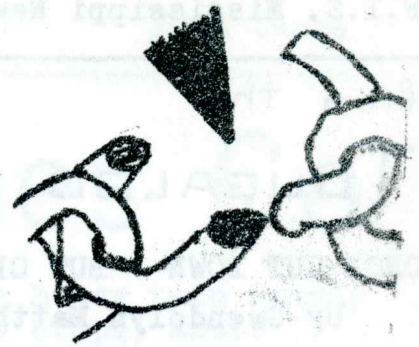




MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



Number Fourteen - Box 120, Tougaloo, Mississippi 39174 - May 26, 1967

JACKSON Boycott DEMANDS

A group of Negroes from Jackson took their list of 13 demands to the Chamber of Commerce Wednesday. They said that several stores in the city would be boycotted until the demands are met. Picketing of the stores will begin on the weekend, sponsored by the new Hinds County Citizens Action Committee. The Committee includes the NAACP, FDP, and many church and civic groups.

These are the demands:

1. 15 mile-an-hour speed limit on Lynch Street, through Jackson State College campus
2. Negro policeman Ellison Weathersby, Jr. be fired for brutality
3. The police who murdered Ben Brown on May 11 be punished in court
4. The police force be completely integrated
5. More Negro policemen be hired
6. All police be given training in human relations and civil rights
7. 35 Negro firemen be trained and the police and fire departments hire Negroes until they are 40% Negro (same as the population)
8. White business hire 350 more Negroes at all levels and have on-the-job training programs
9. A youth employment commission be set up with a Negro director and a bi-racial board
10. A bi-racial housing authority be set up with a Negro director to provide low-cost public housing
11. Swimming pools, closed for several years, be opened
12. All federal, state, and local agencies be desegregated
13. A bi-racial commission be set up to work out the demands.

Meanwhile, the following stores are being boycotted: all stores on Capitol Street and their branch stores; Delta Mart shopping center; Miller's shopping center in WEST Jackson; all W.T. Grant stores; all McRae's stores.

A public meeting will be held Friday night at Pratt A.M.E. Church at 7:30 P.M. to discuss and promote the boycott.

The slogan of the boycott, printed at the bottom of thousands of leaflets being passed out in the city, is "Shop Where Your Money Talks."

from the

TOUGALOO COLLEGE NITTY GRITTY

ONCE CUT DOWN - BUT CEASE NO MORE

by Gwendolyn Matthews

For there is hope of a tree,
if it be cut down, that
it will sprout again and
that the tender branch thereof
will not cease. Job 14 chapter

This quote from the book of Job brings many thoughts to my mind. It seems to describe the yesterdays, todays and what will be in the tomorrows, of our black people all over this world.

First, I can see the yesterdays where our black people were being cut down like wild beasts, low-rated and discriminated against. Those years where there was no peace, no hope, only a prayer and a song. Secondly I can see today. The time when we all are becoming aware of what is going on; the time when we all have learned to fight for what we want instead of sitting and hoping and praying for a dream that only true dreamers can ever hope for.

The time of truth and the realizing of beauty in our awareness of being black. For generations we have wanted to identify ourselves with the white man, only because our black people had been "cut down" and this was the only means of escape. But, through our faith, our steadfastness, and our courage we have broken through the barrier; we are "sprouting" again.

Then, there is tomorrow, hopefully a time when we as Black people will be joined together as one branch, displaying our color and exercising our "Black Power."

Through these courses of time and changes, we as black people should be ready to accept our paths, work with the present and prepare ourselves for the future. This can only be done by full co-operation from each and everyone of our black brothers. For a tree cannot bear fruit if there are no branches. The time is now. Now that we are moving up, we should fight to go higher. We can!! We know how! We will! For we once were cut down, but now that we are up, we will cease no more!

P.A.C. Continues to Work in Madison

by M. Henry

The Political Action Committee does more than give weekly meetings and sponsor black speakers. Our aim now is to help develop Madison County into a political seat for blacks.

In Madison County, there are three per cent more black people registered than whites. That means that if all the Negroes who are registered to vote get together and vote for the same people, these people can elect who they want for their city and county officials.

PAC is not going to lead the people, but we are going to help organize them and let them choose someone whom they know and trust out of the community. It will be up to these same people to choose candidates they want for various offices.

PAC has divided its members into groups of eight to ten with chairmen for each group. Cars go out into the county every week distributing pamphlets of coming meetings and talking with the people. We cover Beat Three, which has 4,416 blacks and 1,914 whites.

Laws have been passed by the U.S. Congress that say black people have the same voting rights and other rights as white people. A lot of times these laws are not enforced. Those of us who are willing and able must instill in the minds of these predominantly black counties that they have the power to control the political activities of their counties.

around the state

New candidates in Marshall County are two Negroes running for Sheriff: Alfred (Skip) Robertson and Lonnie Cummings; and Osborn Bell for coroner.

Melvin Smith, running for Beat 4 Constable, is one of five candidates who have got their Independent petitions in to the county election commission in Issaquena County.

The Issaquena Committee for Independent Candidates is being set up, and a member says that contributions can be sent to Box 157, Mayersville, Miss.

A voter registration drive will be held to try to get a couple hundred more people registered in time to vote in 1967. Voter education meetings are also being held.

In Jefferson County, Mrs. Martha Lee has qualified as a candidate for Justice of the Peace for Beat 2 in the August Democratic primary.

Sunflower County will announce the names of its candidates when they have all qualified. Beat 2 will have people running for constable, J.P., and supervisor, and Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer will be a candidate for the Mississippi State Senate. All candidates will be Independents in the November 7, general election.

The total of new voters registered in the current drive was 832 as of Friday, May 19. Their goal is 4,000 new voters.

Holmes Co.

In spite of a heavy rain Sunday that ruined many crops, about 55 people attended the county-wide meeting in Holmes County.

Letters are being sent to John Doar of the U.S. Justice Department, asking for Negro election officials in November. Separate letters from the F.D.P. Executive Committee and the Independent (F.D.P.) candidates are asking that the communities decide who the officials will be. Also, they should be able to aid illiterate voters in marking their ballots.

Al Bronstein, civil rights lawyer from Jackson, told the group that he had gotten promises from John Doar but that "in the end, only the county election commission can decide" who the election officials will be. He urged them to make it clear that they would take the matter to court if Negroes were not appointed; that they would either stop the election or challenge the results.

Bronstein said it would be a good idea if people from every county would ask for Negro officials. He said that copies of letters sent to Washington should be sent to the Mississippi Attorney General in Jackson, the county election commission, and the local newspapers. "Be sure to get answers in writing."

Mr. Hartman Turnbow urged the people to "throw doubt out of your mind. If you don't do it now, you never will. Our children will be worse off if we lose, 'cause they will have to pay for this blunder we're making," he said.

"If whites can operate in office, without a college degree, so can we. The only qualification for office is a Black skin and a heart to do unto others as you would have them do unto you: a Qualified Heart."

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