

July 30, 1965

In Southwest Georgia, demonstrations are stepping up and a call has gone out for people in the north to join in these demonstrations. Several Congressmen are planning to go on a brief tour of SW Ga. projects early next week. Today, in Americus, Negroes will hold three demonstrations. Last night Lester Maddox spoke at a rally sponsored by the White Citizens Council. Tension in the town has mounted since the killing last Wednesday night of the 19-year-old white youth.

In Baker County, Ga., the white man who assaulted Charles Sherrod last week had Sherrod arrested for assault and battery and attempted murder. This arrest occurred on July 29, and is Sherrod's second arrest of the week. He is still in jail. Demonstrations are being held in Newton (Baker Co.) and representatives from the National Council of Churches are in town.

SNCC is urging that federal troops be brought in to Southwest Georgia to restore order, that the four ladies who were arrested on July 20 for standing in the white voting line be released immediately (although a federal court has ordered their release, they are still in jail), and that officials who allowed the segregated polling places in the past election, be arrested and prosecuted under the federal statute which they violated (instead of an "investigation," which the federal government has promised). The Justice Department has admitted that segregated polling places violate federal laws; however, federal officials are typically reluctant to enforce their laws where the rights of Negroes are involved.

PLEASE PRESSURE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR FULL PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENS OF SOUTHWEST GEORGIA. Prior to the killing of the 19-year-old boy last Wednesday, the Negro community had been terrorized by whites riding through at high speeds. Whites had thrown rocks at the demonstrators, and at the Tuesday night demonstration a menacing mob of 500-600 whites stood opposite the demonstrators. Also on Tuesday night two SNCC workers, Bill and Emory Harris, were fired at about 17 times.

Last year, in March and November, civil rights workers complained to the Justice Department and to the FBI about segregated polling places and there was no action.

The Justice of the Peace, JW Southwell, whose election on July 20 we consider illegal, has twice beaten civil rights workers in the court house in Americus in the past year. The special squad of state troopers which Governor Saunders called in to Southwest Georgia called "the Blue Angeles," is the same group of cops which beat heads and jabbed demonstrators with cattle prods last year. For these and many other reasons the local people in Americus despair of any help from any law enforcement officials.

In McComb, Mississippi, the MFLU has organized the maids at the Holliday Inn who were making 39¢ an hour. As many as 30 demonstrators have picketed at the Holiday Inn demanding a legal minimum wage and longer lunch hour (they were getting a 15 minute lunch hour and had to eat in the back of the kitchen). One porter and five maids are now on strike. City policemen have escorted scab labor through the picket line and about 30 city, county and state policemen stand around and watch the demonstration. The cops say they have to protect the property of the Holiday Inn. Protests and indignant inquiries at your local Holiday Inn would be appreciated by the McComb MFLU. So would any other community action you could organize.

In Washington, DC, the Clerk of the House has officially submitted to the Speaker of the House the printed depositions--everything submitted by the FDP was printed. The Challenge is now officially in the hands of the House Subcommittee on Elections and Privileges. So far enough copies of the depositions have been printed for the Subcommittee and later copies will be available for each House member. The authority for printing more

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copies (for the public) rests with the House Administration Committee, and although the Clerk's office has received requests from thousands of people, copies may not be available unless continued pressure is applied to individual Congressmen and to members of the House Committee on Administration.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION:

- | Dems | Reps |
|------------------------|---|
| Burleson, Tex. (Chmn.) | Lipscomb, Calif. |
| Ashmore, SC * | Corbett, Pa. |
| Fridell, Md. | Chamberlain, Mich. |
| Hays, Ohio | Goodell, NY * |
| Jones, Mo. | Curtin, Pa. * |
| Thompson, NJ | Devine, Ohio * |
| Abbitt, Va. * | Erlenborn, Ill.* |
| Waggoner, La.* | Dickinson, Ala. |
| Perkins, Ky. * | |
| Dent, Pa. | |
| Gibbons, Fla.* | |
| Nedzi, Mich. | (* indicates member of Subcommittee on Elections and Privileges.) |
| Brademas, Ind. | |
| Davis, Ga.* | |
| Gray, Ill. | |
| Hawkins, Calif. | |
| Bingham, NY. | |

If you live in one of these Congressmen's districts, please begin another letter-writing campaign to him--urging him to see to it that more copies of the depositions are printed up. If not, write to your individual Congressman again for a copy of the depositions and ask him to see to it that enough copies are printed up so that all the people who want to be fully informed about the Challenge can read the evidence in this case. Stepped up pressure around the challenge will be needed during the next few weeks.

In Mississippi during the next few days, FDP workers are canvassing for voter registration under the new voting laws passed by the state assembly and are planning Freedom Days throughout the state. The purpose of the Freedom days is to show that the people will want to register and to vote. On August 17th a state-wide referendum will be held on the new voting laws which will, probably become amendments to the state constitution. FDP is supporting the passage of the amendments.

Lists of grievances and petitions demanding the unseating of the white Mississippi Congressmen are also being circulated among the local people in preparation for the last days of the challenge--which should be around the last of August. Over 1,000 Mississippians are planning to come to Washington to stand vigil during these days. Please don't forget to help them get there. Copies of the enclosed Nation article are available in bulk from the Washington FDP office for circulation in your community. Printed copies of the Christian Century article are also available from Washington FDP, 926 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, DC.

Freedom,

Margaret
Margaret Lauren

PS Work out sue

Thanks for the bread

In Washington, DC, the Clerk of the House has offered to print copies of the depositions submitted by the FDP. The Challenge is being handled by the House Administration Committee on Elections and Privileges. So far enough copies of the depositions have been printed for the subcommittee and later copies will be available for each House member. The authority for printing was