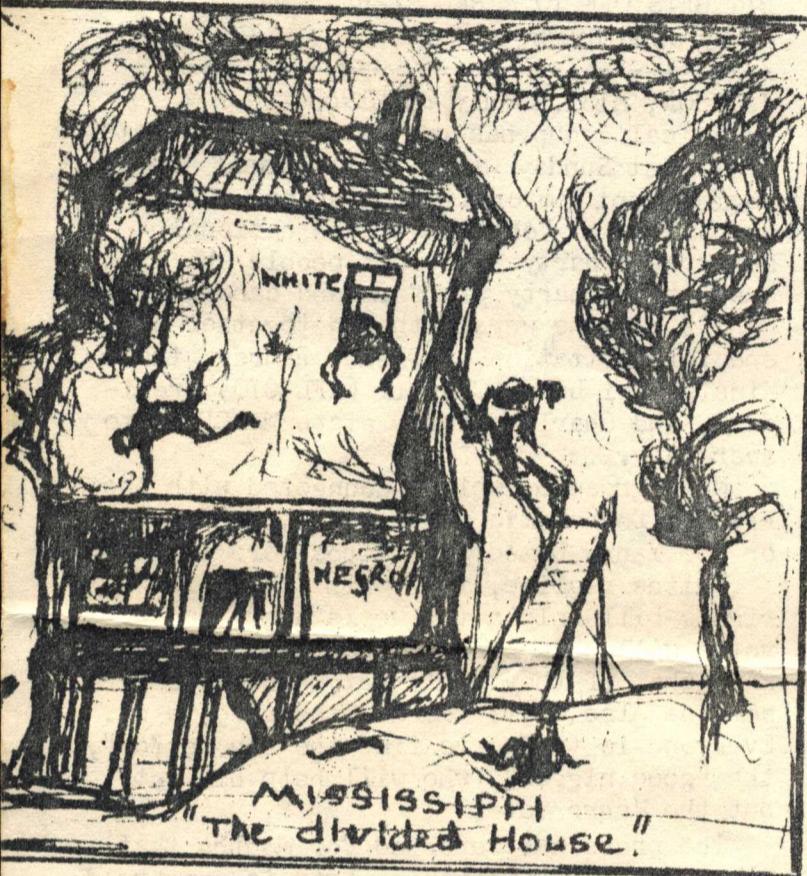


MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY. NEWS LETTER

JULY 28
NO. 6.



NEGROES REGISTERING TO VOTE ALL OVER THE STATE

The Freedom Democratic Party's state executive meeting was held in Jackson, Miss. Sunday at the Farish St. Y.M.C.A.

Here is a report of some of the more important things that happened at the meeting:

The FDP county chairman with the help of the FDP volunteers are devoting most of their time to voters registration with great success in most counties. Carroll County with 2700 eligible voters, until recently had only five registered voters, but in the last week thirty people has registered, the goal is to get 2000 registered.

Aberdeen, in Monroe Co. had 9 registered voters in 1964. Now have 335, with 20 people added within the last two weeks. The farmers are also uniting together to pool their money and buy their supplies and equipment themselves.

Madison Co. has 600 registered Negroes and the people are still working to get more people registered out of a pool of 11000 eligible Negro voters.

Isaqueena Co. had 18 or 20 registered voters before Tues. Now they have increased to 95. It is hard to get the Negroes to come in off the Plantations to register. Isaqueena and Sharkey counties are preparing children from the 1st through the 12th grades for integration of the schools.

Bolivar county with 15,000 eligible Negro voters comprising 68% of the county's population have only 700 people registered. The Registrar is still using the old registration blanks.

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM LABOR UNION TESTIFIES ABOUT MINIMUM WAGE FOR DAY LABORERS IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Aaron German, MFLU vice-chairman and Andrew Hawkins, FDP mayoral candidate in Shaw, testified about life for the Delta day laborer before Rep. James Roosevelt's Sub-Comm. on Labor and Education in Washington, D.C. See Page (9).

NCC URGES ALL OUT SUPPORT FOR THE CHALLENGE

THE LEADING PROTESTANT CHURCHMEN OF THE NATION HAVE URGED MINISTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO URGE THEIR CONGRESSMEN TO DEMAND THE UNSEATING OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSMEN. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES "CALL TO ACTION" SAID THERE WAS A "MASSIVE AMOUNT OF INDISPUTABLE EVIDENCE" OF VOTER DISCRIMINATION.

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AN EDITORIAL

BY Mrs. Susie Ruffin

It seems as if the Mississippi Negro is going to make the same mistake made by the Negro race after the war between the states, in fact I think it will be more blunt, because the Negro at that time did not have the education that we have this day.

An integrated group of people calling themselves the Mississippi Democratic Conference met at the Hotel Heidelberg to lay the groundwork for a political party in Mississippi. 27 of these people were Negro and 95 white; Bob Oswald, White, of Pascagoula, was elected chairman, Charles Young, Meridian, Negro, Co-chairman, William Reed, Sec'y, Levy Chappell, Greenwood, Negro, Assistant Sec'y, and R.L.J. Smith, Jackson, Negro, Treasurer.

