

FREEDOM INFORMATION SERVICE

# MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER

Number Forty -- Box 120, Tougaloo, Mississippi 39174 - December 1, 1967 (from New York)

## News from MISSISSIPPI

The third and fourth in a new series of bombings have taken place in Jackson. The home of Bob Kochtitzky was damaged while he, a visitor, and a baby were there, but no one was injured. Then the home of Rabbi Perry Nussbaum was blown up, only a few weeks after a bomb had hit his temple, Beth Israel. The second in the new list of bombings, all against whites, was at the home of a new Tougaloo College dean, William Bush. There is a rumor that the Klan may be trying to pay Judge Cox back for conviction of Klansmen in the 1964 Neshoba killings. If so, there are 3 more explosions to come, because 7 men were found guilty.

There is still no word from Judge Cox, who said he would take back bond from 2 of the men if there were more bombings in his district. However, rewards have gone up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the violence.

Judge Cox has denied motions by lawyers for the Klansmen, asking for new trials for those found guilty. He has also refused to hold up two of three trials of men whose cases were not decided by the jury the first time around. He has not ruled on Neshoba sheriff-elect Hop Barnette. Sentencing of the 7 found guilty is expected to come soon.

Last Saturday, about 150 people marched in Crystal Springs to the city hall. They demonstrated in support of a boycott of white stores, which they want to hire Negro clerks and cashiers. They also want two of the four policemen in town to be black. The mayor has said that 1 man is retiring in February and a Negro will be hired, but the community wants a second one, also. Charles Evers spoke to a crowd of about 300 at the city hall and called on whites to give Negroes jobs instead of calling them lazy.

At a hearing last Monday in Greenwood, a black man was bound over, without bond, to the May grand jury on a charge of murder. He is accused of killing a white man at a service station.

The Freedom Democratic Party state executive committee decided at a recent meeting that they would support the re-funding of CDGM if there is any difficulty in getting money on their application for a new grant for the coming year.

The executive committee also set up a committee to help newly-elected state representative Robert Clark of Holmes County in writing legislation to be submitted to the law-making body.

A victory celebration for the black candidates who won in this year's elections was held Friday, December 1, in Indianola.

We don't know details, but we've heard that the STAR basic education program has not gotten money from the federal government for future programs. Their offices are apparently closed until money can be gotten.

LOOK FOR A SPECIAL ISSUE NEXT WEEK .

# A Letter from the Editor

The editor of the Mississippi Newsletter has been out of Mississippi since November 17th and is now in New York City trying to raise enough money to keep the Newsletter and the Freedom Information Service going for the next year or so.

On the way to New York, the editor visited several other cities and found out a bit about what is going on there. Here is a short report.

Nashville, Tennessee - I went into the office off the Southern Student Organizing Committee just behind a young man who had been arrested that day for "refusing induction" into the Army. He talked about how the FBI had come to his house to ask him questions and then came back later with a warrant for his arrest. He said he had refused to fill out some forms, but he had not been asked to take "the step forward." He is a native of Nashville, but his father got him out on a high bond to wait for trial. He is white and he has been going around to high schools in the Nashville area to talk to students about the draft and the Vietnam War.

The S.S.O.C. people expected that there would be more arrests, since others had also been talking against the war. And sure enough, a few days later, I read in the paper that a Black man working for SNCC in Nashville was also arrested for refusing to go. He had not been arrested until after he testified to a committee in Washington about how bad things are for Black people in this country. The address of SSOC is Box 6403, Nashville, Tennessee.

Louisville, Kentucky - In a discussion with some friends, Carl and Anne Braden of the Southern Conference Educational Fund said that they feel that the main causes of problems for both black and white people in this country are economic: that is, concerned with money and how it is used and by whom it is used. They noted that if the income of the country were divided evenly among all the people, each family would get \$9,000 a year. But it would take very big changes in our system to allow money to go that way to all the people. They believe that in a few years, poor people and others who want to change the system will start a revolution to take power from those who are rich and they will work to set up a better form of government.

