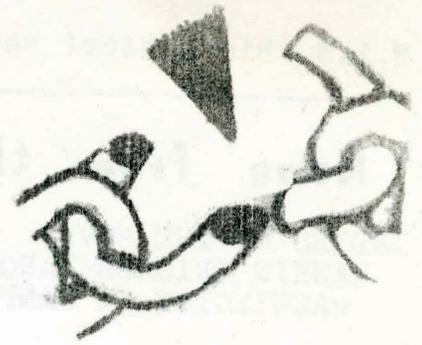




MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



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Clark Seated - No Challenge Made

Robert Clark of Holmes County was sworn in Tuesday afternoon as the first Negro member of the Mississippi House of Representatives in this century. Seven of his friends watched from the gallery and perhaps a dozen others waited in the hallway.

Because another representative from his district has been in the House a long time, Mr. Clark is seated in the front row. Next to him is the chair where the Speaker of the House, who runs the meetings as chairman, will sit when he is not leading the meeting from up in front. The other Holmes County-Yazoo County representatives sit across the center aisle from Clark.

Clark expects to introduce several bills, which he hopes the Legislature will approve and make into state laws. One bill will be to give public school teachers tenure after 3 years of teaching. At this time, there is no tenure in public schools, so teachers can be fired at the will of school officials.

He also wants a law that will give school principals a standard salary according to the number of teaching units they supervise. Now, white principals often get paid much more than Negro principals even though they are in charge of fewer students. And Clark will write a bill to improve school bus transportation so that buses are not overcrowded.

Clark is interested in supporting a compulsory school law that would apply to children 6-17. A bill that has already been introduced into the legislature by another representative would make schooling compulsory for children 7-16. Clark is considering now whether he might try to co-sign that bill, but he would like to see the age limits changed.

He also might co-sign a bill that would lower the voting age from 21 to 18.

Clark wants to get a bill passed that would raise the amount of money paid through the Welfare Department and see to it that pregnant mothers are not cut off. He said he is not encouraging children to be born out of wedlock, but "if you give people an opportunity to learn, if you give people correct cultural values and increase their opportunities," there will not be so many "illegitimate children born. "Those who have made this society possible are responsible," he said, not welfare mothers.

Clark traveled to Washington, D.C. and New York, December 11-14 and met with representatives of several federal agencies and at least one Congressman. He said he was "trying to check with foundations and organizations that could make money available" to Mississippi people. It appears that the Housing and Urban Development agency will help get sewers

(continued on page six)

News from the Movement Against the War

LADIES ON THE MOVE: THE JEANNETTE RANKIN BRIGADE MARCHES ON WASHINGTON IN JANUARY

Washington, D.C. (Liberation News Service) Dec. 20, 1967--

America's women are on the march against the war.

On January 15, 1968, "women from all over the land will converge on Washington to demand the end of this dishonorable war," according to a statement released by former Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin and by Vivian Hallinan.

Miss Rankin, now 86, was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress, and cast the only vote against U.S. involvement in both world wars. She says she plans to get arrested here in January. "If we had 10,000 women willing to go to jail if necessary, we could stop the war in Vietnam," she said.

Miss Rankin and Mrs. Hallinan, wife of 1952 Progressive Party Presidential candidate Vincent Hallinan, are trying to form a brigade of women "willing to stay in jail until the bombing is stopped." This group will call itself the Jeannette Rankin Brigade.

Simultaneously, Women Strike for Peace will conduct a Mourning March on January 15, the day Congress reconvenes. The women, who will dress in black, will ask Congress "to end the war and heal our sick society at home." WSP also plans to begin campaigns for some of its members who will run for national and local offices, according to national WSP president Mrs. Dagmar Wilson.

Mrs. Wilson said the ladies will present a petition to Senate Majority Leader, Mike Mansfield, after marching from Union Station to the Capitol, a distance of about 10 blocks.

(You can get more information from The Jeannette Rankin Brigade, c/o Georgina Gronner, 520 North Michigan, Chicago, Illinois 60611

Gen. David Shoup, retired commander of the U.S. Marines, said last month that the Vietnam conflict is really a civil war, between two groups of Vietnamese. He said that the Communists in Southeast Asia are not a threat to the United States, as President Johnson claims.

Gen. Shoup, who has won the Medal of Honor, said it is "unadulterated poppycock" to believe that the war is serving U.S. interests.

In 1966, he said that the United States should have kept its "dirty, bloody fingers" out of Vietnam.

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The U.S. Senate is investigating news reports that the incident near Vietnam in 1964 that got the U.S. more and more involved in fighting there, may not have really happened.

Supposedly, two U.S. ships were attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats. As a result, President Johnson ordered U.S. planes to fire back, and he asked Congress for an emergency vote of support. Since that resolution was passed, Johnson has started bombing north Vietnam and sent over a half million U.S. soldiers to fight.

The Senate is looking into the official reports made in 1964 by the U.S. ships that it is said were fired on.

