



# MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER

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## Support Asked for Clark Tuesday

Representative-elect Robert G. Clark of Holmes County will have the support of the Freedom Democratic Party, the N.A.A.C.P., and the Hinds County Young Democrats, as well as Black people from all over the state, when he goes to the Capitol on Tuesday, January 2nd to try to take his seat.

The white man he beat in the November 7th election, however, has said he will challenge Clark's qualifications to be a member of Legislature. By law, the legislature can decide the qualifications of its members, so the all-white law-making body will have to make the choice if Clark is in fact challenged.

## All Bonds Now Are Written for Officials

After a lot of trouble and hard work, all the Negroes elected to office had been assured of getting performance bonds written for them by Thursday of this week. All 21 of them should be sworn into office by next Tuesday.

The last to get bonds were 3 men elected Supervisors from their counties: Kermit Stanton, Bolivar; James Jolliff, Wilkinson; and Sylvester Gaines, Jefferson.

Five companies finally agreed to bond Stanton, who needed a \$125,000 bond. Most of the contacts were made by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. A Universal Pictures insurance man got about 15% of the bond and Sen. Robert Kennedy helped get about 10% of it.

Discussions are being held with Kennedy's office about the possibility of requesting Congressional hearings on the unfair insurance practices used in these cases.

Some people feel, though, that J.P. Love, the white man who lost his seat to Clark, will not bring the challenge because of pressure from other whites. Some whites feel that to challenge the first Negro elected to the legislature in over 50 years would make the state look bad. Also, they realize that one Black man in a Legislature of 122 will not have very much influence.

When the Legislature does get underway, it will have many important issues to decide.

The State Budget Commission has asked the body to approve a budget higher than in any year before, but the new budget does not provide for any new state programs.

School teachers want higher pay, smaller classes, and more teaching materials, but that will take money.

Many people are asking for improvements in the state's roads.

And there's talk of raising the gasoline, sales, and income taxes to pay for the better services.

THE F.D.P. IS URGING EVERYONE WHO CAN COME TO JACKSON at Noon, Tuesday, January 2, to come and support Robert Clark. He needs our help in a big job ahead.

# LETTERS

Port Gibson, Miss.

Dear FIS:

Sorry I have been so long in writing you. I have been terribly busy trying to get a job with MAP and other government agencies till it has taken most of my time to not succeed.

Your news media is very well appreciated in Claiborne County. However, I am a little disappointed in the response to my plea of financial assistance to the Newsletter. However, I have one friend who has appreciated the Newsletter and is attempting to show it. I am enclosing one (1) dollar contribution from Mr. Henry Turner. I asked Mr. Turner to write an evaluation of the Newsletter. Enclosed is this evaluation. I am thinking that if you could find time and space to mention his contribution and evaluation it might serve as an incentive to others here in Claiborne County to be more cooperative in our publishing the Newsletter.

Thanks for your bending ear.

Respectfully,

H.O. Preston

I really enjoy reading Mississippi's Newsletter, which I receive every week. I can keep track of what is going on in the field of politics. And I can also find out about the other problems which occur daily.

Mainly I want to take this opportunity to give special thanks to you and the rest of the members of your staff for putting into circulation a letter which gives a reader a variety of news.

Keep up the good work.

Mr. Henry Turner  
Port Gibson, Miss.

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Columbia, Miss.

Marion County News

We are trying to work a poverty program in Marion County and haven't got funds to help us. We are poor people trying to help poor people. We have been in operation for a while. Now we need help to help the poor. The other program don't reach poor people. Anyone have to be middle class so I call it to work in the other programs in Marion County. If you are poor, they won't consider you at all here.

Poor people really need help. Please help the TCCA all you can. We are working under the head of Rev. Summers. He is trying to get funds for poor people. Do what ever you can to help us.

Thank you.

Mrs. Lucille Dukes  
reporter

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Greenwood, Miss.

Dear Editor:

I have read and reread your column about the welfare meeting. It seem to me the more I read it the more I get out of it.

I believe it would be very helpful if Greenwood were among the 18 counties that had a welfare rights workshop, or could set up one. For I am very much in need. I need help so bad but can not get welfare so far. I would like to see the day come when I can get welfare help.

Thank you  
Mrs. P.

(Dear Mrs. P. and others who would like to start Welfare Rights Movements: Get information and help by writing to Welfare Rights, 5717 Fairchild Street, Jackson, Miss. 39209.)

## around the state

Elections will be held Saturday, March 2, 1968, for school trustees in all consolidated districts and several municipal separate districts. Contact your local school board or superintendent to see if one or more trustees will be elected from your district. (In cities, the trustees are appointed by city officials)

You should begin to plan now who will run from your district so you can get petitions filled out in time. Also, people must go to vote for the trustee on March 2, between 2 and 5 P.M.

We will try to have a list of all districts holding elections in the Newsletter soon. Write to us if you want full details of how to run and how the election should be held.

