

THE VOICE OF THE MOVEMENT

The Freedom Voice of the Fifth Congressional District (COFO)

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THE BUS ARREST

On Tuesday, August 11, Mrs. Dorethea Jackson was coming home on the Hardy St. Bus at 3:50. A white woman moved a bundle of clothes she had on the seat next to her and Mrs. Jackson sat down.

A ~~few~~ stops down another white woman got on the bus, and the bus driver told Mrs. Jackson to get up and give the white woman her seat. She refused to move.

Then a policeman on a motorcycle pulled up alongside the bus, and the bus driver called to him that there was a "girl" on the bus who wouldn't get up, and did the policeman want her.

The policeman pulled over to the side and called the busdriver off the bus. They talked for a while and then the driver got on alone. "Well," he called to the policeman, "aren't you going to get her?"

The policeman got on and said something to Mrs. Jackson that was too low for her to hear. She asked if he was ordering her off the bus. He said no, the bus driver was.

Mrs. Jackson stayed seated, and the policeman stood there for a little while, then he changed his mind and said, "come on, let's go."

When Mrs. Jackson got off the bus, all the other Negro passengers got up and got off the bus, too, and the bus left.

Then the policeman took away her purse and looked in it, and took out a knife. Mrs. Jackson says she didn't have a knife in her purse. One of the witness' said, "Well, you got us all witness that you didn't have that knife." Even so, there was no reason for him to go in her purse.

Then the policeman took her umbrella away from her. She asked him what he wanted with it. She said, "I'm not going to fight you."

Then the policeman asked all the passengers who had gotten off the bus why they were just standing there. Mrs. Jackson said that one lady said she was just waiting for a bus. Another witness said a lady in the crowd said, "We're staying here just to see what you're gonna do to her." Almost all the bus passengers were there because there were only about four whites on the bus.

Then the other policeman came in the car and took her off to jail. Just before Mrs. Jackson got in the car the policeman said he ought to knock her brains out, because she refused to get in the car in the middle of the street, and crossed around in front of the car.

Mrs. Jackson was released without bond about half-an-hour later. She was charged with breach of the peace, resisting arrest and carrying a concealed weapon. She was supposed to have her trial on the 13th, but it was put off until August 20.

SURVEY ON OUR HEALTH

Miss Phyllis Cunningham, a nurse from Chicago, who works out at Palmer's Crossing Community Center is making a health survey.

She is trying to find out about how we eat, if the public health department is as good as it should be, and if there is proper health instruction for everyone.

The Survey is being conducted for COFO and the Medical Committee on Human Rights, which is providing doctors and

After years of hearing the JACKSON CIARION-LEDGER and other Mixed-up-sippi newspapers yell that the bomb ought to be dropped on Harlem, Cuba, Russia and anyplace else they thought was stepping out of line, Mississippi has got its bomb...except it's getting done unto, instead of doing first.

The AEC (Atomic Energy Commission) is going to explode an atomic bomb--under ground--about 28 miles from Hattiesburg near Louisiana. Nobody seems to be very upset about it (except maybe a few people who think it's easy for ~~ma~~ to make mistakes, and plan to visit relatives in Maine on Sept. 22.)

Now, if an atomic bomb gets exploded, Why Mississippi?, where there are a lot of small farms and where people live and grow crops to feed and clothe others?

Maybe they thought if an accident would happen, nobody would miss Mississippi! Maybe they figured that Mississippians (white) being how they are would be so worked up about integration they would never notice a bomb exploding under them. Or they figured as slow as the courts and law and public welfare are it would be years before anyone got ~~pro~~ to stopping them from anything as long as they kept the bomb operating on fission (atoms separating) instead of fusion (coming together).

Or maybe, they just saw all that extra payroll coming into the state, and never thought to ask people if they'd mind a little atomic explosion. Won't do any good to protest, though, cause if they think we're against it they'll be for it, just for spite, don'cha know?

SURPRISE JAILING FOR COFO WORKERS

Lawrence Guyot, Billy McDonald and Miss Willie Mae Smith were arrested on March 27th, while they were picketing and charged with interfering with an officer.

They were found guilty on June 2, and sentenced to 30 days and \$100, or 97 days. They appealed the case but were not told to appear in court, so the appeal was revoked. On August 13, they were told that they had to start serving their sentences or their \$700 property bonds would be lost. Guyot and Billy McDonald were out of town, and had to be found, because the police only gave them 24 hours to show up, with no warning. They are now in jail.

On August 14, six students from the Priest Creek Freedom School: Curtis Duskworth, Gwen Merritt, Carolyn Moncure, Diane Moncure, LaVern Reed and Jimella Stokes, went to the main branch of the library and asked for a library card.

The librarian at the desk said that if she let the Negro students have a library card, they would have to shut down the white library. She asked them to go to the 6th St. Negro library.

They said they couldn't get the books they wanted there, and that they had the right to use the white library, because it is a public facility, supported by tax money.

Then the head librarian came in and told them that she was a Yankee, and understood how they felt. She said some young men who were in the week before had agreed with her that it was better to have a segregated library than none at all. The girls said that they were entitled to an integrated library.

Then the librarian called the Police Chief, and he came and closed the library for the week-end, for "inventory".

The group then went to Kress' for something to eat. The waitress told Miss Adickes she would serve the Negro customers but wouldn't serve her. Miss Adickes said that was against the new civil rights law. The waitress said they knew and that was the manager's order.

When they left the dime store a police car pulled up and the policeman got out and arrested Miss Adickes for "vagrancy." She had \$30 in traveler's cheques, \$20 cash, a checkbook from the 1st National Bank of Hattiesburg (which put Rev. Bob Beech in jail for overdrawing his account), and she told them she was not working in Hattiesburg, but on vacation from her job as a high school teacher. She has a B.A., and an M.A. and is working on her doctorate. She was released on \$100 cash bond. She is going to sue the police for false arrest and file a complaint against Kress.

FREEDOM SCHOOL DEBATES.

On August 15, about 180 Freedom School students and teachers from Gulfport, Moss Point, Pascagoula and Biloxi joined the Hattiesburg students for a debate. They discussed starting a project to register poor-whites, violence vs. non-violence and stopping demonstrations until the election. There was a picnic, after.