The Freedom Democratic Party is an integrated party dominated by Negroes and it would be a much better set-up if these colored people had chosen to work with the M.F.D.P. and together make it into a real political organization.

This conference was dominated by whites at the beginning and you may be assured it will be the same thing in the end. Some of you Negro people still says the M.F.D.P. is a mess. Maybe so but its an organization that has done more for the Negro race than any political party in the history of the U.S. Before Pres. Roosevelt's time the colored people over the nation as a whole voted the Republican ticket. After Mr. Roosevelt became President more Negroes commenced voting Democratic, and just to look at the situation now, neither party cared about the Negro, because either party could have challenged the political machine of the southern states but did not.

The Freedom Democratic Party has shaken the very foundation of constitutional government in our nation and the white supremists of Mississippi are afraid they will be left out on a limb that is being hacked from the political tree. So they selected them a group of Negroes to use so that when the limb falls they will land on a cushion of black people's heads and bury them for 3 or 4 hundred more years.

The odd thing about the set-up is the organizations that's promoting this fiasco; the AFL-CIO with a local at my hometown, Laurel, Miss., that shut the plant down a few days before the Xmas holiday because the Negroes was being promoted to higher jobs in a plant that was established there more than a quarter of a century ago; and the NAACP who is supposed to have been fighting for the advancement of the colored people since 1909 but still can't see that where ever the white man is he intends to be supreme.

I really don't think the Negroes of Mississippi is going to take this organization's policies lying down and I think the NAACP of the state should sever its relationship with the National NAACP

because we are fixing to be used again and after 345 years of the Negro race's exploitation its some one else's time and we think that the 27 Negroes that helped to organize the Mississippi Democratic Conference is high traitors to their race.

THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE JOINS THE RACE FOR THE FUTURE NEGRO VOTE BUT GETS OFF TO A BAD START

By John Brown

JACKSON, MISS. July 23, 1965. A new political group has sprung up in our state this past Sunday which calls itself the Mississippi Democratic Conference. Its purpose is to "challenge" the national Democratic party and elect people who will support the party platform and candidates.

122 persons were gathered together by special invitation of Claude Ramsey, the Mississippi Labor Council (AFL-CIO) president, and Charles Evers, state NAACP state secretary.

No Negroes or whites connected with the Freedom Democratic party, SNCC, CORE, COFO or the Young Democratic Clubs were invited.

Whites realize, that with the voting rights bill only a few weeks away, Negro votes will soon become important. Whites know that if they don't get Negro votes someone else will. So now the race is on. Everyone is trying to find the "Uncle Tom", the "good nigger", who will help him get out the Negro vote.

The press has reported for months that the National Democratic Party is concerned about winning back the Southern States. A Southwide attempt is underway to get white "moderate" and Negro votes so as to overcome the hardcore segregationist votes. So called Negro leaders from this state have been invited to lay the groundwork for the "new coalition" - the Mississippi Democratic Conference. Some have been to Washington more than once for this purpose.

The FDP executive committee has taken no official position about the MDC. But, unofficially, many FDP members have raised questions about this new organization. For example:

If the MDC is really serious about challenging the national party why don't they join forces with the FDP?

If they really want an integrated party why invite leaders from only one of the civil rights organizations in the state?

If they are interested in the Negro vote why do they invite Negroes who represent only middle class urban people?

Aren't the unemployed and poor of the city slums and the Delta plantations worthy of representation?

How can the MDC, which claims to challenge the regular Democratic party in this state, ignore the FDP - the only party in the state which gave its total support to the national party last August and November?

People who know Ramsey say that he believes

that the FDP has little influence in this state among Negroes or whites. He feels that the FDP can be written off and that the masses of the Negro people will follow the handful of Negro businessmen, teachers and wealthy ministers.

But there was a clear indication, to some observers, that Ramsey is doomed from the beginning. The meeting Sunday proved that. Only 27 of hundreds of Negroes invited showed up. The observers believe that Ramsey may have realized that he has associated himself with an impotent leadership which lacks followers.

Many people wonder whether Ramsey really wants to help Negroes. Is he prepared to attack the power structure which he himself belongs to? If so, people say, he has shown few signs of it. He has not helped to organize the \$3.00 a day cotton choppers of the Mississippi Freedom Labor Union. He has not opened doors to thousands of qualified Negroes who seek membership in the craft unions - the carpenters, plumbers, and building craft organizations. These unions, which belong to Ramsey's Labor Council, are whiter than lilies after the rain.

In the race for the Negro vote Claude Ramsey has got off to a bad start. It may be too late to undo the impression that all he stands for is business as usual, some scraps for the few and tokens for the masses.

FOLK FESTIVAL IN MISSISSIPPI

MILESTON, MISS. - A folk festival featuring

Negro singers from the Delta, a jazz group and performers from Africa will be held here on August 6 through 8. Co-director of the Folk Festival is Sam Block. Block said, "We'll have everything from rock and roll to spirituals, from jazz to freedom songs."

The idea for the festival was developed by Block and Willie Peacock, both former SNCC project directors in Greenwood. "Every place we've gone, we have found all kinds of talent; we never come away empty-handed. We've found singers, joke tellers and dancers, whose stunts run from balling the jack to the twist."

African music, games, dances, and food will be featured in the festival in addition to a fashion show of African costumes.