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Many companies throughout the United States are making money by getting large defense (continued on page three)

or from Women Strike for Peace, 799 Broadway, New York City, New York 10003.)

NEWS FROM THE MOVEMENT AGAINST THE WAR (continued from page two)

contracts to make materials for the war in Vietnam.

In Mississippi, the Ingalls Shipbuilding Company is getting \$4 million from Uncle Sam to build a nuclear-powered attack submarine.

In Kingsport, Tenn., the Eastman Kodak Company is getting more than \$54 million for explosives.

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The U.S. Justice Department has set up a special criminal unit to prosecute anti-war demonstrators who break Selective Service (draft) laws or interfere with military recruiting. A statement by Draft Director Lewis B. Hershey and Attorney General Ramsay Clark asked local law enforcement officials to "vigorously prosecute violations of local laws which may occur in demonstrations against the selective service system."

Hershey and Clark promised that people would not be arrested for legal demonstrations against the draft, and that legal protesters would not be drafted faster or get special treatment by the draft boards.

A number of suits are in court now to get a change in an earlier policy announced by Hershey that would bring quicker induction to any young men who protested the war. The American Civil Liberties Union and many student government presidents from U.S. colleges are joining in the legal battle to allow free speech against the war.

News stories are full of reports, however, of men who are being sent to jail for refusing to be drafted and of men who are being re-classified 1-A after they've been arrested during draft protests.

- 2 University of Texas students were made 1-A after they sent back their draft cards.

- 6 men in Bloomington, Indiana, were indicted by a federal grand jury for refusing induction into the Army, although at least one of them has never been called up for induction.

- A Roman Catholic priest, 30 years old, was reclassified 1-A in Geneseo, New York, after he turned in his draft card.

- 3 Americans studying in England have been declared delinquent and made 1-A. They turned in their draft cards October 16, along with members of the Resistance in the U.S.

- A young man in Illinois who does not believe in violence and war was sentenced to 3 years in prison for refusing to go into the Army.

- In Los Angeles, at least 4 draft resisters have been made 1-A, while several others have been visited by the FBI.

- Gene Guerrero, Jr., first chairman of the Southern Student Organizing Committee, refused induction December 4th in Atlanta. He read a statement saying, "I believe that a person should attempt to match his actions with his beliefs.... I believe that war is wrong and I cannot participate in war. I believe that the war in Vietnam is immoral, illegal, and contrary to the interests of the American people."

- A Seattle, Washington, man is taking his sentence of five years in prison to the U.S. Supreme Court. He refused induction.

- While over 100 people picketed outside and then marched into the courtroom, Eddie Oquendo, a black man, was sentenced in Brooklyn, New York, to 5 years in jail for refusing to go into the army.

OTHER NEWS

Several cities, including Miami, Florida, and Chicago, are starting "get tough" policies for their police. The police say that young Negro hoodlums are committing more crimes than ever.

But it is interesting to see that the Republican National Convention will be in Miami this year and the Democratic Convention will be in Chicago. Demonstrations against the war are planned at the Chicago meeting and mayor Daley says they will not be allowed to disrupt the convention.

The Miami Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union says it will file a suit against the Miami police chief to try to get rid of the new policy. The A.C.L.U. director says, "We believe a lot of innocent people are going to be harmed along the way, and on behalf of the Negro citizens we are protesting the excessive show of force he proposes."

S.N.C.C. Chairman Rap Brown and International Director James Forman have told African students they will recruit revolutionaries to fight white racists in Rhodesia "if and when you call for them."

Meanwhile, Senator James Eastland has been supporting the whites in Rhodesia and has just won a battle to get the U.S. government to recognize the "right" of a Rhodesian representative to live and travel in this country.

The homes of 11 Negro families in Haywood County, Tennessee, have been set on fire since August 4, 1967. These are in addition to four house burnings in the spring, the burning of a church in July, and the bombing of 13 Negro homes in 1966.

The latest fires came after a

federal judge ordered that 10 Negro teachers should be placed in 5 previously-white schools and 10 white teachers in 4 previously-Negro schools.

Three federal judges ruled in December that a U.S. Senate subcommittee can keep and use documents taken from 3 civil rights and poverty workers in Pike County, Kentucky, last August.

Lawyers for the workers told the court that the papers were taken under cover of a law that was later declared unconstitutional.

The Board of Aldermen in Louisville, Kentucky, has passed a strong open-housing law as a result of demonstrations in which hundreds were arrested last spring.

Another result of the fight for open housing was the election of a new board of aldermen on November 7th. Eleven Democrats were elected to replace Republicans. The only Republican back on the board is Mrs. Louise Reynolds, a Negro.

SNCC Chairman Rap Brown told white radicals at Columbia University that he considers them brothers in the making of a revolution in this country.

He said, "A revolution is not a white or black thing.... We have a common problem -- our extermination." He explained that the U.S. government has gotten 24 concentration camps ready, which will hold 500,000 people. These camps were first used in the 1940's for Japanese-Americans.

