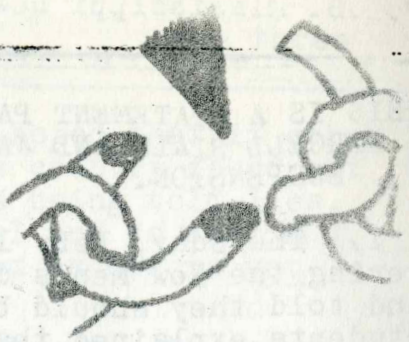
FREEDOM INFORMATION SERVICE



MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



Number Forty-Nine - Box 120, Tougaloo, Ms 39174 - February 23, 1968

ALCORN STUDENTS SPEAK

A disciplinary committee hearing is scheduled for tonight in the case of three Negro students suspended last week from Alcorn A&M College. A statement by the students about the circumstances is printed on page two.

The students held a press conference in Jackson.Thursday, along with Professor Glasgow and Lawrence Guyot of MFDP, campaign manager for Charles Evers. They explained that after being "escorted" off the campus, they took a bus to Jackson. "When some students invited us back to the campus to tell our side of the story on Sunday night, Feb. 18, we were run off the campus. In fact, Percell Rials, who was speaking when the Security officers and Deans Bolden and Waters came on the scene, was physically carried out of the meeting room.

"We have been charged with being drunk in front of President Boyd. This is false. It is also untrue that we used profane language in his presence or were insubordinate. Our "insubordination" consisted of the exercise of a basic American freedom, the handing over of a card supporting a candidate for Congress."

LATE NEWS

- It is reported that hundreds of Black students are on their way to Richmond, Virginia, today to protect H. Rap Brown, of SNCC, who has to go into court there.
- The NAACP in Louisiana plans to have ~~100,000~~ people demonstrate and march "to force compliance with those (civil rights) laws already on the books."
- Over 1,000 striking garbagemen sat in for 4 hours at the Memphis City Hall on Thursday, after an 11-day strike.
- The AFL-CIO is supporting 60,000 striking copper miners by calling a strike of longshoremen who handle millions of dollars worth of copper from other countries.

The students returned to campus Tuesday and they and Prof. Glasgow (the only white Mississippian teaching at Alcorn) were allowed to speak to the students. When they finished explaining what had happened to them, Dean of Students James L. Bolden gave each of them a letter dated Sunday. The letter seemed to be a warning to the students not to repeat their activities of the last week, as though they were still in good standing and had never been forced off the campus. Glasgow said it "appeared to be an attempt by the administration to say that nothing had really happened." He said there were "no harsh words" at the Tuesday meeting, and instead of "seizing control" as they have been accused, the students spoke without inter-

3rd DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL VOTE is TUES. Feb. 27

THIS IS A STATEMENT PASSED OUT AT ALCORN A&M COLLEGE BY CEPHAS RIALS, PERCELL RIALS AND JAMES BISHOP GIVING THE FACTS CONCERNING THEIR SUSPENSION.

1. Thursday, Feb. 15, 1968, as James Bishop and Percell Rials were entering the New Men's dorm., they were stopped by a campus security officer and told they should be in a meeting with the Dean of Students. The students explained that they are not freshmen and, consequently did not have to be in the meeting. Asked for his I.D. Card, Mr. Bishop explained he had lost it. Asked again, he handed the officer a Charles Evers for Congress Campaign Card. These two students were then taken to officer Maxwell who took them to President Boyd's house. The president bawled the students out. The substance of Mr. Boyd's complaints was his anger concerning the Evers card and not any other act the student had allegedly committed. Mr. Boyd cited Mr. Bishop to appear before the disciplinary committee on Monday. Mr. Percell Rials, who had merely accompanied his friend, was also cited.

2. Friday, Feb. 16, 1968: Percell Rials and James Bishop were told by Dean Bolden that they were to appear before the committee on Monday charged with insubordination to the president. They with Percell Rials brother, Cephas, went to try to discuss the charge with the president and were ordered to leave the premises.

3. About an hour later, all three students were rounded up by campus police, taken to Dean Bolden, informed they were suspended already, and rushed off campus under police escort. When the students asked about their scheduled hearing, they were told they would have to write a letter requesting it later. Parents were not informed.

4. Saturday, Feb. 17, 1968, a member of the faculty, Mr. Keith H. Glasgow, who had been observed handing out some of candidate Evers's cards, was visited by Dean Bolden under the President's orders and intimidated concerning his political activity. It is Mr. Glasgow's impression that his job security was being threatened.

5. Lawsuits are being prepared against Mr. Boyd and Alcorn A&M College seeking reinstatement of the students by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under the Law. Attorneys have attempted to speak with Mr. Boyd by telephone and he has discourteously hung up.

6. Sunday evening Mr. Bishop's mother telephoned President Boyd in an attempt to learn her son's whereabouts and the reason for his suspension. His tone with her was so insulting she was compelled to hang up.

7. IMPORTANT: It is requested that any student activity in sympathy with the suspended students be conducted in an orderly manner without any violence or destruction of property.

