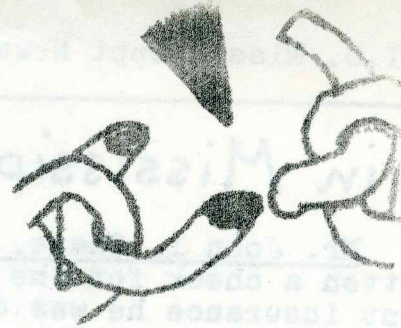




MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



Number Forty-Five - Box 120, Tougaloo, Ms 39174 - January 26, 1968

"I will not run a racist campaign"

EVERS runs for Congress - Smith III

After agreeing last week to run for John Bell Williams' seat in Congress, Rev. R.L.T. Smith announced privately that his doctor advised him not to run for reasons of poor health.

So Charles Evers, who begged off last week, was chosen at a meeting Wednesday to be a candidate in the Third Congressional District election on February 27th. About 55 people from 8 counties nominated him without opposition. He immediately asked Lawrence Guyot to be his campaign manager; Alfred Rhodes, Jr., to head public relations; and Mr. Jones (who worked on Jacob Reddix's campaign for the state legislature from Hinds County) to be associate campaign manager. Evers held a press conference Thursday afternoon to officially announce his candidacy. His campaign headquarters will be at 1320 Lynch Street, Jackson, Miss., and he is urging supporters from around the country to send contributions there to the Evers Campaign Fund.

Mr. Clarence Broadwater will manage the Hinds County office, Bruce Payne will arrange for campaign literature, Rev. Ed King will book speaking engagements, and a Mr. Allen will handle research. Mrs. Carsie Hall and Mrs. Charles Evers will head the finance committee; R.L. Bolden and Robert Clark were asked to draw up a campaign platform; and leaders from various counties in the District were asked to handle the campaign in their areas.

Evers says he wants to speak wherever he can: on street corners and courthouse steps, as well as churches and civic meetings and at schools and colleges.

On Friday of this week he will be in Washington to have lunch at the invitation of Vice-President Hubert Humphrey.

At the press conference, Evers said that "too many are dying for an unworthy cause in Vietnam."

POLICE BEAT 6

About 300 people attended a rally at Tougaloo College Tuesday night to hear about the beating of 6 black men by Jackson police.

Army Specialist Robert Wells told how he was arrested by white police after a minor traffic accident. When he said he was on his way to Tougaloo, a cop told him, "You're one of those smart niggers from Tougaloo College." He was kicked, and beaten with a black jack at the police station. He commented, "I go off and fight for a place I call my home and come back and be treated like a dog." Wells has spent a year in Vietnam and is home on leave.

Two other men, students at Tougaloo, told how they and three
(continued on page six)

in Mississippi

the War

Mr. John T. Chase, Sr. has

gotten a check for the unemployment insurance he was denied

for several months.

But the State Board of Re-

view said in its official

decision that the referee who

kept it from him in the first

place was right. The Board

said, though, that "without

doubt, administrative action

will be taken to correct the

errors."

The story of Mr. Chase's

battle with the unemployment

commission was in last week's

Newsletter. He is from Copiah.

Lawyers for two A.S.C.S.

candidates in the 1967 committee

elections have sent a letter

to William Seabron of the

Department of Agriculture,

asking either for a recount

or a new election.

When the ballots were counted

in South Lexington, Community H,

the county office manager said

that 7 ballots could not be

counted because they were

improperly signed.

Then in a recent letter,

Seabron said that that rule

doesn't apply to A.S.C.S.

Since the 7 ballots would make

a difference between winning

and losing for the two Negro

candidates, they are asking

that action be taken within

60 days by the Department.

Seven more Mississippi

counties will soon be on the

Food Stamp Program: Humphreys,

Itawamba, Jasper, Montgomery,

Prentiss, Simpson, and Union.

That makes a total of 43

counties having Food Stamps

instead of commodities.

LATE BILLERIKINS: A total of 12

men have now been arrested in

the Vernon Dahmer murder.

-- The Indiana run-off election

will be Feb. 6, not the 13th.

Latest word from the Pentagon

(war headquarters) in Washington

is that 302,000 men will be

drafted into the army this year.

That is 72,000 more than in 1967.

Lots more families are going to

feel that pressure, and you know

it's going to be poor men's sons

sent to fight in Vietnam.

Also, as a result of North

Korea capturing our spy boat, the

Pueblo, 14,700 airmen in the

reserves have been called to

active duty this week. The U.S.

is saying we were in international

waters, but the Koreans say we

were in their territory. "If

the situation worsens," we are

told, ground forces might be

called up for active duty later.

