the consideration of the effects of social and moral influences on the human mind, the most vulgar is that of attributing the diversities of conduct and character to inherent natural differences."

JOHN STUART MILL

Social Injustice
Has something to do

With avarice.....
M. HARTY

FREEDOM NOW DANCE A SUCCESS!

SNFC extends a sincere "thank you" to Russell Branch, owner of Dave's Ranch, who donated the use of his facilities and band for the FREEDOM NOW dance. The money, one hundred fifty-five dollars, raised is now in the Mississippi Freedom Fund and will be used to support SIU freedom workers in Mississippi.

Special thanks are also in order to: members of the Marshall's Committee and its chairman, Jim Jones; all people who donated the use of their cars to provide transportation; Kay Prickett and members of the Finance Committee; all musicians who donated their talents; Jim Nugent for printing the advance-sale tickets; all SNFC members who sold tickets; and all members who worked on publicity.

ADDITIONAL STAFF WORKER IN CAIRO

As has been the case for several weeks, a group of SIU SNFC members went to Cairo on the weekend of November 7 and 8, to help out at the Cairo Freedom House. Under the direction of George Graham, Freedom House Staff, and Rice Whitfield, Freedom House President, the students have done canvassing of one sort or another and have been attending various local churches in order to make closer contacts with the people. Recently they have been promoting the Freedom Democratic Clubs of Illinois in Cairo, under the sponsorship of Freedom House.

During the weekend one of the group decided to remain at Freedom House as a permanent staff worker; Harry Cravon, Chicago, who has been working with SNFC this term. Harry's decision now brings the number of full-time staff workers at Freedom House to a total of two.

FRH

DON'T FORGET!!

GROUP PICTURES.....

AG. ARENA, NOVEMBER 16
8:45 P.M.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT FREEDOM COMMITTEE

'PROTECTING DEMOCRACY'

Despite the fact that several men were killed in the South last year and dozens of Negro churches and homes were bombed, the FBI's 1964 annual report (released October 19) devotes one third of a page to civil rights. One whole chapter is devoted to the FBI's anti-communist activity. It is entitled 'Protecting Democracy'.

No mention is made of FBI activity under the federal anti-bombing law. The report indicates that the FBI has made no effort to infiltrate white terrorist organizations as it does the Communist and liberal organizations.

* The nonviolent revolution is a union. *
* The bond of union is love. *
* The characteristic of love is solidarity and mutual aid. *
* SNFC MEETING *
* Thursday, November 19 *
* Student Christian Found. *

The SNFC Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication and is the official organ of the Southern Illinois University Student Non-Violent Freedom Committee. It is dedicated to informing both the SNFC membership and the general public in matters concerning civil rights on the SIU campus, in Carbondale, and throughout the nation.

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