

THE VOICE OF THE MOVEMENT

The Freedom Voice of the Fifth Congressional District (COFO)

507 Mobile Street, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 582-9993

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3 COFO WORKERS BEATEN

On July 10, Dave Owen, an Larry Spears of the COFO Summer Project, were walking back from canvassing with Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, of the Minister's Project, and Marjorie Hyatt and Janet Crosby, from COFO.

When they got to the railroad tracks and River Road, two white men drove up in a white GM pickup truck. They jumped out with an iron rod about 3/4-inch thick and an iron pump handle, about an inch thick.

"They drove up behind us and jumped out and said, 'We're going to teach you a lesson!'", Larry Spears said.

They beat the three men, and let the two girls alone. The men were all white and the girls are Negro. They said that they 'ought to beat you, too,' but they did not touch the girls. They called the men "white niggers, nigger-lovers and Communists".

"After the beating we tried to walk to the church, and they tried to run us down with the truck," Spears said. "One jumped out of the truck and tried to hit the Rabbi again. I shielded him with my arm. We returned to the church and got medical aid."

Spears got a contusion of the arm when he shielded the Rabbi. The Rabbi was badly hurt and had to stay in the hospital for 24 hours.

The five civil rights workers were on their way to Morningstar Baptist Church to have lunch with the Freedom School teachers when they were attacked. Rabbi Lelyveld is from Cleveland, Larry Spears is from Palo Alto, California, Dave Owen is from Pasadena, California, and Majo Hyatt and Janet Crosby are from Hattiesburg.

WHEN YOU HAVE ANY NEWS FOR THIS PAPER, CALL 2-9993 and ask for Sheila or Joyce or Terri.

OUR OWN PARTY

On Saturday, July 25, the Freedom Democratic Party will be holding precinct meetings at churches in each of the precincts in Forrest County.

We are now getting ready for the challenge to the white Mississippi Democratic Party in two ways. We have the Freedom Registration, and the precinct meetings.

By having the Freedom Registration we want to get every Negro citizen of Mississippi who is over 21 registered with the Freedom Democratic Party. Then when we go to the Democratic Party Convention in Atlantic City in August, we can prove that the white Democratic Party has kept almost half the citizens in the state from voting.

We are holding the precinct meetings for three reasons. First, so that we can prove that we have a real party, just as legal as the white party; second, because even when we can vote, we are not allowed to participate in the white party; and third, so if we do ever get equal votes, we won't have to go into the white party and lose all our own political power.

We are asking everybody to vote in the precinct meetings on Saturday, and to register with us. This is a chance to really elect someone to represent you in the Democratic Party. If our delegation gets seated instead of the white party--and we have half the votes we need from the other delegations--then we will be helping to elect the presidential candidate, and YOU will be represented for the first time in 100 years.

STUDENT NEWSPAPER

The Freedom School at Truett is putting out its own newspaper. One girl, Anita Louise H., wrote this:

"Happiness is....going to public places
Happiness is....going to places with-
being looked at.

TEACHER BEATEN, CHARGED, CASE DISMISSED

On Monday, July 20, Peter Werner, Susan Patterson and Bill Jones, all Freedom School teachers, went downtown to the post office. Peter and Susan are white, Mr. Jones is Negro.

As they were about to walk into the Walgreen Drugstore Peter went to the curb, thinking he saw a car with some COFO people in it, Bill went into the drugstore. Just then, Mr. Huston Hartfield, 48, walked up behind Peter and knocked him down.

Peter fell down on the ground, near the wall, and put his hands behind his head, and drew his knees up as he was taught. Mr. Hartfield kicked him again and again, and once kicked him right between his eyes.

Susan started yelling, "Help, Police," about 10 times until the police showed up.

Bill heard her when he was in the drugstore and started looking for a telephone, but no one would tell him where it was. He ran outside and saw the man kick Peter.

When the police came they took Peter and Hartfield but would not let Susan and Bill follow at first. Susan said the Police didn't say anything then in particular and she was afraid they were just going to take Hartfield around the corner and let him go.

When they got to the police station, Hartfield said that Peter had knocked him down the steps of the courthouse before he attacked Peter on the street. So the police also arrested Peter for assault and battery, and set his bail at \$25 cash.

Bill Jones said Hartfield was a liar. An officer (Badge #64) said to Bill Jones, "Boy, don't you call that white man a liar" Hartfield swore at Jones and called him names and tried to jump on him. The other officer told Susan Peterson to shut her mouth and wouldn't tell her where the telephone was.

Hartfield's trial was that afternoon. He said that Peter had called him a "white cracker," and later said, "white trash". He said Peter was holding his hand on his hip, "like a Negro, that's so they can reach for their knives quickly."

Hartfield's witness was an old man who had a shoeshine and newspaper stand across the street and up the block from the post-office. He couldn't identify anybody who had been in the group with Peter, but he said he could identify Peter. Peter was the only one there with a cut on his face from where Hartfield kicked him.

On July 23, Mr. Heartfield was found guilty, because his witness' story did not agree with his.

Judge Montague said it was painful for him to make the decision and find him guilty, but the only way Heartfield could have gotten away with attacking Peter was if Peter had insulted him there and he had attacked him immediately.

Also,

Mr. Montague said, he would have reacted the same way to the situation, and said that Peter, Bill and Susan were "flaunting association with those of their choice instead of going with gradualism and education," that the whites had been planning. The courtroom was segregated.

Judge Montague sentenced Mr. Heartfield to \$40, and suspended \$20, for good behavior (?). He dismissed Peter Werner case.

MRS. GRAY ON TV

On Saturday, July 25, Mrs. Victoria Jackson Gray, the Freedom Democratic Party candidate for Senator, appeared on TV. The program was out of Jackson, and Mrs. Gray spoke for the Freedom Democratic Party, explaining how it started, what it was, and what it was going to do.

The program was not carried on Hattiesburg TV. Mrs. Gray is from here.

BOMBINGS

There were two reports last week of "bombs" of bleach bottles filled with kerosene being thrown near peoples houses. Damage was not done to either house, but the noise was frightening.

COMMUNITY CENTER OPEN

Hattiesburgs community center is now open. There is one community center in Palmer's Crossing, and another one will be opened in town, as soon as we find a place to have it.

The Palmer's Community Center has a nursery school program for the little children up to 8 years old. There is a sports program for older children and teenagers, run by Mr. Luther Seabrooks, who is a New York physical education teacher.

There is also a nurse, and teen dances.