The other half of the program "Performers from the Delta" will bring a wide range of background, talents and experiences to the festival. Billy Johnson, a Greenwood civil rights worker, has formed a jazz group devoted completely to African music.

An 84 year old man will sing slave songs he learned as a youth in the cotton fields of Mississippi. John Jones, carves flutes from the fishing cane that grows wild in the Delta. He has been carving and playing his flutes for over 40 years.

Brother Crainey who has been playing blues on his harmonica in Itta Bena, Miss. for 50 of his 67 years will also take part. Brother Crainey, a veteran of Mississippi civil rights activities, was arrested in June in Washington, D.C. for taking part in a sit-in on behalf of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Congressional Challengers.



McCOMB SOLDIER'S DEATH IN VIETNAM SPARKS PROTEST

A Negro soldier was killed in Vietnam recently. His home was in McComb, Miss. His name was John D. Shaw, 23, who was involved in the demonstrations in McComb in 1961. At that time students walked out of school in protest against the expulsion of Brenda Travis who had been arrested during the sit-ins.

Shaw was drafted into the army and had served for only eight months when he was killed. He is survived by three sisters

and two brothers.

Last week hundreds of copies of a leaflet were passed out to people all over the town. Joe Martin, of McComb, and Clint Hopson, a law student from New Jersey helped draft the leaflet. It is reprinted below:

THE WAR ON VIETNAM

Here are five reasons why Negroes should not be in any war fighting for America:

1. No Mississippi Negroes should be fighting in VietNam for the White Man's freedom, until all the Negro People are free in Mississippi.
2. Negro boys should not honor the draft here in Mississippi. Mothers should encourage their sons not to go.
3. We will gain respect and dignity as a race only by forcing the U.S. Government and the Mississippi Government to come with guns, dogs and trucks to take our sons away to fight and be killed protecting Miss., Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana.
4. No one has a right to ask us to risk our lives and kill other Colored People in Santo Domingo and Vietnam, so that the White American can get richer. We will be looked upon as traitors by all the Colored People of the world if the Negro people continue to fight and die without a cause.
5. Last week a white soldier from New Jersey was discharged from the Army because he refused to fight in Vietnam; he went on a hunger strike. Negro boys can do the same thing. We can write and ask our sons if they know what they are fighting for. If he answers Freedom, tell him that's what we are fighting for here in Mississippi. And if he says Democracy, tell him the truth - we don't know anything about Communism, Socialism, and all that, but we do know that Negroes have caught hell right here under this American Democracy.

NEWS BRIEFS

JACKSON: Three Jackson youths, were drowned in the Pearl River at Jackson, Wed. July 21.

The victims were Robert Kelly, 14, of 1605 Pleasant Ave., Melvin Houseworth, 11, of 65 Fisher Lane and Larry Harris, 11, of Watseka, Ill.

Drowning of the Negro youths brought a complaint from NAACP Field Sec'y Charles Evers to have Jackson's public swimming pools opened. The pools were closed during civil rights demonstrations in 1963 and have never been reopened. Mr. Evers will

file a suit in Federal court in an attempt to force reopening of the pool.

RUSTON, LA. The F.B.I. is investigating a weekend shooting of a Negro policeman at the College town of Ruston, La.

John W. Wilder was shot and killed by Officer Edward Negent early last Saturday. A coroners jury ruled the death justifiable homicide.

LAUREL, MISS. Katherine Taylor was found not guilty of petty theft by a Laurel, Miss. police court judge. Katherine was beaten so severely by her white employer Deveraux Nesson, Sat. June 26, 1965, that Miss Taylor was hospitalized for 11 days. After leaving the hospital her mother, Mrs. Leila Taylor made out a warrant for his arrest on a charge of assault. When he was arrested he made out charges against Miss Taylor charging her with petty thievery which was untrue and the Taylor family is determined to make him prove it. Deveraux did not deny beating Miss Tailor. But was acquitted of the charge by accusing her of theft.

HATTIESBURG. 28 local Negroes and 5 whites integrated the Rebel Theatre at Hattiesburg, Miss., Sat. July 1. The group were kept waiting outside in the hot sun for two hours. The chief of police came to investigate after one white man was attacked.

A group of people went to a swimming pool two weeks ago attempt to integrate the facilities. The white kids swimming in the pool began hollering and running when they saw them. A thunderstorm came up bringing showers so the people decided to go integrate the theatre which was accomplished without incident.

WASHINGTON, D.C. The U.S. Government forbids members of the KKK from holding offices or position in the government; but recent investigations by the House Committee on Un-American Activities are uncovering Klan members on Federal, State and local government payrolls.

One KKK official in a Southern state is employed by the Post Office Dept. Other Klansmen, include a Florida police chief, a Mayor of a Southern city, a self-ordained California minister, a superintendent of a large public school and his wife, who is a relative of a member of Congress.

These and other undisclosed details of the House Committee's six-month investigation of the Klan in eight states will be highlighted when Representative Edwin Wills, (D.La.) Chairman, holds public hearings in August.

CLARK COUNTY. There was an attempt to lynch a 30 year old Negro man of Clark co. Sat., July 17. He was grabbed by whites and driven to a wooded area near town where a noose was hanging from a tree. They left when they spotted an unknown car. While they were leaving, the Negro managed to jump out of the car and escape into the woods.

