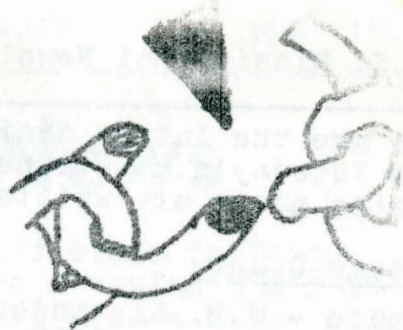




MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



Number Thirty-Eight - Box 120, Tougaloo, Ms 39174 - November 10, 1967

7 Win Problems Lower Vote

3 ELECTION WORKERS ARRESTED TUESDAY

Three white men who were working to get Negro candidates elected on Tuesday are out on bond after being arrested.

In Ebenezer (Holmes County), law student Paul Reiss was charged with interfering with an election when he asked to have a woman use her right to vote a challenged ballot, since her name was not on the official books.

Also at Ebenezer, lawyer Peter Haberfeld was arrested for assault after a white man kicked him and Haberfeld reportedly hit him back. Haberfeld has filed affidavits of assault and battery against the man who kicked him, Wes Edwards.

Both of these cases are being removed to federal court.

In Bolivar County Donald Wright, a white employee of the STAR basic education program and a resident of Mound Bayou, was arrested by county authorities for "making a false statement to federal officials." Wright received a phone call from someone who was very upset and told him there was trouble in Alligator precinct. He called the FBI and reported that he had heard this, though he did not personally know what was taking place, and he suggested that the FBI investigate. A few hours later he was arrested. He is free on \$500. bond.

Seven Negroes won general election victories Tuesday. Robert Clark of Holmes County will be the first Black man in recent times to serve in the Mississippi House of Representatives. Two supervisors, two J.P.'s, and two constables were also elected. All candidates running on November 7th were Independents except for James Jolliff of Wilkinson County who ran as the Democratic primary winner against a white Independent.

The votes for each candidate are given on page two.

In Holmes County, two whites who beat Negro candidates - D.C. Conn and B.T. Taylor - had won the Democratic primary with the help of Negro voters. They are both members of the NAACP, and Taylor was supported against FDP leader Ralthus Hayes by the Tchula NAACP.

An active FDP worker in Holmes commented, "If only they had followed the plan. They voted for the liberals in the primary and couldn't understand why the bad guys should win the primary. It's a real shame."

Besides the 3 people still facing legal charges, at least two others were picked up but charges dropped.

In many places, Negro poll officials were not allowed to help Negro voters. No instruction session was held for new officials in Holmes and Hinds, and probably not in other counties. The Secretary of State has not revised his written instructions in 2 years. A major problem remains lack of information by most poll officials on their job.

Here are the latest available results from Tuesday's elections. Negro candidates' names are written in BIG LETTERS.

Bolivar County

Senate - W.B. Alexander 6,230
 THOMAS MOORE 3,590
 Svr B 1 - J.E. Bobo 440
 MRS ETHEL GADISON 209
 Svr B 2 - Alfred Welshans 1,099
 FRANK DAVIS 668
 Svr B 3 - KERMIT STANTON 1,123
 Max Dillworth 930

Carroll County - OFFICIAL RETURNS

Svr B 3 - George Galey 396
 JAMES DIXON 161
 Svr B 4 - C.L. Herbert 790
 LYNN COLLINS 176
 Cons B 3 - Jeff Trotter 370
 JOHNNY APPLEWHITE 168
 J.P. B 3 - Edwin Love 353
 L.C. SMITH 165

Hinds County

House - Bob Ferguson 26,593
 Harry McMain 5,577
 ALFRED RHODES 5,294

Holmes County

House - ROBERT CLARK 3510
 J.P. Love 3394
 Sheriff - Calvin Moore 3884
 ROBERT SMITH 3227
 Circ Clk - H. McClellan 3718
 MARY HIGHTOWER 3289
 Svr B 1 - Leslie Farmer 1421
 T.C. JOHNSON 1119
 Svr B 2 - Grady E. Ellis 1306
 WARD MONTGOMERY 804
 Svr B 3 - Oscar Rogers 622
 JOHN MALONE 564
 Svr B 4 - D.C. Conn 312
 WILLIE JAMES BURNS 84
 Svr B 5 - B.T. Taylor 632
 RALTHUS HAYES 295
 J.P. B 1 - J.M. McRae 1238
 V. TOM GRIFFIN 1114
 Cons B 1 - Billy Joe Gilmore 1265
 ED McGAW 1155
 Cons B 4 - GRIFFIN McLAURIN, JR 219
 R.S. Love 111

