



MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER

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IN MEMORY OF

Ernesto "Che" Guevara

March against the
War will be held
in Washington,
D.C. Oct. 21.
Write FLS. If you
want to march
in Jackson, too.

Ruby Doris Smith Robinson

Two long-time freedom fighters
died this past week.

On Saturday, October 7, 1967, Ruby Doris Smith Robinson (former Executive Secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) passed away after 10 months of serious illness.

She was one of the original Freedom Riders to Jackson, Miss., and was in Parchman Penitentiary for 42 days as a result.

Mrs. Robinson worked for SNCC in several southern states, including McComb, Miss.

During her 7 years in the "Movement" she was the heartbeat of SNCC, as well as one of its most dedicated administrators.

The Bolivian army has announced that Ernesto "Che" Guevara was killed in a jungle battle Sunday in Bolivia, South America.

Guevara was Fidel Castro's most important fellow worker in the successful Cuban revolution of a few years ago. For the past several years, he has apparently been organizing jungle fighters to overthrow dictatorships in South America.

Che Guevara has been one of the heroes of the Movement all over the world. His book "Guerrilla Warfare" is an important study of how oppressed people in many parts of the world are fighting for their freedom. If Che is really dead, he has given his life trying to create the better world that he believed was possible for free men.

LATE NEWS !

A Hinds County J.P. has ruled that the shooting of a Black man (see page 5) was "justifiable homicide." At a hearing Thursday a man riding with the dead man testified he had his hands over his head when shot. Lawyers for the dead man will try to get the case presented to the next grand jury and will file a damage suit against the deputy.

Denison Ray of the Lawyers Committee says "there has been a marked increase in extreme violence by cops in the past few weeks." A \$250,000 damage suit is also being filed against a Highway patrolman who killed Ernest Rogers in Rankin County last summer. Ray says he knows of no jury verdict yet given against a law enforcement officer.

A C.D.G.M. employee reported to us Thursday that a drunken deputy sheriff had stopped a CDGM car in Rankin County, questioned and cursed him and the woman driving, and followed their car after they paid a fine for speeding and passing a school bus, both false charges. He said, "I've spent 15 years in service and I'm not going to tolerate this!"

Julian Bond, Black state representative from Georgia, will speak at Kennedy High School in Mound Bayou Sunday.

Cleveland Sellers of S.N.C.C. made the following statement May 1, 1967, when he was called up for the DRAFT into the U.S. Army:

The central question for us is not whether we allow ourselves to be drafted, for we have resolved that this shall not happen by any means. But rather the central question for us is How do we stop the exploitation of our brothers' territories and goods by a wealthy, hungry nation such as this.

I am committed to give support to my brother in Vietnam as they fight to keep America from taking her tungsten, tin, and rubber. I shall be prepared to support my brothers in Iran when they move to overthrow their puppet regime which gives that country's rich oil deposits to the U.S.

I shall be prepared to back my brothers in the Congo when they tell the U.S. "Hell, no," this copper belongs to me. I shall stand ready when my brothers in South Africa move to overthrow that apartheid regime and say to the U.S. -- this gold, these diamonds and this uranium is ours. I shall stand with my brothers in Latin America when they throw out the American neo-colonialist forces who would take the natural resources of Latin America for themselves and leave my brother in utter starvation and poverty.

I shall not serve in this Army or any others that seek by force to use the resources of my black brothers here at the expense of my brothers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

America is but 6% of the world population. Yet she controls 60% of the world's wealth. America does, through the infamous CIA, overthrow governments, as was the case of the coup against Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana. The CIA kills heads of state, as was the case with Mr. Patrice Lumumbah of the Congo. She replaces these governments time and time again with the most extreme right wing elements of these countries....

My brothers around the world are learning that the U.S. with her other western counterparts understand one thing and one thing only: Force; the force to move these exploiters out of Asia, Africa, and Latin America....

I believe, as my brothers around the world, that the resources of Africa are for the Africans first; the resources of Asia are for the Asians first; and the resources of Latin America are for Latin Americans first.

I also take this stand knowing that black people have been systematically excluded from the Selective Service System which attempted to induct me. This is in spite of the fact that the national percentage of blacks in the total population is 11%, and their percentage in army units in Vietnam is 23%. Their percentage in Army combat units is, according to the Defense Department, "appreciably higher than that."

A Washington Post correspondent reported in late 1965 that "Negroes seem to make up 60 to 70 per cent of the strength in the smaller combat units. 26.9% of all Negroes were assigned to combat arms units, platoons, and squads. It is the rifle-toting soldier who does most of the fighting in Vietnam and suffers most of the casualties. During the first 11 months of 1966, black soldiers comprised 30% of all army troops killed in action.

It is this same segregated Selective Service System which attempted to induct me despite a heart defect which makes me physically unfit for U.S. military service. My all-white draft board allowed FBI agents to examine my Selective Service records in violation of Selective Service regulations.

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The Southern Courier reports that Archie Brown, army private who was recently beaten in Grenada, told a mass meeting there:

"I am going to ask my company commander for an extension of time, to go through court procedures in Miss. If I cannot get the time, I will refuse to go back to Viet Nam to fight for a nation in which I do not have the rights as a United States citizen."

around the state

(We're sorry this letter is so late in getting printed.)

