

CAMPUS CONTACT NEWSLETTER

500 ARRESTED IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi State Legislature had scheduled a special session at noon, June 14. The MFDP had called for people from all across the state to come to Jackson to protest the meeting of the Legislature on the grounds that it was not chosen by all the people, and therefore had no right to sit and pass laws and also to make known their desire for free and open elections following the passage of the federal voting bill.

About 500 people gathered in Jackson that morning to protest. Early in the morning, they gathered in the Morning Star Baptist Church, about a mile from the Capitol, to hear Mrs. Devine say "I'm the happiest person in Mississippi. We must start at the State Capitol. Washington is important, but we must start here, at home."

Around noon about 30 people left the church in cars for the Capitol. As soon as they got out of their cars, they were arrested. About the same time, the rest of the group, about 450, began marching to the Capitol from the church. One block from the Capitol, large flat-bed trailer trucks topped with wire-cage-like enclosures suddenly appeared, and the police began arresting all the marchers and putting them into the trailers. About 100 people went limp. Police beat some marchers with billy clubs, so that three people had to have their heads stitched up.

The marchers were all taken to the Jackson State Fairgrounds where 472 people were arrested and charged with demonstrating without a permit. Before they marched they had been told that they would need a permit, but the marchers were marching under first amendment rights of peaceful assembly to protest grievances. Those who went limp were also charged with resisting arrest. Altogether, some \$50,000 bond money is needed.

It is very important that each of you see that as many telegrams as possible are sent to your respective congressmen protesting against these recent events in Jackson and showing how it is necessary that the Challenge be successful, as it is only with free and open elections that the Jackson law officials and Mississippi legislators are to be removed.

It is imperative that each one of you acts, as now with summer vacation the strong support we got from student groups is gone and we must count on each of you as an individual. Pressure local newspapers to print what is now happening in Jackson.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING FOP DEPOSITIONS--

Last week the Clerk of the House decided that all the depositions submitted by the FDP as evidence for the Challenge will be printed. The Government Printing office is now preparing the document and printing estimate is about two weeks. GPO plans are to print 10,000 copies.

People in your area should be asked to write to their Congressmen for copies of the deposition evidence. A carbon of the letters should go to the Clerk of the House. This, the MFDP hopes, will accomplish two things: 1. indicate to the House members that there is a great deal of continuing interest in the FDP challenge and 2. hopefully speed up the printing process -- and thus the date when the House Sub-Committee on Elections will have the evidence before it.

STATUS OF HAMMERMILL BOYCOTT--

The May 11 demonstrations were great -- the demonstration in Erie succeeded in stopping the plant from functioning for over two hours. The next day representatives from SCLC, the local NAACP and SNCC (our representatives were college students who refused to commit SNCC to anything) met with deVitt, president of Hammermill. At these negotiations deVitt restated the impossibility of moving out of Dallas County and said that he would do all in his power to see that voter registration was increased in Dallas County. A two week moratorium on the boycott was called... although we had not formally agreed to these negotiations, we refrained from issuing action memos out of the Atlanta office on the Hammermill boycott. Since then we have had no tangible evidence that deVitt is acting in good faith. He had said that 200 Negroes were processed for registration on May 17 but we were not allowed access to his source of information. The Dallas County Voter's League had only found 18 Negroes to have been registered on May 17 and has written deVitt to that point.

The SNCC Executive Committee met Memorial Day weekend and it was decided then that we would refrain from continuing to push the Hammermill boycott. There were several reasons for this decision: (1) we want to put every effort into the



Challenge for now and (2) our whole inexperience in dealing with an economic boycott...we just don't know exactly what direction to take now...if you have any suggestions, they will be appreciated.

So we have not officially declared the boycott over, we are only refraining from further action for now. We urge that you continue to push on the general Alabama boycott.

#### WASHINGTON LOBBY

The first session of the Washington Lobby is now going on and seems to be very good. Right now orientation sessions of the Challenge, the voting bill and how to lobby are being held. Later in the week the students will go to Capitol Hill and begin their individual lobbying. We hope that more of you will be able to attend the second session, which begins June 24. The costs for the 10 day session are \$25...you will be staying in homes in the community. If you are interested in attending, please write Ruth Howard at the Atlanta SNCC office immediately.

#### THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM LABOR UNION---

The MFLU has been expanding in tremendous numbers...there are now over 1800 workers on strike in the Delta, enclosed you will find a background paper on the MFLU. Some people have asked to what extent is SNCC involved in the MFLU. The answer is that SNCC staff and volunteers who work on the projects in the Delta are helping in every way that they can. But, the important point is that local people are running the union, making policy, etc and that a lot of good new local leadership has emerged as a result. This goes for northern support also, the local people are making their own contacts -- writing directly to people in the North to ask for food and clothing. If MFLU members write you saying there is a need, then there is a need. And, before anything is sent, you should be in touch directly with MFLU members in the Delta.

#### THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND THE PHILADELPHIA 17

June 20 it will be one year since that night when Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman were murdered in Neshoba County, Mississippi. Still the Justice Department has failed to indict Rainey, Price and the 15 others who were responsible for these deaths.

The Frankfurter Decision in the Williams Case of 1953 is apparently the basis for civil rights law. In this case, Justice Frankfurter ruled for the Supreme Court that in order to try someone under Section 241 of the U.S. Code there had to be a charge that both a federally protected right such as due process--and a federally created right like those put into the constitution, freedom of speech, the right to vote, etc., had been violated.

On December 4, 1964, the Justice Department filed "information affidavits" before the U.S. Commissioner, Esther Carter. It is her job to hear these information affidavits and to set bond. She dismissed the evidence included in these affidavits. In these charges brought under both Section 241 and Section 242, the Justice Dept included the fact that both a federally protected right (that Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner's due process) and a federally created right (Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner's right to vote and right to encourage others to vote and the right of free speech had been violated. U S Commissioner Carter dismissed the affidavits.

Then the Justice Dept attempted to indict the Philadelphia 17 under Sections 242 and 241 before a grand jury called by Judge Harold Cox. The Philadelphia 17 were indicted. However, in the grand jury indictments, the Justice Department did not include the fact that a federally created right--the right to vote and encourage others to vote--had been violated. They left out the fact that these men were deprived of their lives because they were involved in voter registration work. Defense attorneys made a motion during the trial that both charges (under sections 241 & 242) be dismissed on grounds that no federally created right had been violated. Judge Cox dismissed the charges under Section 241, the felony charges, but did not dismiss the charges under Section 242 which is a misdemeanor.

The Justice Dept then appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn Judge Cox's decision to throw out the felony charges of Section 241. The Supreme Court can't possibly hear the case until this coming fall and probably will wait until next year. They can either decide to uphold Judge Cox and throw out the felony charges or overturn Frankfurter's decision of 1953 and overrule Cox.

175 MORE ARRESTS IN JACKSON, JUNE 15, 1 P.M. including SNCC Chairman, John Lewis.... please help through telegrams, letters and demonstrations.