The New York Post reported

Jan. 10 that U.S. Army authorities

have admitted that "about 700

men per year desert from American

forces stationed in Germany, some

to keep from being sent to Vietnam.

This figure was issued eight

months ago and since then the

number of troops sent to Vietnam

has been constantly stepped up.

It is not unreasonable to suppose

that desertions have also risen.

In Heidelberg they prefer not to

talk about it."

According to the report, there

are groups all over Europe, "in

almost every capital city," in

willing to help U.S. GIs find

work and settle down. "The best

prospects for a deserter are in

Scandinavia, especially Sweden,

or in France or Switzerland."

People all over the world who

have short wave radio sets could

have tuned in last night to

Radio Havana Cuba to hear Mrs.

Fannie Lou Hamer singing "Cotton

Needs a Picking So Bad." Also

heard was "Hell, No, I Won't Go"

and other songs by SNCC Freedom

Singers.

For about 3 months, an "underground" newspaper has been going around the campus of Jackson State College. It is called The Gadfly and is apparently written by students, but no one has been able to find out who they are.

In a recent issue of the 2-page paper, the writers criticize many things about the school, such as "petty regulations being forced upon us from the Personnel Department" and "many courses that are taken as a matter of ritual": Orientation, Personal Hygiene, and Reading Seminar.

They suggest "a serious course in sex education taught by someone with an OPEN mind" and a course in Negro history for all students.

The Gadfly also asks whether the official school paper is really the voice of the students, saying "it is contradictory to the nature of the normal student to be so conservative."

Ten white men were arrested Wednesday and charged with arson in the firebomb death of Vernon Dahmer in Hattiesburg on January 10, 1966. Five of the men were also charged with murder.

Sam Bowers, a Klan leader sentenced to prison for the Neshoba murders, was charged with arson.

Travis Buckley, lawyer for the others, was also arrested for arson. He has been charged with kidnapping also; the state says he tried to get a man to make a false statement about the Dahmer case.

Charles C. Wilson, a Laurel businessman, was charged with murder and arson. On Monday night he had received the Distinguished Service Award of the Laurel Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Five of the men, including Bowers, will go to trial in federal court on conspiracy charges in the death of Dahmer.

This is a rare case where State authorities have arrested whites

in civil rights crimes.

A small Negro church near Meridian burned down January 11. The cause of the fire at Pilgrim Rest Methodist Church is not known, according to police.

FARMERS: If you want to raise cotton this year on a farm that has not produced cotton in the past three years, be sure to file an application for an allotment at your county A.S.C.S. office by February 15.

About 55 people attended a meeting Monday night of the NAACP of Greenville and Washington County.

Chairman Eddie Marshall said he had appeared before the Civil Rights Commission last week to ask for changes in the Food Stamp program. He said that, according to a woman who runs the stamp distribution office, about 100 people are turned away each day, because there are not enough workers to take care of them. Many people come 35-40 miles to get their stamps. Mr. Marshall said he has sent a telegram to Washington and also called. He recommended that the federal government rent a building where people can wait inside and sit down. Also, he said there should be enough employees to serve 175 applicants a day, and half the employees should be Negro.

A long list of job titles was read, showing jobs that will be available at the new training program at the Greenville Air Base. Mr. Robert Martin suggested that recent graduates should be told of these opportunities coming up.

The group decided to print handbills telling people about the boycott in Greenville to get more jobs for Negroes in local stores.

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from the NATIONAL GUARDIAN

JANUARY 13, 1968

Lyndon signed the Great Social Security Bill of 1967. As he scratched his name on the Historic Document, quoth he: "because of social security, tens of millions of Americans have been able to stand straighter and ~~aller~~-unafraid of their future." Well, Lyndon, let's see.

Your Bureau of Labor Statistics says it takes \$3,591 per year, net, for a man and wife to survive. At the maximum benefit for man and wife under the old law they were \$1,253 per year short of the survival level. Now, they're only \$683 short of it. Is that what you meant when you said "nine million people have climbed out of poverty since 1954"?