In the building where the citizenship class was going on, now people live who were put off a white man place. There are 11 members of the family. The building was originally put up to house the Christian leadership class of the adult citizenship school of the Franklin Center. It was not originally set up by the FDP. The people was took in by the citizenship class of the Franklin Center, which is the No. 1 Center.

signed: Rev. L.C. Coleman
director, citizenship
class
Sec, Ruby Webster
Treasurer, Ida Bell
Miller

Leake and Madison counties have organized buying clubs and will soon be in business. The principle of the club is buying products from wholesalers and selling them to the people at very small profits.

Each member pays \$10. or less, according to what he can afford, to join the club. Then the food and clothes are bought and sold in a private house or church. From the small profit, credit is built up so that the next week's supplies can be bought.

Mr. Andrew Lee Green of Sharon (Madison County) has been the main organizer of these clubs. He is going around to the communities to help others form their own buying clubs.

In Hinds County, a meeting was held Thursday to talk about forming a buying club there.

Also in Hinds, field representatives of the Southern Consumers' Cooperative Education Foundation have started working to help communities solve the problems they

feel are most important. The workers are Mr. John Jones, Mrs. Carolyn Williams, Miss Gracie Hawthorne, Mr. Henry Hatches, and Mrs. Glenn Parker.

Petitions are getting signed in Hazlehurst to get Mr. Timothy O. Winston on the ballot November 14 in a special election for the board of aldermen.

Mr. William Riles of Shaw writes: "I have been getting letters and appreciate hearing how things are going. I am doing my best up here in Bolivar County to get the peoples out to vote and also to register. I have been working all out of town, looking for some ones who have not registered to go to the court house in Cleveland and register."

Lawrence Guyot of F.D.P. gave some advice to candidates at recent workshops at Mt. Beulah.

He said that candidates need to take a stand on all community issues.

He suggested that they should go to cafes and give short speeches. A campaign worker should be there to start up discussion after the candidate leaves.

Press conferences should be held, and statements should be mailed or delivered to press representatives.

Guyot said that candidates should lead the fight for the Negro community to have the right to decide about what school textbooks are used, whose streets get paved first, and issues like these.

In Marion County:

"We are only a few in number but we are trying to carry on. We have people have been cut off welfare and not able to work. We need some inspectors in the rural. We have inspectors, but they only come in the city and seem to forget the rural people. We need help also.

"Most poor family that is large need better home, bathroom, and other things we can't get because of under paid. Food stamp is so high many people can't buy."

From the Hinds County F.D.P. News:

Black PANTHER MEETS the Black EAGLE!

Very few Black people know that Mexican-American people in this country also have a civil rights movement. Very few people know even that the white man (we call him Anglo) discriminates against our race in the same way as he does against your race. He discriminates against us because we are of Indian and Spanish ancestry, because we do not speak his language, and because he knows he stole our land and we have not forgotten that.

We have been in this country long before the white man...in fact we were the first to settle this country in Santa Fe. Yet the white man teaches your children and ours that he had the first settlement in Jamestown. When the white man moved West, he took the land from us that was supposedly guaranteed by treaty to us. White people often say that communists are not to be trusted because they break most of the treaties they ever sign. Yet few people know that the white man has broken nearly all the treaties he made with the Mexican settlers and Indians.

During the early 1900's, when the Mexicans tried to fight back against the Anglo, our whole race was terrorized by lynchings, bombings, burnings, and murders in the same way as was done to Black people here in Mississippi around that same time.

Our races have much in common: the white man is trying to erase our culture and our pride in ourselves. He wants us to become more like him before he will let us into his society. He will only let us in one by one -- never as a race. Both our peoples have been here since the country began and we are still at the bottom of the ladder. Other white immigrant groups that have come to this country have climbed that ladder and are now part of that society which oppresses all of us.

If we ever all united...the Black, the Mexicans, the Indians, the Puerto Ricans and other non-whites.... the white man would find he is not in such a great majority after all. Almost 50% of this country is non-white, despite what the U.S. Government tells you, and the Anglo is trying his hardest to keep us all apart and fighting among ourselves.

Stokely Carmichael recently went to Cuba. Don't listen to all the screaming in the white press about "communism" (just remember they called the FDP that in 1964). One reason Stokely went to Cuba was because if you add up all the colored races in Latin America and the Caribbean, you come up with a colored majority. THE WHITE MAN IN THIS COUNTRY IS IN A MINORITY. Stokely know that for too long we have been separated from our Black brothers of Brazil (who are 65% of the population), the Indians of Bolivia (80%), the Black brothers in the Caribbean, and all the rest of the colored population in Latin America. He went to Cuba to meet with the freedom fighters of those countries and to let them know that we are all freedom fighters against the same enemy.

This year, President Johnson just didn't accidentally go on T.V. to remind you that as Black people you are only 11% of the population in this country. President Johnson did that because he knows he can keep you in your place if you think you are a minority race. He and the rest of white society are afraid of what would happen if all the colored races, both inside the country and out, would get together.