Brown condemned Carl Stokes, new Negro mayor of Cleveland, Ohio. He said Stokes does not understand the racist nature of America and he "has no power in that city, which is controlled by white corporations.... He has a role of an oppressor of the black people."

around the state

Rep. Robert Clark attended a luncheon for legislators given Wednesday by the Mississippi Marketing Council. He sat alone at a table set for eight people, not joined by any of his fellow law-makers, until a newspaper reporter sat and ate with him.

New Bolivar County supervisor Kermit Stanton was sworn in Tuesday. On Wednesday, he received, apparently from the Ku Klux Klan, a black voodoo doll with pins in it.

The Mississippi Farm Labor Letter of the State Employment Security Commission said in its January 3rd issue:

"Minimum wages in agriculture became a reality on February 1, 1967. This one event affected the state farm labor force far more than the reduction in cotton acreage of the year before. Reports of thousands of workers being displaced because of minimum wages were grossly exaggerated.

There were severe adjustments in the farm labor force, however, but those severely affected were the seasonal force. Very few day workers were used in cotton chopping because of the widespread use of chemicals for weed control. Older workers residing on farms and depending almost solely on day work found themselves without any source of income. Although income of regular farm workers rose, total family income was reduced because family workers did not have day work."

One or two students from Wilberforce College in Ohio - a mostly Negro school - are in Mississippi to help with a tutoring program run by the Delta Ministry. They will spend

three months at Freedom City and in Greenville, tutoring children who go to desegregated schools. About 100 children in Cleveland and 50 in Mayersville are also helped by the program, which brings students from Beloit (in Wisconsin) and Antioch (in Ohio) Colleges, as well as from Wilberforce.

The Mississippi Legislature will probably have many battles over pay for the state's school teachers. But both the Senate and House passed a bill to pay themselves \$22.50 a day while the Legislature is in session, plus mileage to their home counties and expenses.

Several bills were introduced into the House on Wednesday. One would allow women to sit on juries.

Another would require that all children 7-16 years old must go to school regularly. (A law like this was voted out when the courts said schools had to be integrated.)

Another bill would lower the voting age from 21 to 18.

Another would allow new residents to vote after they had lived in Mississippi one year. (This would actually benefit whites more, since Negroes are moving out and whites moving into the state.)

Since the state Constitution would have to be changed to lower the voting age and the residence requirement, there is a resolution in the House to have the changes voted on in a special election in June.

A bill suggested by Rep. Stone Barefield of Hattiesburg would get rid of party primary elections and have everybody run in a general election in October. There would be a runoff between the top two if nobody got a majority. Independents would pay the same fee as others.

CLARK SEATED (continued from page 1)

in some towns and that a pilot welfare program will give decent grants for one year so that families can get in a position to help themselves. Also, if people are found who want MDTA job training but haven't been able to get into the program, training will be set up for more people.

Clark's trip was sponsored by MACE (Mississippi Action for Community Education), a new project with offices in Greenville. MACE has gotten a grant from the Field Foundation through Citizens Crusade Against Poverty in Washington.

While he was in New York, Clark attended a dinner given by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Richard Hatcher, new mayor of Gary, Indiana, and a Negro, was the main speaker, and Clark was a special guest.

Clark also had a press conference, along with Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton and lawyer Paul O'Dwyer, a former New York City councilman. Also, Bronx Borough President Herman Badillo and City Councilman Theodore S. Weiss took part in the press conference, which was set up by the National Committee for Free Elections in Mississippi.

Clark will make another trip to Washington in the near future, sponsored by the Freedom Democratic Party. He will talk with Congressmen to "reap the benefit of their experience" and to experts in fields in which he is interested, especially those who can help bring programs and aid to Mississippians.

On December 11, Clark spoke at Jackson State College at a meeting sponsored by the student government. Clark, who attended Jackson State himself, told the students to feel proud that they are going there. "Don't let anyone fool you about going to bigger schools, he said. "Since leaving Jackson State, I have attended quite a few of the larger universities around the U.S. My grades were better at all the other schools that are larger than Jackson

Students Petition for Prof.

A senior sociology major at Millsaps College in Jackson is passing around petitions for students to sign in support of a teacher who has been told his contract will not be renewed for next year.

Before Christmas, William Peltz, anthropology instructor and acting head of the sociology department, was told he would not have a new contract for "economic reasons." Others believe, however, that the real reason is that the administration has disapproved of some of his activities.

The administrators don't like his being on the Commission on the Delta Ministry, or his consulting with students on a Free University that got started this year. Also, he has gone to bat for students against some administration decisions that he has thought were wrong.

Senior Mary Douglas Hobart says she is getting student support for Peltz because she got mad that a good teacher was thrown out for no good reason.

State."

In answer to reports that he might have been approached about getting FDP to join with the Young Democrats in challenging the Mississippi Democrats next summer, Clark replied that he had been invited to a recent meeting of the Mississippi Voter Education League, but he did not attend.

Clark said he has had no problems of discrimination or harrassment in the legislature. He was seated without argument when J.P. Love decided not to challenge his qualifications. Governor-elect John Bell Williams says he did not influence Love.