The FBI is conducting an investigation of the incident.

JACKSON. The civil rights commission is planning a meeting in Jackson, on the voting bill in late August. People in the movement will be invited. The voting bill is expected to be signed into law by then.

It has been reported that the White Knights of the KKK held a secret meeting in Jackson, and will be expected to renew action all over the state.

LAUREL, MISS. The home of Mr. Lowell Tew, a white man of Laurel, Miss. was hit by a bomb, thrown by a person, or persons unknown, Sun. July 18.

The bomb was of a type, known as Japanese, a homemade bomb and the damage was limited to broken glass and smoke.

The chief of police is making an extensive investigation assisted by the fire chief and FBI.

MISSISSIPPI. The Economic Opportunity Commission comprised of Leake, Attala, Scott, Neshoba, and Newton counties have added a Negro, Mr. Price Bedenfield to its body. Mr. Joe Castleberry of the EOC called our FDP office in Jackson to offer information or assistance. He can be contacted at 1200 19th St. NW, Washington, D.C.

NEWS BRIEFS Continued on page 6-

INTEGRATED FREE THEATRE COMES AGAIN TO MISSISSIPPI

Free Southern Theater, a nationally acclaimed professional acting company based in New Orleans, will present three plays in Jackson at the Pratt Memorial Methodist Church. All performances begin at 8:30p.m.

"Rifles of Senora Carrar", by Bertol Brecht, will be seen on August 3rd.

Sean O'Casey's play, "Shadow of a Gunman", to be seen August 4th.

Martin Duberman's "In White America", which will be presented August 2nd.

The Brecht and O'Casey plays are considered classics of the modern theater. "In White America" has recently been a stage hit in New York and other cities where it has been performed.

All three plays are directed by Robert Cordier.

For Theater Schedule see Below:

FDP NEWSLETTER NEEDS MORE NEWS:

It's easy to get news from the newspapers but they don't always print the most important news.

We need your reports, letters, press releases and other information to find out what is happening among the Negro people in Mississippi.

Please write us about what contacts you have had with the Federal Government's "War On Poverty". Did you try to get help from the government to get training for a new job, or to work with the Job Corps?

Unless you tell us -- we can't help you.

Tentative Schedule for THE FREE SOUTHERN THEATER

AUGUST	1 - 6	JACKSON, Miss.	OCTOBER	21 - 26	GREENWOOD, Miss.
	7 - 10	CORDELE, Ga.		27 - 30	HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss.
	11 - 13	VICKSBURG, Miss.			
	15 - 17	JONESBORO, La.			
	19 - 21	McCOMB, Miss.			
	23 - 26	BOGALUSA, La.			
SEPTEMBER		GULFPORT, Miss.	NOVEMBER	1 - 6	MEMPHIS, Tenn.
BER		MOBILE, Ala.		7 - 12	LITTLE ROCK, Ark.
21 - 24		HATTIESBURG, Miss.		13 - 18	PINE BLUFF, Ark.
26 - 29				26 - 30	GADSEN, Ala.
OCTOBER		LAUREL, Miss.	DECEMBER	1 - 6	BIRMINGHAM, Ala.
1 - 3		MILESTON, Miss.		7 - 12	SELMA, Ala.
5 - 8		RULEVILLE, Miss.		13 - 18	ALBANY, Ga.
9 - 13				19 - 24	ATLANTA, Ga.

Cont'd from page one -

1200 people on strike really started the movement going in the county. 500 are still on strike and they still need money for food and clothes. Headstart schools are in operation in the county and Freedom schools are planned for each area.

The FDP meeting was opened with scripture reading by the Rev. Whitney and songs by the audience after which Lawrence Guyot the Party Chairman brought up a discussion of who could sit in on an executive meeting besides the Committee.

Various counties was represented including Carol, Desoto, Forest, Monroe, Workington, Madison, Isequeena, Benton, Sharkey, Hinds, Jones, Warren and Bolivar.

COLEMAN CONFIRMED BY SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The appointment of ex-Governor J.P. Coleman to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals was confirmed by the Senate Judiciary Committee last week. Voting against the appointment were Sen. Jacob Javits and Sen. Philip Hart (Mich.). For the appointment were: Tydings of Maryland, Edward Kennedy of Mass., Dodd of Conn., Fong of Hawaii, Burdick of N.D., Bayh of Indiana, Long of Missouri and Everett Dirksen of Illinois. Hugh Scott of Penn. did not vote. Sen. Smathers of Fla. and McClellan of Arkansas were not present either, but they were later reported as voting for Coleman.

Thousands of Mississippians signed petitions against Coleman's appointment.

LCDC LAWYERS SUE SHERIFFS, POLICE CHIEFS FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS IN DAMAGES FOR POLICE BRUTALITY

JACKSON. It used to be that lawyers with the civil rights movement had their hands so busy they could only defend people who were in jail.

Now, more and more, all the lawyers groups - the Lawyers Guild, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc., the Lawyers' Constitutional Defense Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union - are taking more aggressive action.

They are suing school boards, cities, counties and high government officials and now sheriffs and policemen for police brutality and false arrest. Maybe the best

way to make racist sheriffs treat Negro people decently, is to make them feel it deep in their pocketbooks.