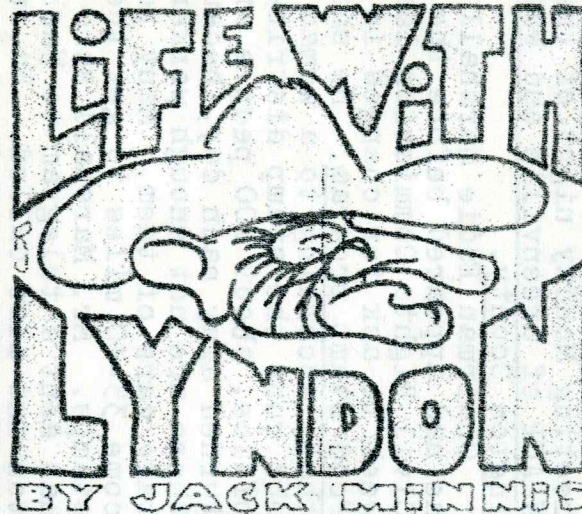
Or maybe you meant that folks drawing social security can now earn more than before, without having their social security check reduced. Oh.

Let's see again. You said "outside earnings can total \$140 per month with no reduction in benefits." Well, then, after a man reaches 65, he can go get a job as a soda jerk, or a bell hop, or a dishwasher. So long as he doesn't earn more than \$140 per month, his benefits won't be reduced. He'll now have the princely sum of \$4,468 (almost a thousand above the survival level) on which to retire and rest—after he's put in his 49- or 50-hour week jerking sodas or hopping bells or washing dishes.

Straighter and taller, indeed, Lyndon—unafraid of the future.

But Lyndon, you didn't tell the whole story. You shouldn't be so modest. All the folks who reach 65 and apply for social security are not limited to \$140 per month without reduction in benefits. Only those who work for the money are limited to \$140.

Those who had the good sense to be born a Rockefeller or a Mellon or an anything else that ensured them an enormous income without working, have been provided for under social security. They can continue to draw interest, rental, dividend and other income to any amount, without reduction in benefits. Only the income that's earned by working is subject to limitation. That's the reward, in the Great Society, for a life of honest toil: more honest toil, if you want to eat.



You might retort, Lyndon, to all this, that you know there are things wrong with the social security system. You might even argue that just as soon as you can find out what's wrong with it, you're going to fix it. Go ahead Lyndon—argue that.

Tell us, with a straight face, about your Special Commission on Income Maintenance Programs. Then, when the laughter dies down, tell us about the bloke who's heading that commission—Ben W. Heineman, chairman of the Chicago and North Western Railway; tell us about how he's one of the high-income boys you politicians have to depend on for campaign money; tell us about how he gave you \$10,000 for the 1964 campaign.

Then tell us about how the tax we pay on our wages goes to make up social security benefits when we retire; about how the tax stops when a man has made \$1,800.

How much does Heineman make, Lyndon? \$100,000 a year? That's not high for the chairman of the North Western. Let's say that's what Ben makes. He paid, then, about \$256 in social security taxes last year. If he'd had to pay the tax on his whole salary, he'd have paid \$4,400. Not hard to

figure where he gets the \$10,000 he gives you for the campaign, is it Lyndon?

Others are standing straighter and taller, though, Lyndon—unafraid of the future. There are the directors and stockholders of American Motors who got a \$20 million tax break in 1967. There are the bankers to whom American Motors owes \$15 million. As a result of the tax break, American Motors can now pay off the bankers on schedule. And the directors and stockholders and bankers will live happily ever after—and happily trot out their check-books when you tell them what it's going to cost to keep you in the driver's seat the next four years.

Still others in the Great Society have indicated their concern for their less fortunate fellows. An ad hoc committee of moneymen in the advertising racket are afraid, they say, that more and more people are going to be hungry unless something is done to curb the population growth.

So they've taken immediate measures to get people to stop having so many kids. They're spending \$1 million this year in the New York Times and the Washington Post. The ads will not be directed toward poor folks who screw too much. No. The lofty advertising men, with their lofty principles, are appealing to the affluent who read the Times and the Post. The ad boys want support for the spending of \$100 million a year by the U.S. to spread the word among the "unfortunate" about family planning.

One ad tells the reader: "While you're eating dinner tonight, 417 people will die of starvation." The ad features a picture of a bomb with the legend: "The population bomb keeps ticking away."

Do you suppose the kids are spending a million (which is doubtless deductible from their taxable income) because they're concerned about the suffering which hunger and starvation bring? Hardly.

They're worried about that population bomb. They're afraid the hungry of this country and the rest of the world may have learned something from Watts and Newark and Detroit and Harlem: A man gets just so hungry—then he eats.

A R O U N D T H E S T A T E
(continued from page 3)

It was announced that the NAACP would begin its program of giving needy families money to buy food stamps. Those who need such help can apply at the Edwards Funeral Home, in Greenville.

