



# MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



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## R&D Center Experiment

### Work to be done

The Movement needs one or two young people, interested in working in an office and writing, mimeographing, telephoning, typing. You need no experience. Only be willing to learn, to work hard, sometimes on dull jobs, and to do more and more on your initiative.

Write to FIS for more information. Give your age and say if you could live in the Jackson area.

### lawsuit

Neshoba County Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price is suing civil rights lawyer Alvin Bronstein of LCDC for \$200,000. Price says Bronstein called him the murderer of the 3 civil rights workers in 1964. Price and several other men indicted in the murders have not been tried yet. The lawsuit goes to court Sept. 18.

### WELFARE

Charles Evers of the NAACP says that marches and sit-ins at county welfare offices will be held September 15. The purpose will be to demand jobs, more welfare, and an end to job discrimination.

Although the recent Civil Rights Movement started out with bus boycotts and lunch-counter sit-ins, people working with the Movement have come to realize that much more is involved than a few easy-to-see forms of the "Southern way of life." And it has also been made clear, by riots and big-city ghetto problems, that "south" means, at best, south of the Canadian border.

The State of Mississippi is also seeing that it will have to start doing something about the poor people in this state, before someone else does.

So the Mississippi Research and Development Center (with Gov. Johnson as chairman of the advisory council) has come up with a Proposal for a Human and Economic Resource Development Program in the Mississippi Delta.

We urge people in each county to write for this proposal to the R&D Center, 787 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, Mississippi.

The educational and training program it outlines will affect the lives of 40,000 to 50,000 people in an 11-county Delta area.

FIS will be looking into this a lot more. We would appreciate hearing the opinions of our readers on this program and your ideas on the changes you think should be made.

Here are two public statements made by the Student NonViolent Coordinating Committee last Friday.

## I

The United States has its days of celebrations such as the Fourth of July - the white man's Independence Day - and expects us to celebrate these national holidays, salute the white man's flag, and sing the white man's national anthem.

This is as ridiculous as thinking that we will achieve our own independence under an economic and political system whose existence depends upon oppression, exploitation, and the resultant degradation, poverty, and racism we have been subjected to.

Our own struggle for independence did not begin on July 4, 1776. We were slaves before July 4th, on July 4th, and after July 4th.

That great document of democracy, the United States Constitution, defined us as three-fifths of a person.

We remained slaves until August 18, 1965. That day marks the day the blacks of Watts picked up guns to fight for their freedom. Since that time, armed struggle has taken place in practically every major city in the United States and we can add Newark, Detroit, and Plainfield to the list of great events in the history of black people in North America.

For 400 years we had begged, pleaded, cried, marched and died for just a little taste of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The Watts Insurrection signalled the end of begging, crying, marching and dying. If we had to die, we realized that we should die in the act of killing and taking that which was ours. On August 18, 1965, blacks stopped moaning "we shall overcome" and started swinging to "Burn, Baby, Burn." That was our Declaration of Independence, and we signed it with molotov cocktails and rifles.

We are calling on all black people to celebrate this day, August 18th, and pay homage to the heroes and heroines of Watts, who signalled the beginning of this new day.

## II

We would like to announce that our representative, Mr. Stokely Carmichael, will arrive today in Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Mr. Carmichael is in the D.R.V. to investigate and see for himself the savage aggression being carried out against that country by the United States.

Previous investigators of ours who have visited the country have reported that the U.S. is experimenting with weapons there that would be effective in destroying black people in the ghetto, without damaging the property. Mr. Carmichael will see for himself the atrocities being perpetrated against the people of Vietnam, a people who are heroically defending their right to self-determination.

By this visit to Southeast Asia, Mr. Carmichael joins the list of other black leaders, such as Mr. Floyd McKissick and Mr. Whitney Young, Jr., who have visited this area, America's testing ground for how it will try to crush wars of national liberation around the world, including the one developing in this country.

For, in Mr. Carmichael's own words, "We see that what happens in Vietnam affects our own struggle, and what we do affects the struggle of the Vietnamese people."