Alfred Rhodes, Jr. of the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers, is asking Mississippi people to sign petitions to John Bell Williams, asking him as governor to appoint members of the state Commission on Aging. This commission is supposed to be responsible for programs which promote the general welfare of older people, but as of now, it does not have any members.

If the state agency gets established, it can get money from O.E.O. and from the Older Americans Act. Over 500 petitions have been sent around the state, and they should be sent to Williams at the New Capitol right away.

High school students who attended a special summer enrichment program at Mary Holmes Jr. College are meeting today through Sunday at Mt. Beulah. They will evaluate and compare their experiences in desegregated schools and plan for future programs.

O.E.O. has given Mary Holmes College \$40,000 recently for

special activities to help Negro students in desegregated schools. The program's director is Mr. Sterling King, a Black man from the Arkansas Delta who used to work with the Peace Corps.

A Constitution was adopted on December 9th for the new Mississippians for Progressive Welfare/Rights at a state-wide meeting at Mt. Beulah.

Only people on welfare or eligible for welfare have voting rights. Each official county organization can have three voting representatives to the state group.

The first convention of the MPW/R will be January 27th (the 4th Saturday) at the Bell Flower Church on Pearl Street in Grenada, Miss., beginning at 10 a.m. State officers will be elected and the delegates to the National convention will be chosen. Plans will be made to get the Welfare Bill the group has written through the state legislature.

The third meeting of Negroes elected to public office in Mississippi will be held on January 7th at the Mileston community center at 2 P.M. The officials will decide about whether to continue Mississippians United to Elect Negro Candidates; how to help Negroes get elected as school trustees; what to do about the Democratic National Convention; and what economic programs they should work on in the state.

Robert Clark of Holmes County is chairman of the group, which last met December 17th in Canton.

Farmers who put your cotton in the loan program: You might be able to get more money now by selling your cotton to a buyer. Check the prices on your market.

December 22, 1967

A LETTER FROM THE Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, "THE VOICE

OF BLACK LIBERATION"

SUBJECT: THE PREVENTIVE HOUSE ARREST OF CHAIRMAN H. RAP BROWN

Since September 18, 1967, H. Rap Brown, Chairman of S.N.C.C., has been a political prisoner in New York City, forbidden to travel by a court order. If he disobeys, he would give up \$15,000 bond and go to jail. This tactic of PREVENTIVE ARREST is being tested by the Federal Government as a way of dealing with those whose opinions they do not like. It is the same tactic used in a cruder form in the Union of South Africa and called "house arrest." Whether it is called "House arrest" or "preventive arrest," the result of the two is the same: an individual's movements are restricted to a certain area for an indefinite period of time.

Upon examining the facts in the case of H. Rap Brown, it becomes clear that the conscious intent was not to jail Brown on various false charges, but simple make it impossible to travel around the country and speak. This would hurt not only Brown, but the organization for which he is Chairman and principal spokesman: SNCC. Thus, by moving quietly and through the courts, the Government hoped to stop Brown and SNCC without creating a public outcry.

The facts in the case of H. Rap Brown are simple. On July 24, 1967, Brown spoke in Cambridge, Maryland. He left the city the same evening on his way to Washington, D.C. A while after he had left Cambridge, the Pine Street Elementary School, which has a history of being burned, was burned again. The next day the State Attorney of Maryland issued a warrant for the arrest of Brown, charging him with inciting the people to burn the school. Later the same day, the Federal Government warrant was issued for the arrest of Brown, this one charging him with leaving the state of Maryland to avoid arrest on the first charge. The federal charge made him, of course, a fugitive from justice.

Brown learned of the warrants for his arrest, and on the following day, arranged through his attorneys to turn himself in to the FBI in New York. On July 26, Brown was leaving Washington, D.C. for New York to turn himself in, when he was arrested by the police at Washington National Airport and immediately turned over to the FBI. The FBI knew where Brown was going and why, but they chose to break the agreement that had been worked out between them and Brown's attorneys, choosing instead to make it appear that he had been trying to run away.

He was held in jail for six hours and then released. The federal government had decided to drop the charges of "flight from prosecution."

However, when Brown walked out of the jail, he was arrested on the steps by local police, who charged him with "flight from prosecution" under a Virginia state law. The Federal Government had bowed out to let the state government do the same work, knowing that in a Southern court, there was much less chance for Brown to receive a fair hearing than in Federal Court.

He was released on \$10,000 bond and would have been sent to Maryland for trial on the school-burning charge except for legal action taken by his lawyers. On September 18th, Brown was released from jail on another \$10,000 bail on the condition that he would not leave the eleven counties of the Southern District of New York, except to travel to consult with one of his attorneys.

Shortly thereafter, Brown was once again arrested on a charge of carrying a weapon while under indictment, was jailed in New York City and released on \$15,000 bond. The restriction on Brown's right to travel was appealed to the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court who turned it down.

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## HINDS COUNTY

December 4, 1967

The Mississippi office of the Southern Cooperative Development Program announces the beginning of their "Christmas Cheer Project."

The S.C.D.P. has a staff of five organizers working in North Jackson. Their purposes are to develop community-oriented self help programs: Any kind of programs that the communities they are working in request.