Madison County - OFFICIAL

JP B 5 - U.S. RIMMER 189

— Mrs. Beatrice Huddleston ran in the race for Greenville City Council in Wednesday's special election. She received 747 votes. The winner, Jerre F. Lane, got 2242, and Carl Vest got 1132.

Either voters were tired after Tuesday, or Mrs. Huddleston did not get their support for some reason. In the first primary in Greenville, October 2, Negro candidate Joseph Bivins got 1,460 people out to vote for him.

— In San Francisco, California, voters had a chance to say if they favored "Stop the bombing. Bring the Troops Home" from Vietnam. About 76,000 voted YES and 132,000 voted NO. So it seems that the people there favor the war, 2-1. This was the first official referendum on the war. It was gotten on the ballot by anti-war groups.

Issaquena County

Svr B 4 - A.E. Scott, Jr. 191
 ROOSEVELT SIAS 140
 JP B 4 - Marshall Spiars 173
 UNITA BLACKWELL 153
 Cons B 4 - MELVIN SMITE 162
 Susie Edge 153
 Svr B 5 - W.E. Holcomb 246
 WILLIE DUFFIN 158
 JP B 5 - MATTHEW WALKER 197
 C.W. Spence 166

Sunflower County

Svr B 2 - W.L. Jackson 732
 OTIS BROWN, JR. 494
 JP B 2 - George Hicks 673
 THELMA BARRY 505
 Cons B 2 - J.L. Bowling 683
 CLOVER GREEN 510

Yazoo County

Svr B 2 - A.N. Nichols 660
 ARTHUR SCHAFFER 263
 Svr B 4 - Grady Davis 565
 JOSEPH WILLIAMS 388
 Cons B 4 - Thomas Leach 382
 DAVID JOHNSON 369

Wilkinson County

Svr B 1 - JAMES JOLLIFF (Dem) 868
 Julius Carter (Ind) 761

More Election Day News

Until a few days ago, we thought that Mr. U.S. Rimmer was running against a white man in Madison County for Beat 5 Justice of the Peace.

But as it turned out, there are two J.P. posts in the beat, so Rimmer and the white man each will take office as a J.P.

Last week, we mentioned a hearing held before Judge Cox to decide about 3 Independents getting on the ballot. This was in regard to the Rankin County candidates in Beat 3.

The hearing was held November 4th and then more statements were filed with Cox. He did not grant the temporary injunction to hold up the elections, as civil rights lawyers were asking.

On Wednesday, Cox officially gave his decision. He said that "This court at first was strongly impressed with the view that these people probably were unjustly if not improperly misled by this county official by his handling of these petitions, but there is no fact or substantial circumstance to support that view." In other words, he took the word of the circuit clerk instead of the word of the candidates.

The candidates will probably go back into court after they gather more evidence. Then if Cox turns them down again, they can appeal to a higher court.

An observer of this latest action by Judge Cox said that "if anyone thinks Cox has changed, since the Neshoba murder trials, he has lost his marbles."

The Political Action Committee at Tougaloo College arranged for a number of students to work in Holmes, Hinds, and Madison counties on election day. A P.A.C. spokesman said that this is "in keeping with PAC's philosophy of supporting Black candidates not associating with either the Republican or Democratic parties."

Election officials in Yazoo County changed a voting place at the last minute from a store on a main road to the farm of a white man, off on a dirt road. Lawyers for Black candidates in the beat made an appointment to apply for a temporary restraining order on Monday. Before they could get into court, however, they were told that the voting place had been changed back to the usual location.

In a press conference Wednesday morning, FDP Chairman Lawrence Guyot asked Negro candidates not to admit defeat until the official counting of the ballots was done. He said that legal action would be considered after final figures were in, most likely in Holmes, Yazoo, and Issaquena counties.

Guyot said that Negroes were harrassed and intimidated in several counties and that whisky had been passed out to Negro voters in Holmes County.