The LCDC for example is suing the Holmes county sheriff, his deputy and a bonding company for \$100,000 for beating Mrs. Maggie Gordon of Lexington. The LCDC is also suing the police chief in Morton, Miss. who tried to break up a demonstration by beating, chasing, and intimidating people by firing shots in the air. The LCDC is also involved in 40 other affirmative lawsuits.

The Lawyers' Guild has about five affirmative suits filed but an omnibus suit will be filed soon against almost every county in the state to desegregate public facilities. Twenty legal firms in the North have agreed to participate in this fight. Four counties - Hinds, Panola, Washington, and Sunflower have been canvassed already by attorneys in preparation for the hugh suit. The suits are authorized under Title 3 of the U.S. Civil Rights Act.

WELL ORGANIZED FDP MEETING IN MADISON CO.

Over 150 people from Madison county heard Congresswoman Annie Devine and other speakers last week at one of the best organized FDP meetings in a long time.

Otha Williams of the Madison County Farmers Cooperative urged people to join the organization so that "Negro farmers could buy fertilizers, and eventually gas, oil, seed, feed and other things at wholesale prices." Right now, "Williams said, "whatever price Mr. Charlie say we gotta pay." The Cooperative has been selling fertilizers at savings of \$10 a ton to Negro farmers. Plans are to build a cotton gin cooperative in the near future.

Melvin Pickett, of the FDP said that about 300 Negroes registered to vote before county registrar Foote Campbell decided that too many Negroes were coming to his office. "He had been using the new registration forms, and people were passing it, but then he took them back and gave the old ones to the people." Pickett added that Campbell sometimes still gave the new easier form to

Cont'd from page 1 -

It added that "For us to fail to support this challenge would be to contribute to the Negro's further disillusionment in the orderly processes of law.

Besides SNCC and CORE which have supported the challenge from the beginning, the following organizations support the call for unseating the five Congressmen:

THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
THE SOUTHERN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
The NAACP
The Michigan State Democratic Party
Americans for Democratic Action
Californiat Democratic Council
Colorado Democratic Party
N ational Catholic Conference for Inter-racial justice.
New York City Council
Northern Student Movement
Louisiana Committee of Concerned Citizens
Unitarian Universalists Association
San Jose City Council
Southern Conference Educational Fund
Students for A Democratic Society
UAW LOCAL 136X, AFL-CIO
(List incomplete due to constant daily expansion.)

Cont'd from page 6 -

people "when he felt like it".

One speaker said that 60 children from the county have signed up to go to integrated classes this fall. Another 75 parents may send their children to integrated schools. "The problem though, is that in this county we have thousands of kids and we should have many more parents willing to sign their children up-- if you parents have faith in your children then you must register them in integrated schools so they can get a better education." The speaker added that "Your kids might be given stares and insults, but you've been suffering them all your life anyway."

Two Freedom School classes in Canton demonstrated non-violent techniques in a role-playing situation. One pictured three whites bribing a Negro to tell them about what the Freedom Workers were planning to do.

Five little tots dressed in smocks, shirts and pants sewn by the newly formed Sewing Cooperative in Canton showed off their costumes to the audience. Mrs. Maggie Davis, one of the founders of the Cooperative said that Northern contacts have already agreed to buy as many clothes as they could produce. They also promised to send down industrial sewing machinery.

Dozens of \$.50 and \$1.00 chicken dinners were served at the meeting. Proceeds went to the FDP. The meeting was held under the shady trees of the Dearon farm near Sharon.

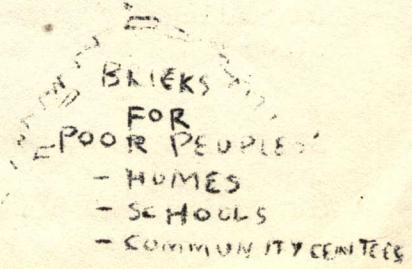
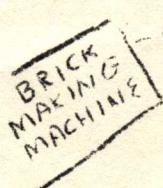
NEW COMMUNITY CENTER BEING BUILT IN JACKSON. By Ted Seaver.

A Community center is being opened in the Washington addition area financed by an organization in Vermont called Vermont in Mississippi. The center is called the Medgar Evers Neighborhood Guild.

The Guild eventually will be controlled and operated by the people of Washington addition. It is beginning several projects with neighborhood help, including a cooperative day care center and a playground programs. Other programs hoped for include adult literacy programs, adult classes, tutority programs and various clubs.

At present, a bi-racial advisory board has been organized to help get the program off the ground.

While the Guild has no official connections with any civil rights organization, it hopes to cooperate with all of them and welcomes their help and advice.



Please write me for your suggestions:
Frank Smith, POBox 83, Edwards, Miss.

BRICKS FOR FREEDOM -- not to make money but to build foundations-----

MISSISSIPPI GETS BIG EUROPEAN TRADE ORDER

The Mississippi Trade Mission to Europe netted \$3 million in orders of state industrial and agricultural goods. Gov.

Paul Johnson announced this at the National Livestock Association meeting at the Sun 'n Sands Motel, Jackson, last week.