For Christmas, they have a drive in operation to secure food, clothing, and toys. These items will be developed into Christmas gifts packages and distributed to the people designated as poor in the area they are working. There is a volunteer committee of people from this area canvassing Jackson enlisting popular support for the project. Boxes will be placed in local business establishments.

News Release signed by Gleen Marie Parker, Field Representative

## LETTER FROM S.N.C.C. on the PREVENTIVE HOUSE ARREST OF H. RAP BROWN cont'd

It is clear that if H. Rap Brown is going to be released from his "jail" in New York, it will only be because of pressure put upon the Federal Government. This is an important case, because if the Federal Government succeeds in keeping H. Rap Brown "jailed," overnight, militants will find themselves arrested on false charges and released, with the condition that their movements be restricted to a certain area. It happened to Bill Epton, Black liberation fighter from Harlem, in 1964, when he was arrested on charges of inciting to riot during the Harlem rebellions of that summer. It happened to John Harris, Black liberation fighter in Los Angeles, who was arrested for leafleting, released and now restricted to California. It happened to Eddie Oquendo, Black draft resistor from Brooklyn, who was convicted for refusing to serve in the Army, released on appeal and is now restricted to the borough of Brooklyn, New York.

It is clear what the Government is trying to do. It is our responsibility to stop them. If they succeed in keeping H. Rap Brown, one of the most well-known Black leaders, restricted to New York, they will have won and will then be able to move with impunity against any militant in the country.

## WHAT YOU MUST DO:

Send a telegram immediately to SNCC, 100 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011, requesting H. Rap Brown to speak in your community. The U.S. Government is trying to say that Black people in the U.S. are not interested in the words of Chairman Brown. We know this is a lie.

## BOLIVAR

Mr. Kermit Stanton, newly elected Beat Supervisor of Beat 3 in Bolivar County, has already involved himself in a movement to elevate the economic status of the deprived people in his Beat.

He is attempting to unite all organizations working toward the cause of progress, involving the schools, churches, and businesses, for the purpose of locating industry in his beat.

A Corporation has been formed for this purpose and is authorized to sell stock to any citizen of the State of Mississippi. The Investment Corporation has Headquarters in Mound Bayou, and is planning to finance housing, motels, and other practical projects once the initial project (a furniture factory) is on the way.

Persons interested in taking part in this movement may contact Mr. Kermit Stanton, Box 611, Shelby, Mississippi, or the Mound Bayou Investment Corporation, Box 262, Mound Bayou, Miss 38762

## around the state PART TWO

Carver Randle, a Negro teacher in Indianola, will run against five white candidates January 23 in a special election for mayor. Randle is county chairman of the NAACP and will campaign on a platform of equal taxation, sanitation, and greater opportunities for Negroes.

Federal Court of Appeals Judge Claude Clayton has turned down the appeal of Negroes in Sunflower and Moorhead to throw out the municipal elections of May 2, 1967.

Clayton said that Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer and others who filed the suit "have failed to ... show there was any unfairness, racial or otherwise, in the conduct of this election, but on the contrary the evidence is virtually all the other way." The suit said that white officials discriminated when they refused to name a Negro to help Negro illiterates at the polls, and that segregated voting lines were set up that gave white voters first chance to vote.

The case can still be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Clarke Reed, white chairman of the Mississippi Republican Party, said Wednesday it would be "unfortunate" if John Bell Williams and other state Democrats boycotted the 1968 Democratic National Convention. Williams has said he has not decided yet whether he will go to the Chicago convention this summer or not.

Reed said that "revolutionary elements including the Freedom Democratic faction and the Mississippi Young Democrats will become the state's official representatives if Democrat regulars boycott their party's national convention and these revolutionaries will embarrass and humiliate our state."

Some active movement workers have been amused at Reed's comments,

considering how moderate the activities of Young Democrats and MFDP seem when compared with "revolutionary" groups in other parts of the U.S. and the world.

Negro doctor A.B. Britton has asked Gov. Paul Johnson and Governor-elect John Bell Williams to announce that violence such as the five recent bombings in Jackson and Laurel will not be tolerated.

Dr. Britton said that appeals to prejudice during the recent campaign for governor helped create a climate of opinion that was an invitation to violence.

He said, "Blame must also be shared by law enforcement officials who refuse to dispense equal justice; by jurors who refuse to convict known violators of the law; and by the mass media, civic organizations, and the public at large, who, through their silence, acquiesce in the violence and the denial of justice."

In Jackson, 250 women, including the wives of several state officials, took a full-page ad in both newspapers to speak against the bombings.

They said, "We feel children should not be forced to speculate about whose home or house of worship might be destroyed next. We know too that malicious gossip increases tension and becomes a threat of a different kind.... We accept the responsibility of this task...of creating a climate which supports these goals..." where people can "respect one another, value the free exchange of ideas, and be good participants in a good community."

It looks now as though John Bell Williams is asking only white organizations, including marching bands, to take part in his inauguration on January 16th. But then, we wonder how many Black people want to be there to support him, anyway?