

# MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM / News DEMOCRATIC PARTY / Letter

Vol. Number 3 November 27, 1967 Sunflower, Mississippi.

## MFDP MEMBER WINS SEAT!

### NEGRO ELECTED TO MISSISSIPPI

#### LEGISLATURE

For the first time in this century, Negroes will have their own eyes and ears inside the law making body. Robert Clark has been elected by the people of Holmes County as their representative. Yet Mr. Clark sees his role as serving all the Black people of Mississippi.

Clark said that now is the time for all the leaders to discuss "the political future of the Negro in Mississippi. If this is done, I feel that I can be of better service to total Mississippi rather than Holmes County alone.

#### DELTA MINISTRY

The commission of the Delta Ministry met in Greenville last week. The coming year's emphasis will be on economic development and a continuation for the citizenship education program. They also requested that Owen Brooks be given full authority as Director.

Mr. Guyot, representing FDP thanked the Delta Ministry for its work in registering and educating voters and candidates,

and warned of the possible attacks against Delta Ministry and others by Senator Eastland because of Delta Ministry's efforts to make the Church relevant to the everyday life of Mississippians.

THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND MISSISSIPPIANS UNITED TO ELECT NEGRO CANDIDATES INVITES ALL WHO WORKED SO HARD FOR THE ELECTION OF NEGROES TO "AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT."

December 1, 1967

8:00 p.m.

Club Ebony, Indianola  
(By invitation only)

Mississippians United to Elect Negro Candidates supported the campaigns of Black candidates in the general election. They raised and distributed to the candidates and their organizations \$9,850, said Joseph Harris, Chairman. The steering committee, recently decided to continue the organization as there is some group needed to help financially all Negroes fighting for political power for the good of the people.

M O R E ELECTION N E W S from across the state \*\*\*\*\*

### HOLMES COUNTY

At Ebenezer, after two arrests of poll workers, a crowd of whites gathered. Negroes then came to counter them with force if necessary.

The sheriff came and asked both sides to leave. The black leaders said they would leave only after the whites moved. The sheriff bowed to their demands and the area was cleared.

This show of force will prevent further intimidation of black people around this area.

Griffin McLaurin, jr. was the second winner besides Mr. Clark. He won the constable's race by better than two to one.

### BOLIVAR COUNTY

Kermit Stanton won the supervisor's position. Black people in Mound Bayou and Shelby are looking at themselves with greater assurance and pride.

People are talking about making this area an example of what black people can do:

"WE WANT TO BRING IN INDUSTRY AND CHANGE THE IMAGE OF OUR COMMUNITY."

This statement was made by an officer of the newly formed MOUND BAYOU INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

An example of the power that victory brings came when Mr. Stanton carried a few people with welfare problems down to the Welfare office. It was like a new day had dawned.

When the welfare officials realized who Stanton was, they quickly began to serve the people and seek solutions to their problems.

### CARROLL COUNTY

All four Negro candidates lost: James Dixon, Johnny Applewhite, L.C. Smith and Lynn Collins.

### MADISON COUNTY

U.S. Rimmer won the JP's race in beat 5. He ran unopposed.

### ISSAQUENA COUNTY

Two black candidates won: Matthew Walker, J.P. and Melvin Smith, constable. Mrs. Unita Blackwell lost by 20 votes in the J.P. race in Beat 4.

An MFDP member in Mayessville said: "We have won two offices. Now they have to prove that they can do a better job than the old officials. The whites will try to show that they are the best to continue governing. We must show people what black people can do.

"We must find ways to keep money in the black community, instead of giving it all back to the white man. WE have to build something that we can say is ours."

### HINDS COUNTY

Alfred Rhodes, Jr. won more votes than any other black candidate in the state--5,360, but lost to two whites, a Democrat and a Republican.

The disqualification of Rev. John Brown, Lofton Mason and L.C. Leach led many people in the rural (everything outside the city of Jackson) to think that Rhodes was also disqualified.

BY THE WAY--ALL OF THE 19 BLACK DISQUALIFIED CANDIDATES IN MISS. ARE STILL WAITING WORD FROM THE U.S. SUPREME COURT REGARDING BEING REPLACED ON THE BALLOT. THE MFDP HOPES THE COURT WILL ACT SOON AND THROW OUT THE ELECTIONS IN THOSE AREAS WHERE BLACK CANDIDATES WERE ILLEGALLY DENIED A RIGHT TO RUN FOR OFFICE.  
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(CONTINUED, page five)

# MFDP LOOKS AT LAUREL STRIKE

The MFDP is investigating the strike in Laurel Mississippi by the International Woodworkers of America local (IWA) against the Masonite corporation because this strike effects every member of the MFDP in Mississippi.

If Masonite can kill the union in Laurel this will set back both Negro and white workers 30 years. Whatever the result of the strike it will be copied by management and members of the Mississippi Management Association to crush union organizing in Mississippi. Without unions working people can be fired without cause by management, they lose their right to collective bargaining, better working conditions, higher wages and decent vacations with pay.

Members of both races are working at Masonite and are also on strike. Masonite claims that the union is completely controlled by the KKK. This places Negro employees in the unfortunate position of having to choose between the KKK or Masonite. This is too simple and too frightening to be true.

