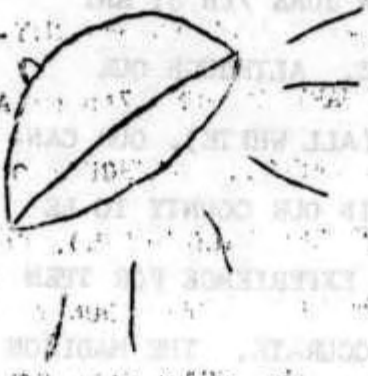


Vol I

No. I

June 17, 1966



Spot Light On Madison County

THIS IS THE FIRST EDITION OF A SERIES OF NEWSLETTERS TO BE
PUBLISHED FROM THIS OFFICE.

THE NEXT EDITION WILL APPEAR IN YOUR COMMUNITY IN TWO WEEKS.

Madison County Movement
832 Lutz Street

ON THE ELECTION

THE NEGROES IN THIS COUNTY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS PLAYED A REAL ROLE IN A DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ON JUNE 7th or ANY ELECTION FOR POLITICAL OFFICE IN THIS COUNTY BEFORE. ALTHOUGH OUR PEOPLE WERE NOT APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COMMITTEE (ALL WHITE), OUR CANDIDATES, WHITLEY AND COLLIER AUTHORIZED 25 PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTY TO BE POLL WATCHERS. THEY ALL DID A WONDERFUL JOB. THE EXPERIENCE FOR THEM WAS MOST REWARDING. THEIR REPORTS WERE FULL AND ACCURATE. THE MADISON COUNTY NEGROES SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF THEM.

THE FEDERAL REGISTRARS ADMITTED THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO GET THE PRECINCT BOUNDARY LINES FROM THE COUNTY REGISTRAR FOOTE CAMPBELL. THIS WORKED UNDUE HARDSHIP ON 20% (AT LEAST) OF OUR PEOPLE WHO REGISTERED WITH THEM. SOME PEOPLE CAME EIGHT MILES AWAY IN BEAT ONE TO DISCOVER THEY HAD TO GO ANOTHER 23 MILES TO BEAT FIVE TO VOTE. SOME MEN AND THEIR WIVES LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE WERE REGISTERED IN DIFFERENT PREDINCT. FOOTE CAMPBELL, THE CIRCUIT CLERK, REFUSED TO GIVE PEOPLE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES. THESE IRREGULARITIES AND MANY MORE UNMENTIONED PROVE THERE COULD BE NO FAIR ELECTION HERE OR IN ANY OTHER COUNTY IN THE STATE. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ITSELF, IS INCAPABLE OF FAIR AND HONEST DEALINGS. OUR PEOPLE IN MADISON COUNTY LEARNED THIS FOR THEMSELVES. WE WILL PREPARE FOR THE NEXT ELECTION.

FIGURES FROM THE ELECTION

THE WHOLE OF MADISON COUNTY ELECTION FOR COLLIER AND WHITLEY

TOTAL: 1,373

Flora	Collier-----	73
	Whitley-----	73
Ridgland	Collier-----	56
	Whitley-----	48
	(12 ballots rejected in this area)	
Coupale	Collier-----	33
	Whitley-----	33
Camden	Collier-----	154
	Whitley-----	126

FROM THE POLLING PLACE IN MADISON COUNTY INSIDE THE CITY

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THESE ARE NOT THE FIGRES FROM ALL THE POLLING PLACES IN MADISON COUNTY. WE WERE NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN THE FIGURES FROM SOME OF THE POLLING PLACES. HOWEVER, THIS IS THE UNOFFICIAL TOTAL OF THE VOTES.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ATTEND C.D.G.M. CENTER

IT WAS REPORTED THAT SOME OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WERE SPREADING FALSE RUMORS ABOUT C.D.G.M. AND HEADSTART. PARENTS ARE BEING TOLD, IF THEY DO NOT ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN IN HEADSTART (THE PUBLIC SCHOOL), THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE BOOKS IN SEPTEMBER.

AT BEST THIS IS A RIDICULOUS STATEMENT, FOR WHAT IT CLEARLY INDICATES IS AS PER USUAL, THERE WILL NOT BE ENOUGH BOOKS FOR THE STUDENTS IN NEGRO SCHOOLS. ANOTHER POINT IS CLEAR:

PARENTS SHOULD ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN IN THE WHITE SCHOOLS WHERE THERE WILL BE ENOUGH BOOKS AND ANY OTHER EQUIPMENT THAT IS NEEDED FOR OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHILD, MOST NEGRO TEACHERS SHOULD BE IN SUMMER SCHOOL OR TAKING REFRESHER COURSES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR TEACHING TECHNIQUES. TEACHERS, LET NOT OUR SALARY BE OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE. THE CHILDREN ARE OUR FIRST AND MAIN GOAL.

THE MEREDITH MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM MARCH

THE MARCH IS ON ITS WAY TO MADISON COUNTY. THE MARCH SPONSORS FEEL THEY WILL BE ABLE TO REACH OUR COUNTY ABOUT THURSDAY, JUNE 24th.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY ARE GOING TO SUPPORT THE MARCH. THIS MEANS WE ARE GOING TO SUPPLY GOOD HOUSING AND OTHER FACILITIES TO ACCOMODATE THESE PEOPLE. WE ARE URGING ALL PEOPLE WHO WISH TO JOIN THE MARCH TO DO SO, AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED, PLEASE GET REGISTERED. LETS KEEP MADISON COUNTY ON TOP.

THERE IS A CHANCE THAT THE FEDERAL REGISTRAR'S OFFICE WILL BE OPEN. IF NOT, GO TO THE COURTHOUSE.

THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY ARE TO SUPPLY FOOD AND SHELTER. THE CAMP-SITE WILL POSSIBLY BE ON ISSABELLA STREET (THE MOVEMENT OWNS PROPERTY THERE.)

PUSH FOR A RALLY IN YOUR BEAT OF THE COUNTY. FOR INFORMATION, CALL 859-9944

ON LAST TUESDAY, JUNE 7TH, THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY TURNED OUT TO THE POOLS IN VERY LARGE NUMBERS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTY.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF MADISON COUNTY THAT SUCH A GREAT NUMBER OF NEGROES EVER TURNED OUT TO TAKE PART IN THE DECIDING OF OUR GOVERNMENT. THIS, WE HAVE TO BE PROUD OF. BUT, THERE WERE TOO MANY OF US WHO DID NOT COME TO THE POOLS ON TUESDAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HISTORY MAKING PROCESS THAT TOOK PLACE HERE.

THERE ARE OVER 6,000 NEGROES THAT HAVE COME TO THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE SINCE LAST AUGUST TO REGISTER, BUT, ONLY 1,300 OF THESE PEOPLE TURNED OUT TUESDAY, CITIZENS WERE YOU AMONG THE ONES OF US WHO DID NOT VOTE? WHO CHOSE TO REMAIN AT HOME? WERE THESE YOUR NEIGHBORS OR MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY?

ARE WE GOING TO JUST GET REGISTERED AND THEN STAY HOME AND NOT EXERCISE OUR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS BY GOING TO THE POOLS AND VOTING ON ELECTION DAY? OR ARE WE GOING TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR COUNTY AND COUNTRY? ARE WE GOING TO TAKE THE CHANCE TO BECOME MEN AND WOMEN? OR LET THE CHOICE OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THE POWER STRUCTURE AS IT HAS FOR SO LONG IN THE PAST?

WE, THE NEGROES OF MADISON COUNTY, STAND TALL IN NUMBER WHICH MAKES US GREAT IN POLITICAL POWER. WE HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE ALL THE THINGS THAT HAVE FOR SO LONG OPPRESSED US, AND KEPT US FROM EXERCISING OUR RIGHTS AS AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND AS A HUMAN BEING. WE CAN ONLY HAVE THE THINGS WE WANT BY USING OUR RIGHT TO VOTE.

OUR PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS, BEEN BEATEN, HARRASSED, JAILED AND KILLED SO THAT THIS PRIVILEGE MIGHT BE EXERCISED. MANY OF US ARE ENJOYING THE ECONOMIC COMFORTS GAINED BY THE BLOOD OF OUR FELLOWMEN, WE CAN NOT LOOK BACK OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS AND SEE THE CHANGES THAT HAVE COME ABOUT BY BLOOD AND SWEAT. BUT, THIS CANNOT BE THE END OF OUR FIGHT, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE DAY OF DEMONSTRATIONS IS NOW IN THE PAST. ONLY BY THE VOTE ARE WE GOING TO MAKE THE PROGRESS WE SEEK IN THIS SOCIETY.

IN THE PAST, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY REASONS FOR OUR SHORTCOMINGS. IN MOST INSTANCES, IT HAS BEEN BECAUSE WE WERE NOT EDUCATED. WE WERE PEOPLE WHO WERE SATISFIED WITH OURSELVES. IN SOME CASE, WE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING AROUND US, BUT, CHOSE TO THINK THAT THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO ABOUT THINGS. BUT, NOW WE ARE NO LONGER IGNORANT PEOPLE. WE HAVE NOW BECOME AWAKENED TO OUR PROBLEMS AND WE HAVE FOUND A SOLUTION.

NOW LET US USE THE WEAPON WE HAVE

TO FREE OURSELVES

THE VOTE

VOTING MEANS POWER - VOTING MEANS FREEDOM

JUNE 21, 1966 IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE NESHODA COUNTY KILLING. LET US NOT FORGET WHAT HAPPENED TO THE THREE CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS--CHANEY, GOODMAN, AND SCHWERNER.

IF THE MOTORCADE IS GONE WHEN YOU GET TO THE FREEDOMHOUSE, JUST GO ON OVER TO PHILADELPHIA.

Madison County Movement
832 Lutz Street

Rev. J.F. McRee, Chairman
Mrs. Annie Devine, Office Manager
Miss Antrunette Adams, Office Secretary
Editor--Monette Devine

THE MEREDITH MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM MARCH IS NOW BETWEEN YAZOO CITY AND CANTON AND SHOULD ARRIVE HERE SOMETIME THURSDAY AFTERNOON. THERE WILL BE A MASS RALLY AT THE COURTHOUSE AT 5:30 P.M. THURSDAY. WE URGE PEOPLE TO KEEP THE MARCH PEACEFUL BECAUSE WE NEGROBS HERE IN MADISON COUNTY REALIZE THAT THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO MAKE OUR COUNTY A MODEL COUNTY OF THE STATE.

MANY PEOPLE HAVE RESPONDED TO THE CALL FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AS WELL AS PROVIDING FOOD AND SHELTER FOR THE MARCHERS. IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY ANYONE FOR HOUSING, FOOD, TRANSPORTATION, OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT, PLEASE CALL:

859-1245 (THE MADISON COUNTY MOVEMENT)
859-1642 (THE NAACP)

OR COME BY THE ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH AT 832 LUTZ STREET.

TELEPHONE 859-9944

THE PURPOSE OF THE MARCH IS TO ENCOURAGE UNREGISTERED VOTERS TO GET OUT TO REGISTER. THE FEDERAL REGISTRARS OFFICE WILL BE OPENED FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY.

CORRECTION FROM PAGE 2:

THE VOTE TOTAL OF THE COURTHOUSE SHOULD BE SWITCHED WITH THOSE OF THE VETERANS BUILDING.