



NOW !



The Voice Of Freedom

No. 3

1017 Lynch St., Jackson, Miss.

Monday, June 1

CANTON MAN BEATEN BY EIGHT POLICEMEN

McKinley Hamblin, 24, was beaten unconscious by eight policemen on the grounds of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Canton during "Freedom Day" demonstrations in that town. Police, who said that Hamblin cursed them, beat him unconscious with nightsticks and carried him bleeding to jail in a civil defense jeep. There were several witnesses.

After spending some time in the jail, Hamblin was taken to a hospital where he received limited treatment, returning to the jail with some large head wounds left open and undressed. Hamblin has been allowed no visitors save his mother who talked to him over a wall. Carsie Hall, a member of the Mississippi Bar, was not allowed to see him and was not informed of the charges. As of Sunday night, May 31, no bond has been set.

WASHINGTON HEARINGS ON MISSISSIPPI

Michael Harrington, Paul Goodman, Robert Penn Warren, and Joseph Heller, all noted authors, will head a list of nationally prominent persons who will sit as a panel in Washington June 9 to hear testimony on civil rights violations in Mississippi.

COFO is sponsoring this four hour hearing for two reasons:

- 1) Call the attention of the country to the civil rights violations that have been occurring in the state.
- 2) Seek state and federal protection for individuals who will be working in the state this summer on COFO projects.

25 COFO workers will testify at the hearing and present 30 to 40 affidavits.

Other noted members of the panel include Judge Justine Polier, Gresham Sykes of the American Sociological Association, and historian C. Vann Woodward.

A meeting has been scheduled June 3 for the purpose of briefing Congressmen on the Mississippi situation. It is hoped that over 100 congressmen will attend.

An audience with President Johnson is being sought as it is felt that the President must protect workers if the state authorities refuse to do so.

At the time of the hearings there will be a nationwide newspaper advertising campaign further informing the nation of the situation in Mississippi.

The hearing will be held in the National Auditorium starting at 9:30 A.M.

CANTON FREEDOM DAY

The third Freedom Day in Canton in recent months was held Friday, May 29. Local police maintained a martial law-like atmosphere; many people were arrested, and one man was severely beaten.

The people intending to register to vote attempted to walk from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church to the courthouse repeatedly, but each attempt was met by police who refused to let the marchers leave the Negro section of town.

Some people succeeded in evading the police blockade by driving downtown but at least five persons were given traffic tickets.

Fifty to sixty people stood in line at the courthouse at one instance. Those in line were being permitted to attempt to register.

Several people tried to picket but their placards were taken away, and no picketing was thus allowed.

During the course of the day 55 people were arrested for refusing to turn back from walking into town. The marchers were held for parading without a permit under \$500 surety bonds.

INDIAN LEADER TURNED AWAY

Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, a favorite disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and presently leader of the Socialist Party in India, was recently refused admittance into a Jackson restaurant. Dr. Lohia went to Morrison's Restaurant in the company of Dr. Ruth B. Stephan, an old friend of his. The couple were met at the restaurant by the manager and by Lt. C.R. Wilson of the Jackson police force.

The manager of the restaurant informed the visitors that they were on private property. Dr. Lohia replied: "We are in a public establishment." He then told the policemen that each had his duty to perform and that they might as well do it.

Dr. Stephan and Dr. Lohia were then placed under arrest and escorted to a paddy wagon. They were driven around for twenty minutes, then released in a parking lot across the street from the cafeteria and were told that no charges were being placed against them.

Dr. Lohia did not contact his embassy at any time. He said that he was using non-violent civil disobedience as an individual protesting injustice; he made a point of stating his sympathy as a human being and said he was not here as a member of the Indian nation.

Friday evening, Dr. Lohia conversed informally with a group of COFO workers in Jackson. He mentioned his troubles with Great Britain during the Indian fight for independence and presently with the incumbent Indian government. At several instances he offered specific pointers for our movement. His clarity of mind and long-time involvement in India gave added depth to our involvement here in Mississippi.

HARASSMENTS THIS WEEK

Jackson

COFO workers were harassed repeatedly while riding in cars by local police. Patrolmen watched the cars closely, followed them, and gave them several tickets, often exaggerating or inventing the charges. In one instance, Peter Brett, a white summer volunteer, was driving a 1958 Volkswagen in third gear at a speed of 35mph and was ticketed for going 110mph. This week, \$122 were paid for bonds and tickets. Additional minor harassments included the stopping and questioning of workers on the street, close observation of movements of people as they left the office, and a steady parade of patrol cars in front of the office.

In a more serious incident, Dick Jewett, was arrested on vagrancy and drunkenness charges while waiting for a taxi. He'd been standing at a cab station with three female Negro workers. Jewett was taken to city jail, charged, beaten, and released the next day on \$15 bond.

Policemen accosted Emmy Schrader, a white summer volunteer, on the afternoon of May 24, telling her to leave town or be liable to a vagrancy charge. The next night, policemen followed her into the Streamline Cafe where she had ordered a hamburger and a beer. After she had drunk one sip of beer, one

of the policemen tapped her on the shoulder with a flashlight, ordered her into a patrol car, and took her to city jail where she was charged with public drunkenness. Miss Schrader was released the next day after posting \$15 bond.

On Saturday, May 30, two patrolmen demanded a business operating license from the central office. Since COFO is not a public business and needs no license, the police were told there was no such thing and they were asked to leave. This they did, after some argument. This was the first time that Jackson police had actually entered the COFO office.

Herman Gates, a Negro volunteer, was forced into a car by a husky white man dressed in civilian clothes. Gates was driven to the opposite edge of the city where he was struck by the man several times on the arm with a leather strap and stranded. He was told to leave town or he'd be killed.

