

THE VOICE OF THE MOVEMENT

The Freedom Voice of the Fifth Congressional District (COFO)

507 Mobile Street, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 582-9993

COFFEE COSTS A
DIME
FREEDOM
IS PRICELESS...
EAT DOWNTOWN!!

BEATINGS, HARASSMENT,

INJUSTICE, VIOLENCE

DURING THE LAST TWO weeks we saw five sit-in attempts at Lea's and with violence or the threat of violence. During the past two weeks there were a total of 12 beatings in the downtown area. Here is some of the things that have been going on:

THE SIT-INS

THE SIT-INS BEGAN Tuesday, Jan. 19, a few local people decided that it was time to stop talking and start doing something. By five-o'clock, twenty people were sitting in at Lea's Restaurant.

The sitters-in were not served. Neither were they told to leave. They were ignored by the waitress and the cashier who said that they were "too busy" to serve these customers.

Two and a half hours later the sitters-in found themselves surrounded by over 100 screaming angry white citizens. There were only two city policemen on the scene. A demonstrator overheard one policeman tell a white man, "start something and we'll say that there were too many of you for only two of us to handle."

The next day, Wednesday, another demonstration was held. About twenty people, all from Hattiesburg, went to Lea's. This time the manager called in the police. The police were reported to have distributed tear gas bombs to several on-lookers. A demonstrator reported that he heard the manager tell the on-lookers to use the bombs as soon as the last white customer had finished eating. The kitchen staff

went out the back door and the kitchen door was locked. Fearing for

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FOUR BEATEN AT MONDAY HEARING

COFO WORKERS Joe Schwartz and Dick Kekky, along with two visitors from Chicago, were kicked and beaten as they were leaving the city court house. They had appeared in court as witness for the prosecution against Mr. M. W. Hamilton for his beating Joe Schwartz after Saturday sit-in.

Two other whites accompanied Hamilton in this incident. The victim suffered cuts and bruises mainly about the face and neck. One of the Chicago visitors' eye glasses was broken. Both visitors attend St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Seminary in Chicago.

'WHITE ONLY' WASH

Mrs. Gloria Young was escorted out of a laundromat by the police and constable Kitchon, because it was for "WHITE" only.

Jan. 19, a cross was burned behind Jones School. Jan. 21, three COFO workers and a minister were beaten immediately outside of a Citizen's Council meeting in the county courthouse. Jan. 22, a high school student was taken to the hospital brutally beaten after being "questioned" by the police. Jan. 23, civil rights workers were beaten during and after a sit-in. Jan. 25, Four people were beaten while leaving the city courthouse.

HOW LONG WILL WE LET
THESE THINGS GO ON?????

WE REFUSE TO

LAWYERS ARRIVE FOR CHALLENGE

THE CONGRESSIONAL challenge moves on! Three lawyers arrived this week to prepare testimony. They interviewed thirty people and from this group selected 14 who had the most serious trouble while trying to exercise their civil rights.

The purpose of the Challenge is to show evidence that the regular

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THE MISSISSIPPI STUDENT Union has taken the lead in the local sit-in movement. The Union has decided to hold a series of non-violent workshops in order to better prepare itself for future sit-ins.

The first workshop took place Saturday. It was led by Sanford Leigh, 5th district director for COFO. The non-violent demonstrations were especially realistic. Two screen doors were set up to serve at the counter in Lea's.

After the workshop precinct chairmen were chosen. These chairmen will be responsible for workshops in their areas during this week.

Robert Plump, local M.S.U. head, announces that there will be a state-wide M.S.U. meeting in Meridian, Miss., February 14. Students interested in attending this meeting can get further information from John Clark or Frank Franklin.

MRS. WALKER GOES TO D.C.

MRS. JOHNNIE MAE WALKER went to Washington last week to help with the congressional challenge. She sat in on the Supreme Court hearings of "United States versus Mississippi." This case accuses state officials and state laws of conspiring against the voting rights of Negroes in Mississippi.

Mrs. Walker spoke with congressmen from several states in an effort to get their vote in the challenge. She reports that only 42 more votes are needed to make the challenge successful.

BIG TEENAGE DANCE

SPONSORED BY THE MSU

WHEN: SAT. FEB. 6

WHERE: 419 E. 6th St.

TIME: 7 PM?

ADMISSION: 25¢ couple
15¢ single

While she was at the capitol, Mrs. Walker attended Freedom Democratic Party workshops. These prepare people for voter registration and other rights. Mrs. Walker hopes to set up similar workshops here.

THEATRE OF OUR OWN

THE FREE SOUTHERN THEATRE came to Hattiesburg Jan. 24 and 25. The theatre is a professional group of actors who tour the south. The plays were presented at the Mt. Zion Church.