Someone suggested that the problem of discrimination in garbage collection might be solved if people took their garbage to city hall. There was much applause. Someone moved to adjourn the meeting and there was no objection, so no decision was made on this.

The latest Farm Labor Letter of the state employment commission says:

"Recruitment of agricultural workers for the harvest of Florida crops has been outstanding this season despite a softened demand for interstate workers in Florida citrus. The Florida citrus crop is well below that of last season, but still a better-than-average crop. Slightly better than 1,850 Mississippi workers had been referred by the end of last week (Jan. 19th) to the citrus and vegetable harvest. This included 1,377 individuals working in citrus and 477 ... in vegetables....

"A valid order is still on hand for vegetable workers in the Fort Myers (Florida) area. Employment consists of harvesting vine-ripe (staked) tomatoes. Workers are paid a minimum of \$9 for 8-hour day with advancement possibilities for willing workers. Employer will accept both male and female workers, 16 years of age and up. Single workers live in barracks-type housing, partitioned rooms with no more than 3 workers to a room. The cost for this type of housing and 21 meals each week is \$15. Married workers live in small-frame cottage type buildings equipped with stove, refrigerator and furniture. The cost is \$6 per week for each couple.

Transportation is arranged by crewleader bus on almost a weekly basis; although some funds are on hand to provide transportation by commercial bus. This employment has proved to be satisfactory for 210 State workers employed in this activity so far this season.

Mr. Carver Randle, Negro school teacher from Indianola, will be in a runoff election February 13th for mayor of his town. He came in second out of six candidates, the others white.

Randle will run against D.L. Cole, an insurance agent, who got 448 votes. Randle got 390. The others got 366, 243, 204, and 74.

1725 of the 2522 registered voters went to the polls.

Since January 8th, C.D.G.M. has been operating its Headstart centers with volunteer help. They had asked for \$1.5 million in a special grant to operate until February 29th, but OEO offered only the "bare minimum" of \$1.15 million.

At a board meeting last Saturday, CDGM directors decided to accept the \$1.15 million as long as they would still have the right to try for a full grant later on.

A committee will work out a new proposal for a "Quality program" for the 5,900 children enrolled in 14 counties.

The Atlanta OEO office has said that Mississippi will only get \$31 million a year for such programs, as compared to \$38 million in the past.

CDGM's directors are reported to be ready to fight for what they want. They will meet again February 3rd.

PLEASE SEND US ANY CHANGE IN YOUR ADDRESS, so we don't have to pay when Newsletters are returned.

POLICE BEAT 6
(continued from page one)

LETTER

friends were beaten early Tuesday morning after they were falsely arrested for abusive language and disturbing the peace. They were individually attacked by police after being booked at city police headquarters.

Miss Lenore Brewer of the Political Action Committee said, "If we're going to survive as a race, we're going to have to function as a race. These incidents affect me. We must find methods of stopping these things from occurring."

Howard Spencer, chairman of P.A.C., said that "to take part in the court system is to take part in a highly structured game. Even if the police were to be expelled from the force, it wouldn't change the nature of the police. The police force has declared war on black people, but this is not a new occurrence. When they touch one of us, they touch us all. We have been told of the 'evils of black defense' and that we 'must be nonviolent.' The Klan now wears a blue uniform with a star up here. We have never used self-defense like we're going to in times to come."

It is reported that the five young men decided to forfeit their own bonds and will not press charges against the police. Mr. Wells goes back to court this afternoon on one of the "charges" against him.

SIX MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL DISTRICTS will lose federal funds February 7th for discriminating against Negro students. The districts are Coffeeville Consolidated, Lumberton Line Consolidated, Picayune Municipal Perry County, Wayne County, and Scott County.

To the F.I.S.

Well this is the first news I am reporting. This is the truth. And it is important to be known. This young man William Ham Castelle has been carrying mail over 10 years. And he gave me this statement Sunday at church. This is what he had writing on a piece of paper. (This is the paper.)

Praise the Lord!

On January 13th I was promoted 3 levels to the position of Accounting Assistant. - First Negro Supervisor in Jackson Post Office.

You may put this in the Miss. Newsletter.

This is from yours truly
Seth Ballard
Flora, Miss.

For the second year in a row, we have gotten a polite run-around from the State Department of Education when we've asked about the school trustee elections. The problem seems to be that they just don't know much about what's going on.

So people who live in Municipal Separate School Districts should contact their county superintendent for information on whether an election will be held for a trustee this year.

There will be at least one person elected in each consolidated district, but you check to see if any unexpired term will also be filled.