

MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



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Neshoba Trials

An all-white jury said that 7 men of the 18 on trial are guilty of conspiracy against 3 civil rights workers killed in Neshoba County in 1964. The jury said 8 others were innocent, including Neshoba Sheriff Lawrence Rainey and the man on whose land the bodies were found.

Three others are supposed to have new trials, because the jury could not agree whether they were guilty. They include the man just elected sheriff of Neshoba County and a Baptist preacher.

Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price was one of two men found guilty who were not allowed to go free on \$5,000 bond. Judge Harold Cox said Price and A.W. Roberts made comments Thursday in the courthouse trying to intimidate the court and threaten the jury. They will be held in the Hinds County jail until Cox announces the sentences of the 7 next Friday. Cox said he was not going to let any wild men loose.

A Mississippi Klan leader, Sam Bowers, was also found guilty. He has also been accused of helping kill Vernon Dahmer in Hattiesburg.

→ A civil rights worker in Holmes County, Edgar Love, of F.D.P., was threatened Monday in Tchula by 2 white men, on carrying a shotgun.

Love drew a pistol in defense against the shotgun and called the sheriff from a nearby store. The sheriff arrived an hour and 10 minutes later. Love was arrested for having a concealed weapon. He has filed a suit against the town marshal, constable, and sheriff for not protecting him and for false arrest. The store owner has also sworn out warrants against several men for threatening him and damaging his property.

FDP Sues Eastland

The Freedom Democratic Party and the National Conference for New Politics have filed a suit in federal court against Senator James Eastland and others on a Senate committee.

The suit says that Eastland was responsible for the stealing of letters from the New Politics convention office in Chicago. Eastland later read the letters in Congress and accused the FDP and N.C.N.P. of being "Communist." FDP says the letters were used to hurt the campaigns of Negroes running for office in Mississippi on November 7. The suit also said that letters were turned over to terrorist organizations in Mississippi so that FDP supporters would be known and could be threatened.

"END the WAR Now"

Thousands of people across the country have been demonstrating this week against the War in Vietnam. The biggest protest is scheduled for the Pentagon (war headquarters) in Washington Saturday through Monday.

Although troops are being sent in to "control violence" expected in Washington, TV pictures have so far showed violence by police, like pulling sit-ins out by their hair.

The following poem was written about the death of Ernesto "Che" Guevara, South American freedom fighter, who died about two weeks ago. The government of Cuba, where he was a leader in the revolution, now believes that Che is really dead. Cuba will have 30 days of official mourning for him.

* * * * *

poem in the style of charlie cobb

they say
that they
have killed Che
but they
can't
kill Che
only you
and I
can do
that
only you
and I
can kill Che
or Malcolm
or Stokely
or Ruby
or Rap

they live
as long
as we
live
their lives
die
when we
lie
to their
truth
when we
fear
their
fight
when we
compromise
liberalize
legalize
when we
realize
that
we
are dead

their
deaths
bring us
to life

we forget
sometimes
the revolution
is far
away
then
a beloved
brother
or sister
is seen
no more
and we
see
again
reality
becomes
real
again
we turn
return
renew
our lives
review
our deaths
know
again
that we
too
have died
to gentleness
if not
to pity
to tenderness
if not
to pain

we
have learned
that their
lives
help us
die
their absences
draw us
together
their deaths
revive us

by Cordelia Nikkalaos

• Our every action is a battle cry against imperialism, and a call for the peoples' unity against the great enemy of mankind: the United States of America. Wherever death may surprise us, it will be welcome, provided that this, our battle cry, reached some receptive ear, that another hand be extended to take up our weapons and that other men come forward to intone our funeral dirge with the staccato of the machine gun and new cries of battle and victory.

Che

LETTERS

Dear FIS

I am on the finance committee in Bolivar County. I am doing all I can. I am supporting 8 children and no one for them to look at but me. Every job I get on the white man will fire me because I am a freedom ride worker. That happens ever since 1960 when I registered. I walk from house to house try to get people registered. I and my children have been counted as the one have not did anything. I am not angry either but I have face up until this day. But I believe that when you are face and get in need of your brother, they see for you, the best as you can. I am disable and my wife too. I make speech in Jackson on convention in Chicago, Ill. and every time I get up to preach, but I haven't never got any help.

Yours truly,
Rev. Jeff Surney
Cleveland, Miss.

Marion County News

We are glad that the TriCounty Community Association program is in Marion County.

