



MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



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DELTA OPPORTUNITIES: JOB TRAINING

Nearly 50 adults from the Mississippi Delta are taking part in basic education and vocational training under OEO and private grants to Delta Opportunities, Inc. According to Mr. McKinley Martin of Clarksdale, the project director, the training is mainly designed for men 21-55 years old who are heads of families and who earned at least half of their income last year from agriculture. Also, men 16-21 who are married or who are the main support for their mothers are also able to take part.

During 8-10 months of training, the men will receive \$26-30 a week as a training allowance. They will learn carpentry, brick masonry, plumbing, or electrical wiring and gradually build 50 houses, for their own families. After the training period they should be able to earn from the minimum wage up to about \$3.00 an hour on regular jobs. They will be expected to pay about \$3,500 for the materials that went into their own houses, after they begin earning money on their new jobs.

The houses will be built on 80 acres of land near Greenville. Each family will have a house and one acre of land, and roads, sewage disposal, a community center, laundry, and store will also be built in the community.

Mr. Martin says that 25 other people can be trained and paid in the program and Delta Opportunities will try to help them get FHA loans to build homes. Also, up to 75 other men can be trained without pay and helped to find jobs afterward.

You can get more information on Delta Opportunities by writing to Mr. McKinley Martin at Box 478, Greenville, Mississippi 38701.

Students Killed by S.C. Cops | All or None

Three Negro students at South Carolina State College were killed Thursday, Feb. 8 by police and National Guardsmen firing on a protest demonstration. (20 students had been arrested Feb. 6 after they tried to go to an all-white bowling alley.) A fact sheet from S.N.C.C. says that "National Guardsmen, claiming that they were fired upon, charged into the crowd of students, firing at random. The students, seeking cover, fell to the ground. The Guardsmen continued firing. Practically all students shot were laying on the ground, face down, and were shot in the back." 30 were arrested, and 10 were in hospitals. The college was closed.

A Millsaps College physical education class has been cancelled after a Negro student tried to enroll for bowling. The class takes place at a local, segregated bowling alley. The student was first told she could not take the course. When she complained, the course was cancelled.

THE BLACK POLITICAL PRISONER #1

Continued from last week

Published by Black GIs

Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Part Two: WHO IS OUR OPPRESSOR ?

I am an American black man living in the white man's land. Governed by the white man's laws. There are many nationalities: Germans, Italians, Jews, Poles, Hungarians, and the Afro-Americans.

Who was here first? Who stole the land looking for freedom? And if freedom was the basic goal why were slaves the first thing the oppressor sought and brought to this country? Where did he get the slaves and what were their nationality? Ask yourselves these questions and think hard to find the answers, brothers. Maybe you might find out where the name Negro cam from. I know because I know who my oppressor is. He is any man in the U.S. with a white face.

The time is now. Unite and there will be justice, freedom and liberty. Do not unite and your fate may be slavery for the rest of your life.

III. DESPAIR

by Alton "Akinsheg an" Jones, Jr.

What is despair?

Confusion, knowing not
What to do, feeling
the hunger for deep
Meditation too....

What is despair?

Debased and let down by
His fellow "man's inhumanity
to man." Where sadism is the happening!
Love is square!
Blood brings laughter, tears
Bring orgasm and conquest is virtue.

What is despair?

Money is god; Oh praise be to
currency, that we should kill,
die for you. When some are
Deferred 'cause god is on their
side.

What is despair?

Mothers weeping, children keeping,
Rats for teddy bears!...
"Aren't we our brother's keeper?"
Hell no! each man should be
His own keeper. Perhaps by chance, he
cannot be, tough shit!

Thank You!
to Readers
who have
helped us
pay some of
our bills.

What is despair?

We must fight these fights,
Without fright. Write,
talk, debate,
These being a start. To be
ever on
Guard for "big brother" and
little
sister censorship.

What is despair?

Homo-sapiens*

*Man.

C O R D E L I A ' S C O L U M N

by Cordelia Nikkalaos

This is a new thing for the News-
letter. Please let us know if you
like it. It will be mostly reports
from news that I hear from other
countries on the short wave radio,
and a little of what I think about
some of it.

One thing I feel strongly about
is that peoples and countries have
a right to be called by their own
names, even as individual people do.
When a great man who had "Cassius
Clay" on his birth certificate de-
cided that he wanted his name to be
"Muhammed Ali," those of us who
respect him began to call him by
that name. The Man's papers and TV
still call him "Cassius Clay" and
say that he is no longer the world
champion. We know better.

I was reminded of this last week
when it was reported that the Demo-
cratic Peoples Republic of Korea
had taken their team out of the
Winter Olympic Games because the
Olympics Committee would not put
the proper name in the printed pro-
gram, but instead put "North Korea."

We, who get angry when a southern
white person calls a black lady
"Mary" or "Auntie," instead of "Mrs.
Jones," or refers to black people as
"niggers", allow The Man's press to
teach us to call the People's Liber-
ation Armed Forces the "Viet Cong"
or "Red Guerrillas" or the like, and
the Democratic People's Republic of
Vietnam, "Communist North Vietnam,"
and so on for everybody that The
Man doesn't like.