Friday night the troupe performed "Purlie Victorious," a play about a Negro preacher who defeats "Ole Captain," the owner of a large Mississippi plantation. Saturday night the group presented "Waiting for Gadot." This play is about life, death and just plain waiting. After the play

The "customers" were ready to use the bombs as soon as the last white man had finished eating. Fearing for the safety of several children who were in the group, the demonstrators left.

"We shall not be moved." Thursday the third sit-in was held. Twenty people entered Lea's at 6 PM. They stayed until the manager started turning off the lights and invited a group of thirty whites into the restaurant. When the whites brutally threatened the group, the group decided to leave. As they left an onlooker throw hot coffee on one of the demonstrators. A car tried to run over one of the leaders of the demonstration.

Saturday, Jan. 23, was the day of the fourth and fifth demonstrations. At 9:45 AM approximately 35 local Negroes and four COFO workers entered Lea's. They left when a man identified as "Robbie" hit a teen-age demonstrator. This caused a girl to panic and caused some of the siters-in to fear for her safety. This ended the demonstration.

Immediately after the sit-in a man identified as M.W. Hamilton, kicked Joe Schwartz in the groin. Hamilton had been accused of beating Rev. Robert Bosch last fall. He also was found guilty of beating three rights workers and a minister after a Citizen's Council meeting.

Saturday afternoon the fourth sit-in was held. Six people entered Lea's at 3 PM. The demonstrators left when they saw men heading to the restaurant from surrounding buildings.

LAWYERS

Mississippi Congressmen have been elected because Negroes have not been allowed to vote. The 14th amendment states that if any state has a discriminatory voting practice that state will have its representation in the house of representatives limited.

If we are successful the three regular Mississippi congressmen will lose their congressional seats and Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Hammer and Mrs. Devine, the Freedom Democratic Party representative, will take their places.

F R E E D O M N O W

"Each One - Teach One"

COFO - HATTIESBURG

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December 28, 1964

Dear Friends,

Well we knew the time would come and it has. The state is broke, winter is here and the canned pumpkin in the closet is running mighty low. Our operating budget has been cut from \$95 to \$10 per week. Project phones all over the coast have been disconnected, Hattiesburg got a final payment notice on our phone bill today, we owe Mrs. Woods three months rent -- and there's no money to pay those bills. We were all pooling our pay checks to pay project expenses but now SLOC is so broke there are no checks to pool. Right now there are four dollars in the COFO bank account in Jackson. And because this is the movement and we always seem to do it this a way, we went broke just before the January 4th demonstration.

Over 1,000 people from the state were supposed to go to D.C. on the 4th to holler to the rooftops and pigeonhole congressmen and tell it on the top of the capitol mountain. The Congressional Challenge will be the major political push of the year and the move to unseat Colmer, Whitten, Abernathy, et al, will continue on into the summer. The demonstration on the 4th will be a focal point in terms of publicity and communications with congressmen and the Freedom Democratic Party has been trying to raise money for it with canvassing, church collections, fish fries and, in Hattiesburg, a benefit dance.

Last Sunday there was an FDP convention in Jackson and people were putting car parts together to get one good car to make the trip, so we don't know how were going to raise the money to send 1,000 people to Washington at an estimated cost of \$75 gas and expenses per car.

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ONE MAN - ONE VOTE

But then we didn't know how we were ever going to do a lot of things.
and theres some other news to report. New programs have started since you left.
Mrs. Johnnie Mae Walker, who broke bread and shared the suds with you this summer,
has started a citizen's committee to look into ways the federal government's programs
can help the people of Mississippi. The COFO ban on demonstrations has been lifted
and the MSU has started testing again. Last Saturday Bobby Plump and the gang
integrated the white section of the Sanger theatre, but were told there were "no
seats" at the Rebel. Demonstrations are also going on in Laurel and Natchez, and
it looks like they are slowly spreading across the state.

Once again the hang-up is money, because anybody who goes to jail now knows
there isn't a penny in Jackson to get them out. So if you can, send that check (or
better, wire it today) to Doug Smith, COFO-Hattiesburg, 507 Mobile St., Hattiesburg,
Mississippi. And if you can't send a check at least send a letter and let us know
how you are and what you're doing.

See you at Porter's.

Freedom,
The Hattiesburg Staff

S P for
Gracie Hawthorne
Phyllis Cunningham
Sherry Ann Elster
Linda Mae
Doug Smith
Barbara Schwartzbaum
Joe Schwartz
Mary Louise Mackey
Emma Jean Wilcox
Dick Kemp
Bobby Plump
Dany Owens