It was the single biggest state order from Europe, said the Governor. He promised another trade mission soon - this time to South America, and predicted resulting orders would top the \$3 million mark.

During his speech, Johnson referred to the changes Mississippi was undergoing. He implied that allegations of discrimination was nothing but distortion.

Johnson received a standing ovation at the end of his speech.

Who were the applauders? Heads of Livestock Associations of most Middle-west and Southern states - many of them livestock producers, and rich men.

Livestock sales now account for 20% of the state's total agricultural income (per year) and the industry is growing.

NEWS BRIEFS Cont'd from page 6

NEWARK. Mr. James Farmer, National Director of the Congress of Racial Equality is faced with a charge of slandering a Newark patrolman who shot and killed a Negro youth.

An Essex County Deputy Sheriff served Farmer with a summons last night, minutes before he led a mass rally in Newark calling for a civilian police force review board. CORE's demand for a review board was spurred strongly when Martinez shot and killed a Negro Lester Long June 12. Long allegedly pulled a knife after police stopped him for a traffic offense.

STARKVILLE STATE PARK INTEGRATED

STARKVILLE. 49 people successfully integrated the Hanah Nayra State Park in Stark-

ville, Mississippi, recently. The group included 3 whites and 4 Negroes, Starkville residents and 42 people from Winston Co. There were no incidents.

Five people went to apply for jobs in a predominately white factory in Starkville. The men were turned away because there were'nt any application blanks.

JACKSON. The City of Jackson does it again!
They claim there was no police violence
during last months demonstrations! Plan to
sue victims for telling lies!

People are wondering how Jackson city officials can be so unbelievably stupid to deny police brutality during last month's demonstrations. Over 65 signed statements of brutality are in the hands of the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee (LCDC)alone. Alvin Bronstein, head of the LCDC office here, said "I hope the Jackson officials find the truth, because the truth will show police brutality. High police even admitted to us that there was a lot of friction."

Bronstein said that he complained to Attorney General Joe Patterson about the highway patrolmen who hid their nameplates with tape. Nothing was done about it during the two weeks of demonstrations, Bronstein added.

Brutality complaints ranged from the beating and kicking of a pregnant Negro woman from Pike county to running male prisoners through a police gauntlet, beating them as they passed through.

The planned libel suits against both organizations and individuals who claimed police brutality can be defended by something that is hard to find behind the Magnolia curtain. TRUTH.

NEWS BRIEFS Continued on page 9

MFLU FORMING IN GREENWOOD

Organization of a Mississippi Freedom Labor Union got underway last week at a mass meeting at Union Grove Baptist Church.

The Greenwood MDP has 20 people committed to organize a MFLU. A union here is a necessity said Silas McGee, project director. He said that "if we can get a strong union in Greenwood it will help to mobilize the rest of LeFlore county". Rosemary Freeman, SNCC field secretary and summer volunteers Geoffrey Link and Dave Swanston are also helping the MFLU.

Mrs. Bertha Austin, voiced her support of the venture: "I can't work in the field anymore, but I am behind the union 100 per cent. I'll do what I can to help it succeed."

Henry Smith, delegate to the Washington lobby this summer made another point: "The only way we will get our just wage is to stick together. If every one supports the union, it will succeed."

The MFLU is asking for plantation owners to comply with their demand for \$1.25 an hour. Day laborers now receive only \$3.00 per day, or \$.30 an hour.

The Greenwood FDP staff will canvass the city, talking about the union and asking support for it.

The Shaw, Miss. people have sent a letter into the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party State Office asking for help such as food, clothing and money. These people are members of the MFLU and have been on strike for sometime. They have a strong labor union with 100 people on strike.

The MFLU held a state meeting at Shaw, Miss. Fri. and Sat., July 23 and 24. State officials for the year coming up were elected. A truck load of food from Minnesota was distributed among the strikers in the Greenville area.

The key people of the strikers are the tractor drivers who are reluctant to strike on account of the wages they make; but ten tractor drivers of Ruleville signed up last week.

NOTICE:

The NEWSLETTER STAFF want the people of Mississippi to know this is your paper, and you have the privilege to write in your views, or happenings, whatever they are. When you write please don't get discouraged; when your article doesn't appear in the next issue. We will print it as soon as space is available. Send mail to:
Newsletter
Susie Ruffin
507 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Farish St.
Jackson, Miss.

NEWS BRIEFS Cont'd from page 8

INDIANOLA. 12 tractor drivers and their families went on strike against the Allen Bradley plantation. As a result the owner raised the pay to 75¢ an hour.

GREENWOOD, MISS. 25 people gave their names promising to help organize the MFLU in this area.

A riot broke out here after 100 Negroes picketed a white grocery store owner who treated people rudely. The owner ordered a white volunteer out of the store and then hit her over the head with a coke bottle. It required three stitches. Then people began throwing bottles at the store and the owner fired a shotgun into the air. Police did nothing but then returned with riot guns, shotguns, and tear gas.

MFLU - Cont'd from page 1

They said that the \$3.00 a day wage forced children to leave school to support their families.

