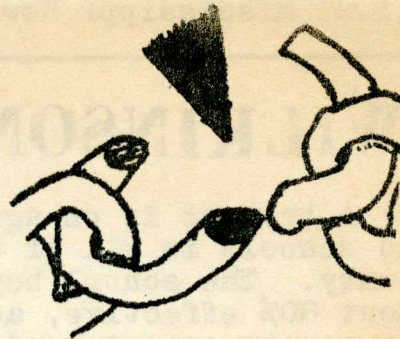


MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



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S.L.A.M. helps Southern workers' strike

"Don't Buy Levis!" "Support the Blue Ridge Strikers!" These are the words of the Southern Labor Action Movement, which is asking us to help over 400 women striking so they can be "treated like human beings."

When 460 women went on strike over a year ago against Levi-Strauss clothing plant in Blue Ridge, Georgia, they were protesting against sweat-shop conditions, as well as low wages. Workers had been required to bring a note from the doctor if they were absent from work. They were fired if they were absent three times without an "excuse." In one section, women were even required to bring a doctor's note in order to use the bathroom.

The International Ladies Garment Workers' Union finally got a contract with Levi-Strauss, but it left all the control with the company. Ever

since the contract went into effect, the company has harrassed the workers and promised to break the union.

It will be hard for these brave women to win their strike. But if they can win, it will set a good example for other workers who are struggling under the same kind of conditions. The power structure of Blue Ridge is doing its best to keep unions out of other plants, because they know that when workers pull together, they can be strong.

The Southern Labor Action Movement is trying to help build "not only worker organization in the shop toward unionization, but student-worker demonstrations in the streets to dramatize the plight of southern labor; community organizing toward a democratic society; political organization toward a wildcat party, hoping one day to bring about a creative, revolutionary coalition between all the frustrated and disillusioned peoples of our region."

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Herblock in The Washington Post

"I don't understand it—why can't they behave as if they had good educations, good housing and good jobs?"

WILKINSON CO.

A boycott is on against stores and schools in all of Wilkinson County. The school boycott is about 80% effective, according to the county superintendent.

White mayor, W.H. Catchings of Woodville, said that police would arrest anyone trying to influence a shopper to join the boycott. Several people are reported to have been arrested, including two for assault and battery.

Wednesday night a local man now living in Chicago was arrested and beaten by the Highway Patrol in jail.

Many traffic tickets have been given out to Negroes, and about 30 Highway Patrol cars are reported to be riding up and down the streets.

A number of Negroes and whites have been charged with exhibiting weapons in a threatening manner. These arrests came last weekend after a black-white confrontation that the sheriff has said did not take place.

One big reason for the school boycott is to get rid of black teachers who supported white candidates in the recent elections. One couple has already left. The man, James Broon, is accused by students of passing out sample ballots marked for whites who were running against Negro candidates.

Students and parents would like to get rid of about 15 teachers who did similar things. Names were taken to the school board Tuesday and the board will make a report next Monday.

The school boycott will be in effect at least until a Friday mass meeting, when Charles Evers is scheduled to be present at a local church to lead discussion of future action to be taken.

James Jolliff, president of the county NAACP chapter, has also been arrested for interfering with an officer. The charge was not directly related to the boycott.

O.E.O. Union Starts Here

A meeting was held Sunday in Greenville to start organizing Mississippi O.E.O. employees into a national labor union.

Jesse Epps of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees said that a "National Lobby Day" will be held next February in which anti-poverty workers would go to Washington to support war on poverty programs and try to get more programs and funds.

Epps said that "too many of the CAP agencies are not in touch with the poor of the community." He said disagreements between the "management" (CAP boards and other funding agencies) and the union would be solved by discussion, since federal employees are forbidden by law to strike.

He said the union could help ordinary workers hold their jobs, which are now often lost when they express opinions not in line with the thinking of executives of their program.

(Information taken from the Greenville Delta Democrat-Times)

Black Mayor Set Up in D.C.

Walter E. Washington, a Negro expert on housing, has been chosen by President Johnson as the first mayor of Washington, D.C. The capital city, which is 60% black, has been run until now by a 3-man commission, under federal control.

S.N.C.C. and other civil rights groups have been working for "home rule" for Washington, which would allow the people to elect their own city officials.

Also in Wilkinson County, two candidates have filled petitions with the county Democratic executive committee. Anselm J. Finch and Mon C. Allen have asked for examination and recount of ballots in precincts where they were candidates in the primaries.

around the state

These are the 16 men running for their A.S.C.S. community committees in Kemper County:

Community A (Preston) -

Matthew Jackson
Att Welch
Walter Reed
Eli Cotton
Charlie Scott

Community C (Cleveland) -

Henry H. Roberts
Johnny R. Griffin
James Jones
Leonard Roberts
Kutcher Alexander

Community D (Rio) -

Otis Wilson
Lonzo L. Roberts
Elias Barfield

Community F (DeKalb) -

Willie G. Wilson
Jim Burton
Willie McIntosh

Many of these candidates attended a meeting on Saturday, September 2, near DeKalb. They heard about the various ASCS programs, election procedures, and campaign ideas. They took leaflets with them to distribute to eligible farmers.

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Nine Negro ministers from Mississippi will spend a month in Brazil on a preaching mission for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. One member of the group is Rev. Famous McElhaney of Gulfport, who ran for Mississippi State Legislature in the Democratic primary.

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At least 8 Mississippi black people have been hired to help develop co-ops in the state. They will attend a 3-week training session in Louisiana, starting September 10th.



Sanders in The Kansas City Star

"We are fighting in South Vietnam so the people will have freedom of choice"

WELFARE-MARCHES

The board of directors of the N.A.A.C.P. has called on all of the branches to sponsor marches to county welfare offices on Friday, September 15.

While he is in Washington next week, Charles Evers plans to protest to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare about "inadequate welfare programs."

S.L.A.M. - continued from page one

Levi "burn-ins" have been held in Atlanta and New Orleans to support and tell the public about the strike.

A S.L.A.M. worker said, "Levis have been the 'uniform' of the college students, the civil rights worker, the young radical, and the hippy. We are asking you to show your support for the 400 brave women on strike in Blue Ridge by giving up your uniform."

For more information on the Blue Ridge Strike and on the Southern Labor Action Movement, you can write to S.L.A.M., Box 77, Atlanta, Georgia 30301.