BLACK EAGLE

If you would like to see a filmstrip on the struggle of the Mexican-American grape pickers in California, write to Sister Mary Varela, Box 109, Tougaloo, Miss. The filmstrip is a good way for our two races to begin to know each other.

New Killing

Another Negro man has been shot dead by a "law enforcement officer." This time it was a 21-year old Hinds County resident, Aaron Buckner of Terry.

He was shot Saturday night by a deputy sheriff, who claimed Buckner attacked him with a knife after being stopped for a traffic violation.

in the Delta

The Sunflower County chapter of the NAACP has sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz saying they do not go along with the idea of minimum wage laws no longer applying to cotton-field workers. The county's anti-poverty agency has recently asked for the wage laws to be suspended for these workers.

The NAACP letter says:

"We wish to serve notice that we are utterly opposed to any such action. Much work had gone into bringing about the minimum wage and hour law. To suspend the law, even for one season, would be to turn back the clock.

"We are very much concerned about more jobs for our poor people but not at the expense of economic justice. To suspend the minimum wage would mean to go back to the feudal system of the plantation. The hard-earned principle of a living wage would be sacrificed....

"To weaken the minimum wage under any conditions would inevitably play into the hands of the enemies of organized labor, which has hardly scratched the surface here in Sunflower County.

"As a worthy alternative we urge you to use your influence to create more jobs in this area."

The letter was signed by Carver A. Randle, chapter president; and directors Mrs. Cora Johnson, Rev. Walter J. Smigiel, Clover Green, and a lady from Inverness.

Farm Labor

The Mississippi State Employment Service reports that about 7,800 on-farm workers and about 900 day-haul workers were picking cotton last week. Wages were from \$2. to \$4. a hundred pounds, mostly around \$2.50 a hundred pounds, which is about a day's work.

Machines did about 60% of the cotton-picking, but only about 800 machines were used last week. Soon most of the 5000 machines in the state will be getting the crop in, when the defoliated cotton is ready for picking.

IN COURT

The Mississippi Supreme Court has freed Rudy Shields of Claiborne County because he was convicted by an illegal jury.

Shields, a black organizer for the NAACP in south-west Miss., was convicted of trespassing and of threatening another person to prevent him from buying in a boycotted store.

"Our" Governor

Gov. Paul Johnson and Georgia's Gov. Lester Maddox went on record last month as being opposed to a regional institute to improve higher education for Negroes. They voted against (and thus killed) a resolution at the Southern Governors Conference to improve education. But the southern governors were strong in supporting "peace and order." They asked Congress, state legislatures, courts, and all citizens to "work to end riots." They unofficially approved a plan for mutual assistance by National Guard units in the south.

F B I at Tougaloo

We've been interested to read what Jackson newspapers have reported about the bombing last Friday morning at Tougaloo College.

At first, they told all about the speech Thursday evening of Paul Bouteille, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the U.S. A Clarion-Ledger story called the rally a "flop" because "only about 75" people attended. They suggested "a possible link" between the rally and the bombing.

F.B.I. agents talked to a large number of students and faculty. One agent reportedly asked if it wasn't likely that Black students would resent having a white dean.

Then all of a sudden the newspapers didn't mention Bouteille or "Black Power" students any more. The F.B.I. had just found out that it was probably rivalry between Ku Klux Klan groups that led to the bombing. That is, one group wanted to make another look bad because its members were going on trial for the Neshoba County murders of 1964.

Though we hope the F.B.I. will (as a rare thing) come up with those who did bomb Dr. Bush's house, it seems almost too convenient that they had a good excuse to size up the Tougaloo College "Black Power" situation before getting their evidence on the Klan.

RELOCATION

A plan to move about 120 unemployed farm workers to Iowa might get under way next month. The Labor and Agriculture Departments are getting together on the project, which will include basic education and job training in Greenville and Clarksdale for 36 weeks. Eight or 10 families may be moved in April to see how it works out. A federal official says that workers will make about \$350. a month, with housing and food provided, but that "integration may be a problem."

OTHER NEWS

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that schools must have workable desegregation plans for students and teachers and that there must be no more "Negro schools" in the southern states.

South Vietnamese students who have protested against rigged elections in their country have been picked up by police there and forced to serve in the army to fight the Viet Cong.

The new South Vietnamese president - who is supported by the United States government - has ordered a "get-tough policy" against those who disagree with his government's actions.

The president announced that there could be no demonstrations against the government. Those who do demonstrate will lose their civil rights and draft-age men will be sent immediately to fight in the army.

Also, permission must be granted a week ahead of any press conference a group might want to hold.

(If this can happen to a country our government supports by thousands of our fighting men and billions of dollars, can it happen here?)

Republican candidate for Governor, Rubel Phillips, broke new ground for Miss. politicians last Tuesday, yet his statement was in fact only a public admission of the policy followed by Miss. business and industrial leaders since the beginning of 1965. This means trying to cool racial tensions without real change in the system of racist oppression. Although Phillips said the Negro and the white are "bound together," he also said "you will not make it as a race....You will have to earn it...one Negro at a time." This can hardly be said to be a realistic program for change in Miss.

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