Rep. Roosevelt said that if it takes \$3.00 a day wages to grow cotton then he would rather do away with "slavery" - "I'd rather not see cotton grown." A lobbyist for the cotton plantation owners said cotton was a \$15 billion a year industry but that owners couldn't afford more than \$3.00 a day wages. German and Hawkins testified that the sharecropper is supposed to get half of what the crop is worth but he only gets one third. It is hoped that the Sub-committee will recommend a \$1.25 an hour wage for farm laborers. Right now they are the largest group of workers in the country who are not covered by any minimum wage protection.

AN OPINION

by Mrs. Susie Ruffin

The Freedom Democratic Party should mean a lot to the people of the state of Mississippi and the image of the party also. That's why we should see to the state MFDP office on North Farish having a good image because it represents every

Negro in the state whether they participate in the Movement or not. So you people of Jackson can play your part towards changing the state office's image by seeing that your teenagers don't hang around and profane or destroy the office equipment. For further information on this come to the office and inquire.

THE EDITOR.

FDP ACTIVITIES

MADISON COUNTY. A Freedom School is being held every day from 9 until 1:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Church in Valley View. The Volunteer teachers are Susan Romo and Lucy Lucky from Pleasant Green, Rick Sallings and Kenner Christiansen, volunteers for Area H, have canvassed the area daily working on school desegregation, urging people to attend the Freedom Democratic Party workshop at St. Peter's Church, and trying to get people to register to vote.

Greer High, an unaccredited school east of Thomaston, Miss. is reported to be unaccredited on account of not having a Library.

CARROL COUNTY by Lou Emma Shipp On Monday, July 19, 1965, students and parents blockaded the school busses to end the split session of summer school. The kids was dragged away by the sheriff and his deputy. Two people was arrested, they were Mrs. Leola Blackman and Mr. Johnny Apolewhite. Mrs. Blackman was charged with assault and battery because of this, the sheriff hit her eight year old son and she hit the sheriff, how can any mother stand by and see a white cop hit a small child? When Mrs. Blackman hit the sheriff one of them attacked her, begin choking her and one of the Negro men around told him that two men

should not fight a woman. So then the two quit beating her and carried her to the car and put hand cuffs on her and carried her to jail. The sheriff's name is Mr. Malcolm Bennett. Mrs. Blackman was charged with two things because she stood up for her child. Bond was set for \$500 on each charge.

The purpose of this blockade was to protest the school split session. About a month ago petitions was signed and sent to the Supt. and ignored. A copy was also sent to the Chairman of the Board and he refused to hear also. Then people decided to boycott the school busses but was unsuccessful until we tryed blockading an Monday which was July 19, 1965.

The New voters registration form is in Carrol County 30 people filled out applications blanks and all but two passed the test. Only seven Negroes were registered to vote before the new registration laws were passed.

CARROLTON. Fifty people participated in a March, Monday through the streets of Carrollton, Miss. to the Marshall High School with out any trouble. The sheriff said they had a right to parade if they chose.

MARION COUNTY, MISS. by FDP volunteer Curtis Styles.

The people here aren't afraid like in other places. An injunction has been filed against the registrar and a few people are already registered. Most of the public places including the city park, are segregated. Negro and white Methodist ministers had a joint meeting and the white minister said he is eager to help. There is a Headstart program and the NAACP is supposed to have a project here. The sheriff said he had Negroes who were for segregation and would shoot Curt. He also said he had made the Klan leave the county, but a few days later, three crosses were burned.

Wash.D.C. FDP by Mike Thelwell

Lawyers from the FDP, CORE, SNCC, ACLU, NCC, AND THE ADA appointed a subcommittee to try to help bring the Congressional Challenge to the floor of the House. This meeting was called by the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) which indicates their complete support for us.

FDP ACTIVITIES Continued from page 10

LEAKE COUNTY. A selective buying program was put in action by Negroes of Thomaston, in Leake County, Miss. Sat. Only one colored person shopped in the store, a woman paid \$26.00 for a dress to show the whites she was'nt a part of it.

The Mayor of Thomaston went to Jackson to confer with the officials of that city on what could be done about the Thomaston boycott after finding that nothing could be done legally, he was willing to go home and talk it over with the Negroes of the community and the Supt. of schools.

The Klan burned a cross in front of Mrs. Clora Martins' home Sunday night and 5 crosses was burned at Kosciusko.

Thomaston citizens will start testing public accomodations again this week.

LEAKE COUNTY FDP GOING STRONG
from a report by Vivian Leburg

FREEDOM SCHOOLS: Pre-school classes
Classes for 8-12 year olds
High School students classes
Touch-typing classes
Adult Citizenship classes
are planned soon.

SCHOOL INTEGRATION: 20 children signed up for grades 1, 2, 3, and 12. They will meet with the family whose daughter was the only girl to integrate the first grade last semester.

SELECTIVE BUYING AT THOMASTOWN: All but one store has been put on the blackout list. The white stores supported the Negro school principal Mr. Green. The Negro community demanded that the principal be removed months ago. The school has grown worse rather than better under his leadership.

ACCOMODATIONS TESTING: 25 teenagers from Ofahoma tested the Thomastown cafe which serves Negroes only through the back door. No Negroes or white volunteers were served. The testers waited for about seven hours.