One thing I have learned: The
People's Liberation Armed Forces in
South Vietnam and the people of the
Democratic Peoples' Republic of Viet-
nam are beating the United States of
America and will soon send the U.S.
Army, Marines, and all the rest run-
ning for home. All the world press -
except that of the USA and the coun-
tries it runs - are saying this.

For example, out of 12,000 cities,
towns, and villages in South Vietnam,
the U.S. and the government it set up
there control only 168. The capital

"TO SAVE THE CHILDREN"

A mass meeting has been called
for Saturday, Feb. 24 to discuss the
big problems independent Headstart
programs are having in Mississippi.

The new Committee to Save the
Children of Miss. includes people
from CDGM, Friends of the Children,
TCCA, and Headstarts in Bolivar, Sun-
flower, Panola, Tallahatchie, and
Washington counties. They are getting
together to draw national attention
to the need for more federal funds
and to the danger of being taken over
by Community Action Agencies control-
ed by local power structures.

The new danger is from a 1967
law passed by Congress. The "Green
Amendment" (named for "good liberal"
Edith Green of Oregon) says that by
1969, OEO can turn over to Community
Action Agencies any program that is
now operating in the same area.

CDGM has received some stiff
new instructions from OEO and
apparently will have to cut one
of every four children out of the
program. MAP is also to be cut,
but is not part of the Committee.

The February 24th meeting will
be at College Park Auditorium in
Jackson.

city of Saigon is more than half
lost to the U.S. The wives of the
South Vietnamese "President" and
"Vice-President" and of the Saigon
Chief of Police have left the
country, and Japan has warned its
citizens to leave. The people of
the Democratic Peoples' Republic
of Vietnam ("North Vietnam") have
shot down 2,759 U.S. planes - 3 of
them in the first five minutes of
a big bombing raid on the capital
city of Hanoi. In "South Vietnam"
19,000 Marines are trapped inside
their big camp at Khe Sanh. And
so it goes. Do you think these
kinds of things show that the
people of Vietnam - whatever any-
body calls them - are losing and
that the United States is
winning?

TCCA FAN MAIL

Dear F.I.S.

On January 26, 1968, the TCCA (Tri-County Community Association) called adjacent County-Wide-Meeting at the Court House in Magnolia, Mississippi.

622 people registered at that meeting. The Chairman of the TCCA Rev. W.F. Summers was the Guest Speaker. The Negroes in these adjacent Counties are ready to stand together and move forward say "Hell No to the wrong doers."

Summers said "We are tired of furnishing black youngens for rich white folks to have head-starts. The Congregation cheered. Summers said we're not furnishing any more poor black children because our children are too important to be used as a tool to make some else a PAYDAY."

The Executive Board voted 100% to stand with Summers in this struggle. Summers said, "Negroes have stood still and held their hand too long." The time have come that they should stand up and rebel against this slavery which is forced up on them and remember one thing: a 45 will shoot as hard from a black finger as it will from a white finger.

Summers is asking every Negro in the 3rd congressional district to support Mr. Charles Evers on February 27 for congressman. Summers said Evers is the man we need, "Because he have stood up to help the poor to obtain their rights." Summers said that Evers is not a race man but a man that represent the people regardless to whether they are black or white. Summers said that Mr. Evers could do a good job. Remember if he don't do but one thing for the negroes in Mississippi it would be more than have been done. Summers is standing 100% with Evers. Remember on February 27 vote for Charles Evers.

Sincerely Yours,
Mrs. Ruby M. Turner
Magnolia, Mississippi

Dear F.I.S.

The TCCA workers of the Walkers Chapel Center have enjoyed working although we haven't received any aid from any source what ever but still we are struggling to help our children. The children enjoy the great efforts Rev. Summers have put forth to help the poor people.

The TCCA feel that Rev. Summers has done a tremendous job in an attempt to help us help ourselves. We feel that there are few men who will come into a strange place to help strangers. He has truly put forth a lot of efforts to the cause.

Chairman of the Walker
Chapel Center
Mrs. Henrette Dodds
McComb, Mississippi

Dear F.I.S. Readers:

The people of Walthall County are working very hard trying to keep the TCCA Headstart centers going. It is getting harder and harder for the people to operate these centers without any funds. We have kept the faith to keep on working.

With the help of our advisor. The Rev. Summers is doing a good job working with the poor people of our county, With this program more poor people with less learning have been able to work and find a space in life that they are able to feel that they too can contribute their service to their community.

We have other poverty program but they only reach a small margin of the poverty stricken people of our area.

The Rev. Summers is trying to bring peace and relationship between all people although some people criticize his work and that is the way it work with people that is trying to do a good job.

(continued on page 6)

BOYCOTT ARREST

From the Hinds County FDP News:

Rev. John L. Brown was arrested at Mixon Jr. High School at 10:45 am Thursday (Feb. 8) and taken to the county jail at Jackson. He was charged with interfering with business. He was bonded out by his daughter. Rev. Brown said the deputies treated him carefully but they refused to let him call from the time of his arrest until his release. As he was being led out of the school, Percy Price, a 3rd beat county barn employee, yelled out "That's a bad nigger. You better watch him!"