Guyot said that a statewide meeting would be held Sunday at 2 in the Mileston community center to analyze the election and unify around the need for Negro poll officials. He said that until Negroes could be represented and effective as poll officials, meaningful voting by Negroes and other unpopular elements would be something of a joke.

A young white man who poll watched for Rubel Phillips reported that he received phone calls from the Klan election night. The caller said they didn't like the people he was associating with. The young man also found out at the end of the day that one of the white poll officials at his precinct was a member of the Klan.

Negroes were elected mayors of Cleveland, Ohio, and Gary, Indiana, in voting on November 7.

NAACP

The Mississippi NAACP held its state convention in Natchez this past weekend. Guest speakers included Miss Marion Wright, Legal Defense Fund attorney; Rev. R.L.T. Smith of Jackson; and Mrs. Medgar Evers, now of California.

Newly-elected officers are:
 President - Aaron Henry, Clarksdale
 First Vice-President - James Edwards, Greenville
 Second Vice-President - C.C. Bryant, McComb
 Secretary - Miss Mary Cox
 Assistant Secretary - Mrs. Lucy Boyd
 Treasurer - Perry Robinson

The 22nd Annual Freedom Award Dinner of the NAACP was held Saturday night, November 4, at the city auditorium in Natchez, the first time the auditorium had been used by a Negro group. Over 400 people attended and heard Mr. George Metcalfe, who was wounded by a Klan bomb; Mr. George West, appointed to the county school board; Mr. June Calhoun, head of the Adams County Democratic Club; and Father Kist of Yazoo City.

Mr. Calhoun said that Negroes are not registered Democrats and not registered Republicans. "We are non-partisan.... We have two choices (in this governor's race: an individual who's been in Congress about 22 years and didn't do anything for the white people of the state of Mississippi and didn't do anything for us. And there's a Republican who has surprised the whole state, both black and white, with his statement about the race issue, economic progress, etc." He asked the people to "please remember these 2 people" when they go to vote.

Mrs. Evers said she disagrees with many people about where the problem is. "It's at home first," she said. "Only by solving problems here can we show other nations what a democracy is."

Mrs. Evers said that "even though there have been accomplishments, the progress that has been made in America

has not been enough. We as individuals are still not doing enough to help America keep her promise to all of her citizens....I want to see changes that will make it better for me, now; not just for generations to come."

Aaron Henry read a telegram from Vice-President Humphrey and gave awards to NAACP chapters for Membership, Finance, Direct Action, Youth Councils, and Voter Registration.

Fourteen resolutions were adopted. One urged members to vote for candidates "Negro or white, who have our interest at heart." Resolutions also opposed fund-raising activities in schools; told members "it is better to vote for a candidate whom we do not know, rather than for one who is admittedly, boastfully, and by his actions, against us;" urged members to seek election to local and state offices and the Federal Housing Authority and Farmers Home Administration.

NAACP Field Secretary Charles Evers spoke at Jackson State College on November 2. A vote of the students favored asking PDP Chairman Lawrence Guyot to speak, and the college president approved it. But a white board of the college would allow only Evers, not Guyot, to speak. It is rumored that the president okayed Guyot to go along with the students, but that he knew the board would not allow Guyot to speak.

WELFARE

Welfare Rights groups are reminded of the statewide workshop to be held Saturday, November 18, at Mt. Beulah. The workshop will start at 10 a.m. sharp, and each community Welfare Rights group is asked to send representatives.

Write to Mrs. Geraldine Smith at 1131 Corinth Street and let her know who is coming from your group.

The following is an open letter from the New Orleans chapter of the Spartacist League. (Spartacist is a revolutionary group named after the Roman slave Spartacus who led a slave revolt against their cruel masters. There is an exciting movie called Spartacus about that uprising of over 2,000 years ago.)

TO OUR FRIENDS OF THE FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

Freedom-loving people everywhere were stirred by your heroic story when in 1964 you challenged the national Democratic Party to move against racism and political injustice by seating your delegates to the convention. In the name of the oppressed people of Mississippi you presented an appeal, backed by testimony and documents, to the conscience of the Democratic Party. But in the end, that party was deaf to your righteous appeal, and it listened instead to the power of old politicians and old legalities, and rejected your plea. And so you learned that the Democratic Party has no conscience.

