

VOICE

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THE DEMOCRATIC VICTORY ...

DON'T GET HAPPY - YET

Downtown, the Goldwater stickers are coming off car fenders. The Southern Rebels who switched from Democrat to Republican in order to support a man they thought would defend the so-called Southern Way of Life, have lost again.

But in no way is the Democratic victory a signal for Negro jubilation. There is no reason to suppose that Johnson is any more personally concerned about the future of the American Negro minority than Barry Goldwater. When he took over the office of the late J.F. Kennedy he was forced also to take over some of Kennedy's Civil Rights plans. Hence the passing of the Civil Rights Bill.

First and foremost, Johnson is a ruthless politician working with his head - not with his heart. He is not going to do anything for the Negro unless there is a good POLITICAL reason for it.

It is not going to be a case of what Johnson SHOULD do for Civil Rights. It will be a case of what he is FORCED or FINDS NECESSARY to do. It is our problem to find ways of exerting enough pressure to force him to act on our behalf.

So far, Negro Mississippians have had to be content with exerting political pressure indirectly - through special organizations like COFO or through sympathetic out-of-state groups like the National Council of Churches. In future, every Negro in the State should strive toward DIRECT political power through the vote. This is the only kind of power that doesn't get lost over the years or run out of funds. The only kind of power that gets things done in a hurry.

It is lucky for us that the white voters of Mississippi all voted for Goldwater. Johnson will want to encourage Negroes to vote here because he knows that they would support him in any future election AND IF EVERY NEGRO OVER THE AGE OF 21 VOTED HE COULD CARRY THE STATE - EVEN IF HE GOT NO MORE WHITE SUPPORT THAN IN THIS ELECTION.

THE FREEDOM VOTE vs. THE ELECTION VOTE

Despite an all-out information campaign, many people have still been puzzled about the reason for the Freedom Vote Week -

ended on Sunday - which was organized by the Freedom Democratic Party.

The reason should be clearer now that the ballots of both the Freedom Vote and the National Election have been counted and compared.

Look at the present situation: The Democrats are now well and truly in charge of America. They have nothing to fear. And yet in the whole state of Mississippi (and one or two other Deep South states) they hardly got enough votes to fill a ballot-box. Just when they are wondering what they should do to boost their support in the South, along come the results of the Freedom Vote showing that about 60,000 Negroes in Mississippi would have supported them in the National Election - if they were able to vote.

Washington will be thinking hard about that Freedom Vote in Mississippi.

Breakdown: There were about 1400 Freedom voters in the Negro communities around McComb. There are approximately 250 Negroes registered to vote in Pike County.

Over 162 Negroes cast Freedom Votes in Leflore County. In Leflore County there is one Negro only registered to vote.

SENSE OF PROPORTION!

Whether they liked it or not, 'Wednesday's big news for Mississippi newspapers' was the landslide victory of the Democratic Party - if ever, during the year, there was one here was the time for some heart-searching editorials and critical analysis on the theme of Southern rebellion. McComb's Enterprise-Journal had a dramatic editorial - about monkeys in the Tangipahoa swamps and the death of two wild bobcats in the Topisaw swamps!

FROM OUR OWN JAIL CORRESPONDENT ...

Two McComb COFO workers, arrested with about 40 other local people during the recent Freedom Day voter registration drive, had to share a cell at the County Jail with a white convicted murderer. When the prisoner found out that his new companions were Civil Rights workers he wanted to attack them. 'If I'd shot a nigger instead of a white man,' he said, 'I wouldn't be here.'

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From Our Jail Correspondent - Cont'd

Soon afterwards, he made another statement that referred to the recent Circuit Court sensation when Judge J.W. Watkins let nine confessed racist bombers go free with suspended sentences and a telling-off:

'When I get out of here I'll come around with my friends and we'll blow you all to Hell.

'If we get caught they'll let us off and pin a medal on us ... just like they did with those others.'

* * * *

On Monday night the phone rang at the Freedom House on Wall Street. There was no voice at the other end of the line - just the sound of a gun being fired.

INFORMATION NEEDED - TO PUT McCOMB POLICE DEPARTMENT ON TRIAL

This (Thursday, November 5) evening at 7:30, Civil Rights lawyers will be present at a special mass meeting in Sweet Home Baptist Church, Whitestown. They are collecting information, in the form of statements, that may be used in a high court to prove that Negroes in and around McComb receive unfair and intimidating treatment at the hands of the Police Department and other City authorities.

There is a long history here of unjust treatment of Negroes - particularly by the Police. For instance, you may remember something about one of the following incidents which, although it may seem to you to be a small detail, could be very important in a court of law.

In court, evidence will be produced to make comparisons like the following:

On January 10 a group of white teenagers drove through Burglund firing shots into Negro businesses and homes. They were charged with malicious mischief and Sheriff R.R. Warren said he believed the youths were 'pranking.'

In September, following a series of bombings of Negro property, including Churches, a number of Negro high-school students were arrested for 'Criminal Syndicalism.' All they had done was form an angry group at the scene of a bombed house. They were jailed for 30 days and each placed under a bond of \$500.

There are innumerable individual cases of beatings and questionable justice. If you have ever been the victim of local injustice or know anything about it, come forward tonight. Help COFO to have an overwhelming case when the Police department and the Civil Rights

Movement meet face to face in the Federal District Court at Biloxi on November 16.

ABOVE US THE KLU KLUX KLAN

A hand grenade was dropped on the Freedom House at Indianola by a low-flying aircraft recently. The other day, an aircraft (the same one!) dropped Klu Klux Klan leaflets over Algiers. The Klan, world renowned as the racist organization for the less intelligent and poorer segregationist, seems to be getting more sophisticated.

The significant thing is that the dropping of a hand grenade from an aircraft is the kind of self-consciously dramatic (and violent) action that could convince even the Klan that it has finally finished with the pre-election pretence of respectability. You may remember that a few months ago the Grand Dragon protested to the Press that the days of fire-breathing were over. Klansmen, he said, had traded their white sheets for white collars. They would accomplish their racist aims by Constitutional means.

This balderdash is likely to be utterly disproved in the very near future. The Klu Klux Klan - white collars or not - is and always has been a collection of crude and ignorant people with crude and ignorant aims. Because of this, any claim that violence has been abandoned must be laughably false. The claims were made in the first place because the Klan did not want to be thought of as a small Southern 'rebel' group. Now that the election results have shown up the South generally as old-fashioned and politically (and therefore socially) rebellious, the Klan will feel justified in assuming its traditional habits.

What's the betting that a KKK cross will burn in Pike County before the month is out?

A PLACE OF OUR OWN

Civil Rights organizations in McComb are busy sending off hundreds of letters asking sympathisers to dip into their pockets and come up with enough money to build what will be the first Non-segregated community center in the State - probably the first in the South. A site for the building has already been found in McComb and an organizing committee has been established. It is expected that City Hall authorities will do everything they can to prevent this plan going ahead, but the organizers are confident that this historic building will rise sometime in the early part of 1965.