Chicago, Illinois - Talked with a young white southerner, now living in Chicago, who asked whether Black people in Mississippi are ready to take up arms to fight The System. I said that maybe some were, but it probably wouldn't happen for a while. He said that he was ready, anyway.

A group called JOIN is working with whites who have moved from the south to Chicago, trying to help them solve their problems in a big city run by corporations and an old political machine. Black organizers are holding training meetings to prepare more people to form community groups in the black ghettos.

Detroit, Michigan - Students at Wayne State University recently had a demonstration against Marines recruiting on campus and they were planning other protests. A couple of weeks before, about a dozen students were arrested when a large group walked in on a conference of Michigan business executives and Army and Air Force generals talking about "How to Get Your Share of Defense Business." One of the girls protesting against the war asked a 2-star general if he knew he was committing murder in Vietnam, and he answered, "Yes." One protestor said, "Aside from being arrested unnecessarily and unjustly in the first place, it wouldn't be so bad. But one of the charges was disturbing the peace. That's an insult and a lie. What peace? Disturbing the war is cool, but peace? Ha!"

Toronto, Canada - A group called the Toronto Anti-Draft Programme is helping young men from the United States to find jobs and homes in Canada when they decide to leave the country instead of going into the army. Most of the 3,000 who have gone to the Programme for help in the past 3 months or so are from the northern part of the country - but men from anywhere are welcome and there is a similar group on the west coast.

(continued on page 3)

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR continued from page 2

The one Black man there at the time was from a middle-class Detroit home. He has now gotten a job in Canada. He knows he can't return to the U.S. without facing arrest. He left just before he expected to get an induction notice. The address of the Toronto Anti-Draft Programme is 2279 Yonge Street, Suite 15, Toronto 12, Canada.

Syracuse, New York - Things are described by a Syracuse University instructor as very slow. The CORE chapter isn't very active any more. There has been a little activity against the war, but no lasting organizations have developed with longterm programs. The Republican city administration has managed to get rid of "controversial" poverty programs.

Voluntown, Connecticut - The New England Committee for Non-Violent Action operates a farm near here where training sessions in nonviolence are held. A few members traveled to Providence, Rhode Island, to help plan a demonstration at Brown University against the Dow Chemical Company, which makes napalm to burn people in Vietnam. The meeting was called off, however, because the university administration apparently decided not to let the Dow recruiter visit the campus.

In New York City, plans are being made for a big Stop the Draft week from December 4-8. On Monday, the 4th, hundreds of young men are expected to turn in their draft cards. On Tuesday through Friday, peace and student groups will have sit-ins and other demonstrations at the Whitehall Induction Center, designed to close down the center.

On Wednesday, November 29th, about 150 students at New York University protested against the Dow Chemical Co. recruiter on their campus. The student government had passed a law saying that all organizations that want to recruit on campus must be willing to discuss their purpose and activities. So when the administration and Dow refused to have a full debate on napalm with the students, they gathered in the employment office for about 4 hours. They did not want to stop the recruiting, only get a chance to ask the Dow man some questions and have him answer them.

So space was left for all those who wanted to come and go. However, two deans threatened the students with disciplinary action if they did not leave. Students and several professors present did not feel they had done anything wrong. The Dow man finally left and it was announced he would not be back again that day.

Law students at N.Y.U. also took part in the protest. Some of these students have helped in elections in Mississippi. At a meeting of Law Students Against the War, they announced that the administration of Columbia University has stopped all military recruiting on campus until General Hershey, of Selective Service, changes his mind about punishing anti-war protestors by drafting them. Columbia says this prevents free speech and "has a chilling effect on First Amendment rights."

During Stop the Draft week, some law students will demonstrate and some will be observers, to report on police brutality.

The National Mobilization Committee, with offices in New York, has sent a memo reminding us that the federal government is investigating those that speak against the war. They suggest "total non-cooperation with committees or court actions against them."