A political party is used to help the economic interests of its backers. When party candidates get in office, they pass laws favorable to its sponsors, no matter if these laws conflict with the interests of the majority of the people. But in order to keep the votes they need to stay in power, the big business backers of the Democratic Party naturally can not admit that the party represents only their own economic interests. They do not show their face, but paint themselves up by small favors to labor and minority groups to make it appear that this is the party of the little man.

But working people, the poor, and Black people need more than small favors. Just as workers years ago organized labor unions to fight the rich owners of industry on the economic field, so it now is necessary to organize a special machine, a working-class political party to fight for our interests on the political field.

The Democratic Party did promise you in 1964 to reform itself....next time. Well, next time is almost here now. And has Mississippi changed? John Bell Williams has been elected governor, and we know about him.

Has the national party changed? It has been too busy putting down the Black people of the northern ghettos to even remember its promise to the Black people of Mississippi. If the Mississippi regular delegation to the convention this summer rounds up enough Uncle Toms to make itself look integrated, the credentials committee of the convention will think everything is lovely, and the MFDP will again be left out in the cold.

Even if there were a chance that the MFDP could be recognized, to whom would it owe this victory? To the northern liberals. But the liberals are supporting a real war against the colored peoples of Vietnam. They are supporting a phony war against poverty at home which is really intended to quiet, rather than to help, the poor and oppressed people. They are right now trying to figure a way to raise taxes, and at the same time they break the strikes of those workers trying to get more pay.

The needs of liberals are absolutely different from ours; they are friends of the Black people only in words. Hubert Humphrey can hug Lester Maddox because they are together: only Maddox does openly what Humphrey and the liberals have to do on the sly. If the Democratic Party recognizes the MFDP it will be a "gift" from these same liberals and those who give can also take away.

(continued on page six)

Letter to our Friends in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (continued from page five)

The Freedom Democratic Party has a larger task than merely to take part in the old politics that has oppressed Black people for so long. And that task is to change this system, which you have already begun to do in two ways:

1) You have begun by involving people - farmers, mothers, students, workers - in fighting for their own needs, directly expressing what changes they want. This broad participation by masses of people in their own organizations is a kind of real democracy which is rare in modern America.

2) The second important way in which you have begun to change the old system is by organizational independence. You are finding out that not only can Black people elect their own local officials, but that they can do so without owing anything to the racist Democratic Party.

But you must not only be free from ties to the Democratic Party's organization; you must be free of their politics. Do not try to prove yourselves "good Democrats" and "loyal followers" in the hope of joining up with the national party.

Because then you will have to serve two masters, and your leaders will face a new temptation: deals will be offered to them which may serve the Democratic Party well, but which cost the poor and Black people of Mississippi a terrible price. Only candidates and leaders free from these ties to the old parties can speak and act for the whole Black community and not for just a few.

New Orleans Spartacist League

(If you want to hear more ideas from the Spartacist League, you can get a FREE copy of Spartacist-South. Send your name and address to Spartacist, Box 8121, Gentilly Station, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122.)

→ **JAMES FORMAN** of S.N.C.C. will speak November 14 (Tuesday) at 7:30 P.M. at TONGALOO COLLEGE.

He is in charge of international affairs for SNCC and has just come back from a conference in Africa.

Our Policy

The Mississippi Newsletter tries to write news and ideas that will be of interest to Mississippians involved in the Movement for freedom, justice, and peace.

Besides stories of current happenings, we print letters we receive from readers and articles related to Mississippi and the Movement that were printed first in other publications.

We feel that the most important job we can do is to get people thinking about the people and things that affect their lives. We are anxious to print all sides of the story so that people can make up their own minds about what is worthwhile. On the other hand, we realize that Mississippi people hear from the racists every day in newspapers, radio and television, and daily life. So you will read more Movement people's view points in the Newsletter.

We cannot print everything that everyone writes. We are most interested in hearing what our readers have to say and will try to write stories on subjects they say they are interested in.

The Chickasaw County attorney did not present to the grand jury the killing of a Negro man by a white policeman. He had said he would ask the grand jury to handle it after 3 J.P.'s set the policeman free. Okolona citizens may ask the grand jury to consider it. Otherwise, a civil suit can be filed in court.