Early Sunday morning, May 31, someone threw two bricks through the glass windows in the front of the COFO office. A young white man in a dark shirt was seen driving away in a dark blue 1962 Ford. Unfortunately the license plate was either removed or turned down so it could not be read.

Canton

Hamid Kisselbach, a Pakistani and professor at Tougaloo College was driving back to the college with four companions when he was forced off the road by 15 men riding in three cars. Kisselbach was pulled halfway out of the car, beaten on the head with a nightstick, and threatened with further violence. After promising to leave the area immediately, Kisselbach was released. It was felt that if the other doors to the car had not been locked, the four companions would have also been beaten. The Highway Patrol, when contacted, offered neither help nor sympathy. Kisselbach later called the Pakistani embassy and was told that the ambassador would take action. The license number of one of the cars was 451320, Mississippi.

PRIMARY VOTE TUESDAY

The Democratic primary in Mississippi will be held June 2. Approximately 200,000 voters are expected to nominate Democratic candidates for national office. In Mississippi, this nomination practically assures election.

Four Negroes are running for Congress. They are: Victoria Gray, Hattiesburg, Senate; Fannie Lou Hamer, Ruleville, House of Representatives, 2nd district.

James Houston, Vicksburg, House of

Representatives, 3rd district
John Cameron, Hattiesburg, House of
Representatives, 5th district
These candidates are sponsored by
the Council of Federated Organiza-
tions. While none of them are
expected to win, but will serve as
a rallying point for increasing
political awareness and activity
among Negroes.

LAWYERS AND COLO

The NAACP Legal Defense and
Educational Fund, Inc., is expand-
ing Attorney Young's Jackson office
to provide space for one full-time
staff member (on a rotating basis)
and for the use of the following
groups who will also have lawyers
in Jackson on a rotating basis:
1) The Lawyers Constitutional
Defense Committee which includes
Howard Moore of SNCC and Mel Wulf
of ACLU.
2) The Lawyers Committee for Civil
Rights Under Law.

The Incorporated Fund will
locate a staff person in Memphis to
serve northern Mississippi. The
National Lawyers Guild is opening
an office at 507 1/2 N. Parish street,
where attorneys George W. Crockett
and Lawrence Warren will work there
all summer, assisting and coordi-
nating other lawyers who come to
aid the movement.

One example of the legal aid
is the organization of a legal
challenge of the "Poll Tax Not Paid"
statute and the preparation of a
suit challenging the validity of
upcoming precinct conventions and
national elections by Morris Stavis
of Newark New Jersey. Additionally,
the Lawyers Guild is assisting in a
suit brought against the anti-pic-
nicking statute. Attorney Ben Smith
recently had the Greenwood picketing
cases removed to Federal Court and
arranged for bond money for the
defendants. Another Guild attorney,
Len Holt, is filing suit to require
the appointment of five additional
district judges to handle civil
rights cases this summer. Lawrence
Guyot and Hunter Morey are the
plaintiffs.

20 law students, provided by
the Law Students Civil Rights Re-
search Council, will be dispersed
about the state, clerking for vari-
ous attorneys handling COFO cases.
If one needs legal aid, he should
get his facts in hand and contact
COFO legal coordinator Hunter Morey
in the Jackson Office.

VIRGINIA YOUNG DEMOCRATS SUPPORT MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The University of Virginia
Young Democratic Club passed a res-
olution, May 21, urging the seat-
ing of the Freedom Democratic dele-
gation from Mississippi at the

Democratic National Convention.
The Virginians felt that the regu-
lar Democratic party in Mississippi
had followed a policy contrary to
the national goals of the Democratic
party.

GO LDWATER CHANGES STAND

Senator Barry Goldwater changed
his stand on public school integra-
tion this week, saying that it was
proper for the federal government
to intervene in school integration
cases. He criticized the attorney
general's office for not having
done so more often. This caught
most southern Republicans by sur-
prise, and many were quite con-
cerned that his chances in the South
had been diminished greatly.

RACE RIOT IN SAINT AUGUSTINE

Police slapped a ban on racial
demonstrations in Saint Augustine
after a wild melee among Negro De-
monstrators, white hecklers, and
policemen. 250 Negroes, followed
by a crowd of 50 whites, marched
into the old slave market, where
they stopped to pray. There, a
force of 60 policemen and 12 trained
dogs stepped between the two groups.
Bright lights flashed on and telo-
vision cameramen began filming the
scene. Violence erupted as several
cameramen were roughed up and had
their cameras broken.

MEXICAN GOVERNOR VISITS MISSISSIPPI

Luis Torres y Mesias, gov-
ernor of Yucatan province in Mexico,
has been an official visitor of
Mississippi this week. The Latin
leader said his tour is directed at
stimulating trade and understanding
between his country and Mississippi.

RACIAL MODERATES IN GUBERNATORIAL RUNOFF IN NORTH CAROLINA

Richardson Preyer and Dan Moore
led a six-man ticket for the Demo-
cratic nomination for governor,
forcing a runoff June 27. Both
are regarded as moderates on the
racial issue.

Also in North Carolina, Win-
ston-Salem Negro minister William
Crawford won the nomination for a
seat in the state House of Repre-
sentatives. He faces a Republican
opponent in November, and if he wins
he will be the first Negro in the
state legislature since Reconstruc-
tion.

SENATORS MONROE AND MUNDT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO CLOSURE ON C.R. BILL

Senators A.S. Mike Monroney
(D-Okla.) and Karl E. Mundt (R.-S.
D.) told the Associated Press that
they would vote to impose closure
on the civil rights bill, if this
were necessary to force action.
This brings the number of senators
committed to cloture to 58, 9 short
of the necessary 67. 26 Senators
are felt to be firmly opposed to
cloture.