MEETING WITH THE SCHOOL - SUPERINTENDANT FRUSTRATED

Demands for protection of Negro students attending white schools and transportation for the students was frustrated when the superintendents' office refused to make an appointment with four local FDP members and a FDP volunteer.

QUITMAN COUNTY by Miss Gloria Crudup

Thirty-six people went to the courthouse to register today. About 100 people, including Aaron Henry and two northern visitors attended a mass meeting at Allen Chapter, M.B. Church.

I believe that the county of Quitman will get in order. We are looking for food and clothes to help the people that has lost their job and has gotten burned out of their homes. We are inviting Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer from Ruleville to come and help Quitman on July 27. We have a new location at 519 Cotton St., Marks, Miss.

INDIANOLA. Indianola is having a lot of trouble with voters registration. Three people were registered Wednesday. A mass meeting was held Wed. night with 60 people present Sam Block, of Greenwood, was the principle speaker. More people will continue to try and register. Canvassing is centered around voters registration.

McComb Strike - Wats Report.

23 women picketed the Holiday Inn July 27, for 10 hours in the rain. They are members of the NFLU and was the first picket this local has had. Signs read: "We want \$1.25 an hour" and "We want time off for lunch."

The police did not interfere. The manager, Harry Raddon told them he couldn't afford to pay higher wages and wouldn't rehire the picketers. The ladies say that they have to do 10-14 rooms a day of hard cleaning and don't have time for lunch.

JULY 28 - 30 more ladies marched today and were threatened by the district attorney that they would be arrested. They stopped to have a meeting and voted to march again tomorrow, in spite of possible jailing.

THE FDP CHALLENGE - AUGUST 1965

The National Council of Churches, the NAACP, and some important AFL-CIO unions have lent their support to the Challenge. The list of supporters includes groups from almost half the states in the union. This is a strong coalition of forces and the five segregationist Congressmen from our State are scared.

But, however big the Liberal coalition, the unseating of the of the Congressmen is going to depend on "little people". Congress must be made to listen to the demands of Mississippi Negroes.

This must be done within and outside the State.

To this end the FDP has called for Freedom Days to be held throughout the State - for masses of people to try to register before the end of August to show Congress that people do want to vote. The FDP is also asking for people to draft petitions demanding the unseating of the Congressmen, and for these petitions to be taken to Washington DC near the end of August.

The presence of a large number of Mississippi Negroes in Washington DC is the only way Congress will be made to see that the Challenge is REAL and must be dealt with before the end of the present session.

The FDP hopes 1,000 people will go to Washington. But if this is to be accomplished money has to be raised to pay for transportation expenses: county executive Committees have been asked to work on fund raising. The fight is nearing the end. The next 30 days are crucial. We must not slow down! We must overcome!

* * * * *

DO YOU BELIEVE IN FIGHTING FOR YOUR RIGHTS? DO YOU THINK THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT

IN THIS STRUGGLE? DO YOU WANT TO STOP THE OLD HEADS FROM SLOWING US DOWN? WANT FREEDOM?

COME TO THE STATE CONVENTION OF THE Young Democratic

Clubs of Mississippi AND HELP US VOTE IN STRONG OFFICERS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14th, 9a.m., HOTEL HEIDELBERG, JACKSON. HELP GET FOLKS INTO JACKSON

As most of us know, the greatest work for progress in Mississippi has come from the young people's direct action groups and the local people's organizations such as SNCC, CORE, COFO, and FDP. We also know that we have different groups opposing us - not only the Klu Klux Klan and White Citizens Councils, but also so-called "moderate" groups which pretend to be with the Movement but really keep holding things back. Such "wait and go slow" groups are the Mississippi NAACP and the AFL-CIO, which have just organized the Mississippi Democratic Conference - when they should have just joined the FDP. They also excluded all real Movement people. Now we also know that young people are very important to our work. They have a chance now to have a group they can run and get leadership in - THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS. So far the Movement people are the majority in the Young Democrats, but the "bad guys" are

COPY OF LETTER FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL PATTERSON TO ALL REGISTRARS

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE CIRCUIT CLERKS AND REGISTRARS OF THE EIGHTY-TWO COUNTIES OF MISSISSIPPI

I am of the opinion that the new Acts submitted herewith are now the law of the State governing registration, and that you should immediately discontinue using the old form of application for registration and start using the new form as set forth in Senate Bill No. 1501, although you may find it necessary to discontinue receiving applications for registration until you have had time to acquire the new form.

I have discussed this matter with Governor Johnson and Secretary of State Reber Ledner, who, as you know, are members of the State Board of Election Commissioners, along with the Attorney General, and they concur in the suggestion set forth herein.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Joe T. Patterson

Joe T. Patterson
Attorney General

(Emphasis added)

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trying hard to take it over. FDP has no official relationship with the Young Democrats but FDP welcomes the development. Joyce Brown and Lee Dilworth are leaders in fighting for FDP type politics and program for the Young Democrats. Help Joyce and Lee by coming into Jackson to support them at the convention. You can write the Young Democrats at P. O. Box 2251, Jackson, Mississippi, 39205.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO JACKSON

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, HOTEL HEIDELBERG for the

YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI STATE

CONVENTION. * * * We must remember

that the FDP does not exist just for the Challenge. The FDP is here to fight for change in Mississippi. That Means All Of Us.