

CAMPUS CONTACT NEWSLETTER

Bombings in Sunflower County---

April 10 a Federal Court issued an injunction in Sunflower County, Mississippi, which allows people to register without any literacy test except for copying down four lines of the Constitution. No interpretation is needed. The injunction will last a year. The FDP has been having a full scale voter registration program going on since the injunction was issued.

On Thursday, April 29 in Indianola's newspaper, the "Enterprise-Tocsin" in the column CITY NOTES by the CITY'S MEDDLER (page 1) the following article appeared:

"A hint to the White people of Indianola and Sunflower County: Many negroes are registering over the county without being required to pass any sort of examination...that is a Court Order, we understand. Now, are we going to allow apathy on our part to turn this decision of electing our City and County Officials over to the colored race because they are more interested in who those will run Cities and County in the future? Well, if you don't open your eyes as to what is going on, that is exactly what is going to happen, and much sooner than you think. If you are requalified to vote and don't accept this responsibility, then you have only yourselves to blame for what happens in the future elections. DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN. Go and Register yourself and protect YOUR RIGHT as a GOOD citizen."

May 1 starting at 2:24 am four places in Indianola were fire bombed. The first place to be hit was the freedom house. There were two fellows asleep when two fire bombs were thrown through a window. Only one of the bombs went off, and the people in the house were able to extinguish the fire immediately. Within minutes after the freedom house was fire bombed, the home of Mrs. Magrauder, a Negro woman who was the first person in Indianola to house civil rights workers was bombed. There were six people asleep in the house when the bombs were thrown. They managed to get out unhurt, but the house was almost completely destroyed. A fire engine came within five minutes after the fire started, but it took them 20-30 minutes to set up the hoses, and by then the house was destroyed. The third target for the fire bombers was the store of Mr. Oscar Giles, a member of the State FDP Executive Committee, and the first person in Indianola associated with the movement. With the help of his neighbors, Giles was able to put out the fire before the fire engines arrived, but the store was almost a total loss. The fourth target for the morning was the home of Mr. Dougly Wilder, another Negro active with the movement. His home was totally destroyed.

The afternoon of May 1, Ike Johnson, a local Negro, found a coke bottle filled with turpentine under his gas meter. The neck of the bottle was filled with a rag. The rag had been lit, but had burned out before the bottle exploded. Also two local youths, Daniel Williams and Lynell Cellers were arrested by city police for leafletting without a permit. They were passing out leaflets announcing a meeting to be held on the ruins of the burned out freedom school. They were released soon after in custody of their parents.

On May 2 a Molotov cocktail was found in Morehead (part of Sunflower County) near the Freedom House. On the evening of May 4 a group of white college students surrounded the freedom house in Morehead and tried to start fights with people. At about 9 o'clock they started shouting. The gang started throwing bombs at the house. The local police came by and said they couldn't do a thing. Fifteen minutes later the local police were carrying students in their truck with the bomb and a couple of shot guns. 10:30 Mr. Harper (white) came to see COFO people to apologize and to see how many people were in the COFO office. While he was talking guys tried to sneak up to the back of the office, but there were COFO workers stationed outside so they ran back. Mr. Harper had a .39 in the right side of his coat.

The recent incidents in Sunflower County should make it all the more obvious why we are asking for new elections as part of the proposed voting bill. Without a change of local officials intimidation and violence will increase each day. The Indianola bombings can be used as a focal point in the May 9-16 demonstrations calling for new elections. You should call for telegrams and letters to your Congressmen explaining what has happened in Sunflower County and asking for new elections to be a definite part of the voting rights bill. Remember that as part of next week's demonstrations, you should be sure and get the local press to cover your demonstrations.

Hammermill Boycott---

The annual Hammermill stockholders meeting is scheduled for May 11, 9:30 am, Erie, Pennsylvania. We have planned demonstrations at Hammermill plants in Springfield, Mass, Hoquiam, Washington, Chicago, Hamilton, Ohio and Erie. Those of you who attend schools with Hammermill contracts should try to have them cancelled by Tuesday. Also we want 10,000 letters and telegrams to President John H. Devitt, 5275 Wolf Road, Erie, Pa. by May 11 requesting that Hammermill move out of Alabama immediately.

Washington Lobby---

The response to the lobby has been good so far, but you must all work so that information on the lobby is made available to all students at your school. Those students who are interested in the FDP and unable to attend the lobby should be encouraged to work in their home communities in the first weeks of summer vacation building up support for the Challenge.

Address Change---

SNCC is moving...we are now in the process of moving our offices to 360 Nelson Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia. All future correspondence should be sent to that address. Also complete and return the enclosed forms so that we may have your summer addresses.