## WELFARE RIGHTS - continued from page 4

there be a statewide boycott, protesting that all poor families should be able to get free school lunches. Title I money should be used only for free school lunches, not for things schools should buy anyhow.

"The Welfare Rights Movement, in conjunction with other organizations such as FDP, SCLC, etc. would write our own Welfare legislation and agree on it, then present it to the State legislature and try to have it pass. If they don't pass it then we will take drastic action, even if it means disrupting the state legislature meeting during the whole time they are in session."

Next meeting is December 9th at Mt. Beulah. State officers will be elected and legislation written to present to the state law-makers.

The Mississippi Newsletter wants to thank several friends in New York who have helped us get out this issue of the Newsletter.

## MARION COUNTY NEWS

We are all up set in Marion County. Mr. Willie Daniels was hit by the white professor of Improve School. Mr. Daniels' children was put out of all white school for a week. He went to see the professor to get what the children had done. So the professor got angry, hit Mr. Daniels, then told the laws Mr. Daniels curst him. The laws put Mr. Daniels in jail just for nothing. We need something done about that.

We T.C.C.A. workers are yet trying to carry on without funds. We need help. The poor people are yet neglected in Marion County. The poverty program is not helping many poor people. If you are not miss who I am you can't get help at all. Please help T.C.C.A. help poor people.

Reporter - Mrs. Lucille Dukes

## Negroes Elected to Office

A Chicago newspaper listed these men and women as among the Negro candidates elected to public office in November:

**VIRGINIA:** Dr. W. Ferguson Reid, a Democrat from Richmond, was elected to the state House of Representatives

**KENTUCKY:** Mrs. Georgia Davis, a Democrat from Louisville, was elected to the State Senate.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** William C. Ross, Jr. is now on the Pittsfield school committee. James H. Wynn is on the school committee in North Adams (they were each the first Negroes in public office in their towns)

Thomas Akins, 28, a Harvard Law School student, was elected to the Cambridge City Council

**IOWA:** Municipal Court Judge William Parker was re-elected in Waterloo

**VIRGINIA:** James M. Bradby was elected Sheriff of Charles City County, southeast of Richmond. He defeated a white man who has been sheriff for 43 years.

CAN OUR READERS SEND US MORE NEWS OF NEGROES ELECTED TO OFFICE AROUND THE COUNTRY ??

## WELFARE RIGHTS

The Welfare Rights News, published by the Hinds County Welfare/Rights Movement, had news of the November 18th state conference. They said that the conference "was attended by over 60 people from 21 counties. Even the Agriculture department managed to get a representative there, and it wasn't Seabron." The News had said earlier that "the Hinds County Welfare/Rights Movement, after talking to other counties, told the Ag. Dept. that they didn't want Mr. Seabron, special assistant on Civil Rights to Secretary Freeman. The feeling in the state that Mr. Seabron has forgotten he is black and spends all his time trying to make the Food Stamp program look good, instead of fighting for his black brothers and sisters. When Mr. Seabron was informed of this, he called Hinds County Chairman, Mrs. Geraldine Smith, and told her it had to be either him or no one. Mrs. Smith told him that was his problem."

Resolutions were written in workshops and approved by vote of the total body. Among the resolutions were these:

### Organizing State and Local Groups -

Resource workers should be found to help communities organize welfare rights groups if 25 or more people are interested. A state-wide organization should be formed and a date set for electing officers.

Political and Direct Action - Local organizations should work as much as possible with other county groups such as FDP, SCLC, NAACP, etc. on problems concerning welfare recipients. Members should participate vigorously in voter registration, voting, picketing demonstrations, etc. Hinds County groups should analyze and suggest changes for federal, state and local economic agencies.

Goals for Better Welfare - 100% of need, Medicaid, integration, courteous treatment, quick action on applications, privacy, fair hearing before cut-off of aid.

### Food Stamp, School Lunch, Commodities -

Free stamps and lunches. Demand that

(continued on bottom of page 3)