The boycott in Utica has forced the Dollar Store and a Discount store out of business. Trucks were seen moving the stock out of the stores recently. The boycott began six months ago against the F&S Superette but the Utica FDP-NAACP group voted unanimously to extend the boycott to the entire town on Dec. 22.

Rev. Brown said that the highway patrol stopped him at a roadblock Saturday night and other lawmen stopped him Wednesday night after the regular community meeting at Strawbridge Church. He said, "They could have arrested me along with the others (Mr. K.E. Watts and Mr. Gerald Lee, both boycott leaders) on Wednesday but they wanted to make a big show at the school."

Rev. Brown said, "This will make me more determined. I have been pushed around too long now. I know that what we are doing is right and should have been done long ago. This boycott is hurting them but by arresting me they made matters worse. They're going to have to wait 30 days now if they want to see me about any negotiations. We're going to have to teach them a lesson."

Rev. Brown, a former principal, has taught 17 years and was a candidate for 3rd beat supervisor last November. He was disqualified for harassment reasons and is fighting the case in court.

White Gets 15 Years

A white man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to killing a Negro man near Fayette last year.

Cecil Kling, 50, was taken to court on murder charges after he shot Samuel O'Neil Carroll, 57, shortly after the Democratic primaries in which four Negroes won office in rural Jefferson County.

Poetry Workshop

A five-week workshop for people who write poems is being held three times a week at Tougaloo College. The workshop meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons at 4 pm in Room 25 of the library building.

The leader of the workshop is the poet Audre Lorde, a proud black woman who said, "Nothing 'turns me on' as much as people writing."

The people in the workshop this week were mostly students at the college, but Miss Lorde welcomes anyone who is interested in writing poetry.

If you are interested, bring some of your writing, even if you don't have anything you call "finished" or "ready." Bring it with you. If you can't come at workshop time, try to come another time. Miss Lorde is staying in Beard Hall, room 25.

If you can't come to Tougaloo, send some of your work in the mail. The address is

Poetry Workshop
Tougaloo College
Tougaloo, Miss. 39174

Next week we'll print some poems from the workshop.

Miles in Runoff

Mr. Robert J. Miles, long-time worker in civil rights and the Panola County okra co-operative, got the highest number of votes of 12 candidates for Beat 5 Supervisor in a special election Tuesday, February 13th.

Mr. Miles got 897 votes out of 3,333 votes cast. He will be in a run-off February 27th against former sheriff James L. Travis, Jr.

Something to Riot About?

Governor John Bell Williams is asking the Mississippi Legislature to continue a 1964 law that gives the Highway Patrol powers to control riots, "mob violence," and other acts which "threaten domestic tranquility."

Though he hasn't suggested much that will help people live better, Gov. Williams says that "peace and orderliness in Mississippi is a grave responsibility and it cannot be taken lightly." The governor must think there is reason for a lot of people to get dissatisfied and un-peaceful.

Tate, Randle Lose

Black candidates lost in two other elections recently.

In Holmes County, Mr. L.C. Tate ran February 13th for Justice of the Peace in Beat 3. He lost to a Mrs. Dixon, 580 to 298.

In the special election runoff for mayor of Indianola, Mr. Carver Randle lost to D.L. Cole by 1,318 to 536.

T.C.C.A. Fan Mail, continued from p. 4

With stones and thistles in his path Rev. Summers have prayed and climbed up the ladder of progress high enough for the people of the negro race to see the value of equal rights and are trying to follow the example of Rev. Summers.

We have come a long way but we know we have not won the VICTORY so let us the TCCA and all who believe in the TCCA to keep TRUSTING, KEEP PRAYING, KEEP BELIEVEING, and we'll reach the GOAL of SUCCESS.

We are hoping that the Rev. Summers will stay with us for a long, long time, because he have brought unity between thousands of people in 6 (six) Counties to the TCCA.

Mrs. Otto Walker
Tylertown, Mississippi

The Other Side of the Story

Although we are glad to print all letters sent to FIS, we have heard so many things about the TCCA that we feel it is only fair to all our readers to let you know that some people disagree with the writers of the three letters above.

It is reported that each of the TCCA centers pays \$10. a month to Rev. Summers. He gives some money to a few ministers who work with him and keeps the rest. At least one man from the area believes that Rev. Summers doesn't really want to get federal money for the program, because he is not qualified to be the director and control would be taken away from him. Frankly, all indications we have are that the proper procedures to get federal money simply have not been followed. There is also evidence that some of the whites from the area who were named as TCCA board members did not know their names were on the list.

We do not want to set off a whole lot of ugly talk by this report. But we want to make it clear that there seems to be another side to the story from that which has been told so far. We welcome letters from other readers in the TCCA area as to how they feel about the program and its leadership.

THE BLACK ANTI-WAR/ANTI-DRAFT UNION HAS CALLED FOR A NATIONAL STRIKE OF BLACK PEOPLE (no school, no work) ON FEBRUARY 21st AS A MEMORIAL TO BROTHER MALCOLM X.