At the present time our people are a colonized people within the U.S. There are over 30 million of us in this country, 30 million black people

(continued on page 3)



## SNCC STATEMENTS, continued

who live in sharply defined areas in the rural black belt areas and shanty towns of the South, and in the ghettos of the northern and western industrial cities. In neither place do we control the resources of our communities.

We do not control the land, the houses or the stores. These are all owned by whites who live outside our communities. These are very real colonies which exist as a result of the exploitation and racism which this country fosters at home and abroad.

Mr. Carmichael's recent visits to England and Cuba have stirred an undue amount of comment. Such negative comment from press and public officials alike raises a fundamental question: Who in this country has the right to travel?

Mr. Carmichael has been publicly denounced for his recent visit to Cuba. Does this criticism stem in reality from an assumption by whites that black people must travel only to places approved by whites, that black people must limit their conclusions to those based on information furnished by whites?

If such incorrect and racist assumptions are in fact held by whites, they have serious problems which they themselves will have to solve.

As long as imperialism is raping, plundering and murdering in Asia, Africa and Latin American it is our responsibility to meet with anyone who is fighting against this. Imperialism is international.

The United States thinks that it has the right to interfere in the affairs of any country in the world.

We therefore reserve the right to meet with the leaders of those countries who are fighting against this intrusion and who, like us, are struggling to liberate their people.

## HINDS COUNTY

33 young men and women were put in jail Friday for "trespassing" after they demanded a hearing on their grievances from Col. H.F. Frank, executive director of the Hinds County C.A.P. board. All 33 are part of the Neighborhood Youth Corps program.

The following editorial is from the Hinds County F.D.P. NEWS:

When Mr. Frank fired Mr. Donald Jackson, he went one step too far. In the past Mr. Frank has proved his racist beliefs in many ways both as director of the CAP board and while not at his job. For example, he entertained the notorious General (Edwin) Walker at his home, after Walker had provoked the riots at Ole Miss. While director, Mr. Frank has many times used his position improperly, including spreading deliberate lies about Mr. Jackson. He even rehired a man on the staff after that man had called NYC enrollees "savages and animals."

The NYC enrollees, all of whom are either high school students or drop outs, put up with Mr. Frank, the lack of respect for the young ladies, the poor counseling, the low pay system (less than the federal minimum), no medical care insurance, and many of the poor jobs. However, when Mr. Donald Jackson, one of the NYC staff who is not a Tom, was fired, the enrollees could take no more. They met Thursday night to decide what action to take.

The 80-some NYC enrollees at the meeting decided without dissent to form a union and strike. We fully agree with their action. They have every right to form a union, and their demands justified a strike. However, when Mr. Frank rejected all their demands, they decided to sit down until their demands were met. (cont'd on p. 4)

There are several articles on Cuba in the latest National Guardian. Write to FIS, Box 120, Tougaloo, Miss 39174 for a free copy.

## around the state

Mrs. Leola Blackman, Carroll Co. F.D.P. secretary, writes:

"On Saturday, August 19, workshops will be held in Carrollton and Vaiden on marking ballots. Since we yet have lots of people who made mistakes we will try to do a better job in the second runoff.

"We are beginning a new voter registration drive here in Carroll County. James Reed and Howard Spencer are doing volunteer work for a short while to help us in our drive."

A re-count of the votes has put Mr. Quentell Gipson in the run-off election for Marshall County Superintendent of Education. He ran second in the first primary, with 1125 votes. His opponents got 1821 and 1113.

In Harrison County, the final vote count puts Mr. Milton Toles in the runoff for Beat 4 Constable. He got 679 votes, and his many opponents got 1379, 668, 441, 377, 294, 161, 148, 115, and 109.

A mimeographed list of the final first primary vote-counts where Negroes were running is available, on request, from FIS.

Federal district judge Harold Cox told the City of Hattiesburg to put on trial over 100 people arrested so far while picketing to support their boycott.