It is reaching out trying to help poor people. It is a wonderful program. This program is helping people that is too poor to work in the other program such as O.E.O., C.A.P. and any other program in Marion County, but the Tri-County Community Association program is really reaching poor families. This program is helping people get clothes and food for their children. We need the TriCounty Community Association program in Marion County. We will appreciate you to help keep it here.

Thank you
Mrs. Lucille Dukes

Dear Editor,

Enclosed you will find (Sunday's) program honoring Dr. B.E. Murph - long time civil right worker and leader. The community gave a cash purse of over \$600.00. Dr. Murph is worthy and his health is failing. This was a wonderful effort on the part of Jones County. Mrs. Lucille Webb gave real leadership and reported \$253.35 as a results of her efforts. Join us in prayer for Dr. Murph.

Yours,

Rev. A.L. Johnson

P.S. Mr. Evers speech was perfect. A very good program - large crowd.

A CAMPAIGN LEAFLET PUT OUT FOR MR. DAN LOFTON MASON, candidate for Hinds County Supervisor, Beat 2 says that Mr. Mason promises to:

- fight for federal programs to benefit poor people
- fight to make our board of supervisors apply for recognition as an economic development area. Then our beat can obtain OEO funds for water and sewerage projects and projects which will attract new industry and permanent jobs. The federal government pays up to 80% of the cost of the work.
- fight to get federal money to build or extend community centers and health clinics.
- fight to get our Board to apply for federal funds to buy land and sell it in farm lots to poor people.

(continued on page four)

F.I.S. would like to receive copies of all county newsletters, as we do now with the Hinds County F.D.P. News. Please send us copies as they come out, so we can let other people know what is happening in your county. Also, we will give your address to Movement workers in New Orleans, La., who want to be in touch with Mississippi people.

F. D. P.

At an executive committee meeting last Saturday, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to try to put out its newsletter twice a month. The October 1st issue was mailed out over a week ago to Miss. people who get the FIS Newsletter. About 2,500 copies were printed of the first issue. FDP hopes to print about 6,000 of the second issue. Executive Committee members will be asked to collect monthly contributions to pay the costs, and also each county group is asked to contribute. Joseph Harris is editor.

Mr. Harris and Ralthus Hayes of Holmes County are in charge of planning the state convention, which will be held in Mileston on November 12.

PROJECT MARK

Go into most any hospital. Who are the maids and janitors? Then who are the technicians, administrators, and nursing staff? Want to do something about it? Contact Medical Action for Research and Knowledge (MARK). Look around the streets, pool halls, cafes. Find a lot of young men and women 18-22 with nothing to do? Think that's bad? Contact MARK.

MARK has gotten money from the U.S. Department of Labor to find, counsel, and get into MDTA training 100 young men and women 18-22 for jobs related to medical care, such as Dental Assistant, Ward Clerk, Surgical Technician, Licensed Practical Nurse, Laboratory Assistant, etc. Trainees get paid while they learn and jobs after they graduate.

YOU can help by getting men and women 18-22, who have gone at least through the 10th grade, to fill out applications like the one enclosed with the Newsletter. You can get more copies of the application from MARK and then send them in filled out to Project MARK, Room 6, 1072 Lynch Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39203.

Will You Help?

F.I.S. is grateful to those people who have helped us in the past by giving dimes and dollars toward our expenses.

It costs about \$90. a week just to put out the Newsletter. Also, we have had two part-time workers getting our files and book-shelves in order and another worker who keeps our newspaper clippings up to date and takes care of mailing problems.

We need the help of our readers and supporters so we can continue to keep information available for use in the Newsletter and for special projects people ask us to work on. In the next few months we will be able to finish newspaper clipping so there will be a 3-4 year record of events and background information on Mississippi especially, and a lot on other parts of the country and the world.

We are asking you to be part of this project, not by anything you have to pay to get the Newsletter. But if you've enjoyed reading it, we are asking you to help us continue and get better.

Especially we ask those who have decent jobs to make up for those who have no jobs and need all the money they can get to buy food and keep houses warm.

We will thank you by doing our best to send news and ideas to you regularly (including YOUR letters).

CAMPAIGN PROMISES of D. L. Mason (continued from page three)

- fight to get our Board to borrow state money by selling BAWI bonds to buy sites for industry. Industries getting this deal must pledge to hire Black people on a 50-50 basis.
- fight to appoint a Black person to the County Welfare Board.
- fight to get our board to provide free food stamps for people who need them.