It is to Masonites advantage to emphasize the KKK element in the union. This keeps black and white workers apart. Since 1964 the union has held integrated meetings yet it was only since the strike began in April that Masonite gave Negro workers many good jobs previously reserved for whites. But it is important to understand the history of the KKK's power in Jones County. This power affects not only the union but Masonite and every important economic and political institution in Jones County.

The FDP is and has always been on the side of FREE trade unionism. We refuse to swallow Masonite's claim of complete KKK control of the union. We have found that labels whether Communist or KKK prevent people from thinking and cover up the real issues.

The Klan issue should not force Negro workers to reject unionism. A man should not be deprived of his right to a job or a right to belong to a union solely because he is a member of the KKK. Only if we protect the rights of all men to freedom of association and speech, no matter how unpopular their cause, will our own rights be preserved. This is our first statement about the strike. We welcome your opinions and ideas about this matter. Write MFDP, c/o Box 447, Sunflower, Mississippi.



## WELFARE RIGHTS MOVEMENT GOES STATE-WIDE

A State-wide welfare rights meeting was held Saturday November 18 at Mt. Beulah to make future plans for the organization. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Gerri Smith, Hinds County Welfare Rights Movement Chairman.

The group voted unanimously to extend into counties that do not have existing welfare rights groups. A meeting has been set for December 9, 1967 at Mt. Beulah to form the state-wide organization. The group also voted to call a meeting with other groups that are interested in bringing about needed changes in the Mississippi Welfare Department.

Workshops were held to deal with various problems that affect welfare recipients. Recommendations from these workshops were adopted when the joint body re-convened. A list of some 23 recommendations were accepted.

The group resolved itself to begin a state-wide boycott of schools. The nature of the boycott would be to attain free school lunches for all poor families. This would help to reduce some of the starvation in Mississippi. The group also voted to demand that the Welfare Department be integrated on all levels and that all welfare recipients get 100% of their need.

The joint body approved a resolution stating that the Welfare Rights movement in conjunction with other organizations such as FDP, SCLC, NAACP, SNCC and CORE, etc. would write their own welfare legislation and agree on it, then present it to the State

Legislature and try to have it passed. If the legislature won't pass it then drastic action will be taken even if it means disrupting the State Legislature meeting during the entire time they are in session.

If there are at least 25 people interested in starting a Welfare Rights Movement in your county you may contact, Mrs. Gerri Smith, 922-8812, Jackson, or write her c/o 5717 Fairchild Avenue, Jackson, Mississippi.

### FDP NEWSLETTER

If you want the FDP Newsletter to be YOUR newsletter please write the FDP office in Sunflower, Box 447 and let us know what is happening in YOUR county.

Write: FDP Newsletter

P.O. Box 447

Sunflower, Mississippi

Or, call:

334-4587, Rims Barber  
Greenville.

### NEW FDP READERS WANTED

If you are interested in active members of your community receiving the FDP news, please send us their names and addresses. This newsletter is distributed free but we do need donations to continue. For out of state readers, subscriptions are \$5.00 for twice a month mailings.

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## YAZOO COUNTY

Arthur Schaffer and Joseph Williams for Supervisors, lost, David Johnson, for Beat 4 Constable, lost in a very close race (less than 6 votes) characterized by many irregularities, ballots dropped on the floor, voters turned away for frivolous reasons, an unfair county, one pistol-packing white election manager, and an ominous crowd of 100 whites with guns gathering around the Midway polling place.

We are recounting the votes and contemplating legal action. The election is not over yet.

Also, the Yazoo County Board of Supervisors tried to move one polling place in this Beat from its traditional location - a store on a public highway - to the farm of a white man, friend of the incumbent, up a dirt road.

## WILKINSON COUNTY

James Jolliff, who had won the August 8 Democratic primary, for Beat 1 Supervisor, defeated a white Independent on November 7.

FIFTEEN NEGROES WON IN THE AUGUST 8 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY, AND WERE UNOPPOSED NOVEMBER 7.

TOTAL NEGRO VICTORIES: 24

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## NEGROES WIN JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

9 Negroes won the position of Justice of the Peace. Now, powerful forces in the State are trying to eliminate that office, and set up an appointive position open only to lawyers. WE MUST STOP THIS MOVE DESIGNED TO PREVENT BLACK PEOPLE FROM DISTRIBUTING JUSTICE.

## THE MISSISSIPPI BOMBINGS - WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?????????

Who is responsible for the recent bombings in Mississippi?

It would be foolish to blame the Klan and Americans for the Preservation of the White Race since this State recently elected a Governor who is simply a well dressed defender of terror and repression.

The blame must be evenly distributed to all Mississippians both Black and White, who prefer to be acceptable and quiet rather than speak out and organize to destroy the animal that controls the State of Mississippi and that is the Democratic Party of Mississippi.

The extra legal and repressive threats by Judge Cox did not have any basis of legality and it would be frightening if that kind of precedent were established.

Bombings and terror will be stopped only when the political institutions of this State are controlled by the people of Mississippi and met by the old repressive minority, commonly referred to as the Democratic Party.

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ALL J.P.s ELECTED LAST NOVEMBER / MUST ATTEND A SPECIAL COURSE IN DECEMBER. FOR INFORMATION CALL JIM LEWIS, 948-4191, JACKSON.

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