He said that those who picket must not have more than 6 people in a line; must not make any sound, such as clapping or singing, and must not block people on foot or in cars.

The NAACP, which asked the federal judge to prevent city officials from arresting demonstrators, said it will appeal the decision.

Joseph Williams writes in the Southern Courier:

About 50 teenagers integrated The

## HINDS COUNTY EDITORIAL continued

The militant stand these youths took was in our opinion fully justified. We also believe that Mr. Frank should not have taken the extreme action of having the strikers arrested. By this action he has proven his unconcern and dislike for the very people for whom he is working.

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IN JACKSON POLICE COURT on Wednesday, Col. Frank decided to drop the charges against the demonstrators.

He said later that it seemed like a "riot" might take place, so he called in police to remove the demonstrators.

Don Jackson commented that it was a sign of Frank's racism that he was afraid of the unarmed young people, who faced maybe 40 armed police. Jackson said, "He's one of those who thinks that one Negro is a nigger and two are a bogey man."

Yazoo theater last month. It was the first activity of the Yazoo County NAACP youth council, and the first time Negroes had attended the movie theater.

O.E.O. has finally given Headstart money to Associated Communities of Sunflower County. A.C.S.C. is run by Black people and has had 800 children in 9 Headstart centers this summer on a volunteer basis. They have refused to work with the county-wide poverty program run by "Eastland's men." The new contract has actually come through the Eastland program, but on terms acceptable to both groups, and allowing A.C.S.C. to run the Headstart centers on its own.



# LETTERS

Marion County News:

The election was O.K. Our Negroes lost, but it was because we did not stick together. Most of our Negroes voted for there good white friend, they put it. I was so sorry we couldn't convince them to vote for their color. I work so hard volunteer, trying to get Negroes to see themselves, but in some community our people is hard to understand.

- Report by Mrs. Lucille Dukes

And from an earlier letter:

We are yet in need for jobs or help to get jobs. Although the N.Y.C. people are getting new projects, but yet people are not getting jobs that really need them. People are stopping there jobs just to get on with the project.

People with big family and bad homes don't get to work.

I don't see where the program is helping people that need help. I wish we could get some letter wrote to the effect. Marion County's poor people are not being helped.

From Mr. O.D. Holloway:

On the hyways, why you be traveling, sometime we may stop for the rest room. So (they) will say no, it is out of fix and while you be there, some white will come along and go in there. It is not too good here yet.

Some of the adults are going to school at night. They work on the same program, going to school at night. Don't get a penny for school, just for work.

I just wanted you all to know some of what are happening here in Walthall County.

Mrs. Elvira Grandison of Moss Point writes:

I have a meeting every Monday evening at my home for the National Council of Negro Women.

We are talking about training for a day care center for children.

## ASC ELECTIONS

Those who need the help of a lawyer for A.S.C.S. elections and farm programs, can contact Bob Fitzpatrick at the Lawyers Committee in Jackson. The address is 233 North Farish St. Jackson, Miss. 39201. Or call him collect at 948-5400.

Farmers: If your wife's name is not on the deed to your land, you can get her name on and add one Black voter for the elections coming up. Call the number given above for more information.

Also, if you believe you are eligible to vote, but have not gotten a ballot by about September 12<sup>th</sup>, you should go in to your county ASCS office and tell them you want a ballot. They must give you a ballot. You should take some paper to prove that you own a farm. But even if you can't prove it to their satisfaction, you can vote. Your vote will be challenged and the ASCS committee will decide later if it should be counted.

BE SURE TO MAIL YOUR BALLOTS BACK EARLY, so they arrive by September 18.

Mr. Hollis Watkins writes from Greenwood:

In Leflore County, 4 Black people have been hired to work with the food stamp program. They will be paid approximately \$1.74 per hour and will work about 10 hours a week. Their job is to go around and try to find out why the people that were receiving commodities are not buying food stamps. The project covers Leflore, Yazoo, and Coahoma counties. Four persons have been hired from each county.