(Note: Later, lawyers were able to speak with President Boyd.)

ALCORN STUDENTS SPEAK (continued from page 1)

ruption during a period set aside for "announcements at a regular Tuesday assembly. That evening, after the three had left campus again, other students were standing around outside after a meeting they had attended. Security police reportedly started shooting at or over them. Rocks, bricks, and bottles were thrown back by the students. Then the Highway Patrol came on campus. About midnight or 1 am the three suspended students returned, after being harrassed by patrolmen who stopped them on the way. The campus was quiet and students asleep. Police fired tear gas into dorms (it's reported they heard a meeting was going on). As students ran out in their underwear to escape the gas, they were beaten by police. Bricks and bottles were again thrown, and the police started shooting. Large numbers of police and dogs remain at the campus. Representative Robert Clark and the American Assn. of University Professors are investigating the incidents and educational situation at Alcorn. More on this next week.

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

by Cordelia Nikkalaos

The first of these columns was in the Newsletter last week. That one talked about calling people and countries by their chosen names. It also called a name wrong. I confused the names of the free republics in the northern parts of Korea and Vietnam. The Korean name was right, but the right name for the other is "Democratic Republic of Vietnam."

And in the southern part of Vietnam, the People's Liberation Armed Forces (which the Man's TV and papers call the "Viet Cong") goes on beating the U.S. Army and Marines. Some big U.S. camps are reported to have only enough food for three more days. That means that by the time you read this they will have none. Then maybe some of them will join the more than 200,000 soldiers of the U.S.-operated South Vietnamese Army who have left that army and joined their people in the fight to get the United States out of their country.

Some people we never expected to hear it from are now saying: "Get out of Vietnam." One of these is the radio newsman, Paul Harvey. He is no friend of ours, and he feels pretty bad to find himself agreeing with us about anything. But he has done this; he used his whole program last Saturday to say why he has come to think this way. What it comes to is that the United States never had any business there; the people of Vietnam do not want us there, and we are killing Americans and Vietnamese (and going broke, too) for nothing. There's more to both his reasons and ours, of course, but that's the general idea. But it makes me wonder if something I once thought might really be true. You see, when I first found out that some very important things that I had been taught were just not true, I did two things. I got very angry, and I started to question a lot of other things. And I hoped that if other people in this country found out that they were being told lies, they would feel and do as I had. The big problem is how to get them to see.

* * * *

The horrible massacre of students in Orangeburg, South Carolina, and the vicious attack on the Alcorn students raise several questions:

The most important question is: how much more will people take? When people just get too much and really come together and fight back, what will happen? The Alcorn student who told the story for the TV movie about the attack gave an idea of this. He said that most of the students had not been interested in the protest until the National Guardsmen started breaking heads, and then they got into it.

Another question is: if the Man takes such severe measures over such small issues as a bowling alley and a few pieces of campaign literature, what will they do when folks start really serious business?

Finally, maybe I have an evil mind, but it seems to me that in the Alcorn scene there were some strange things going on. During the week or two before, there were news stories of a scandal about the supplying of gas to the Alcorn campus. One Mississippi lawmaker said that it was important to keep Alcorn College open, because if it was closed those students would enter other schools, where they were not wanted. Also, there is now a bill in the state legislature to renew the powers that the State has to send Highway Patrolmen to "help" local cops keep "order" in "racial disturbances." Now, the student who told the story on TV said that all was quiet when the Patrol started the trouble. What does that say to you?

(continued on page five)

MARION COUNTY NEWS

We are sorry to say we had to discontinue our headstart centers. We wanted to go on but we are poor people. We could not get fund to help carry on. We had to dissapoint so many little children that realy like our headstart, But we could not do it without funds.

In Marion County we also have people need. They can't buy food stamps because they are to high. We plain to get together and try to help our selves. Could you give us some idea how to go about it?

We realy need more Negros to stand up and help them selves and stop looking for some one else to fight for them.

Reporter: Mrs. Lucille Dukes

* * *

Dear F.I.S.

I am working with the T.C.C.A. Rev. W.F. Summer is our Leader. He is trying to help we poor people. We wanted a Headstart school. We been working 10 month with out pay.

We have a bad public school, crowded class rooms. We peoples need better school in Walthall County. Please send me some of your information.

Mrs. Acey Jenkins
Jayess, Miss.

THE BLACK POLITICAL PRISONER #1

Published by Black GI's at Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Part Four

BLACK MAN IN A WHITE ARMY

There were nineteen of us that day last October when we prepared to leave for the induction station. "Too bad none of the white 'citizens' in this county could qualify for the New Action Army," one of the nineteen Black men said jokingly. Sadly, it is no joking matter when Black men are exploited, oppressed, and legally murdered and denied the right to participate in the making of their destinies. Only in time of war do Black men suddenly become "citizens" with "duties" to God and country. We are then expected to help put other colored people under the political and economic control of this whitemacracy that they call a democracy.

Brothers, we have had "bit" roles in the power structure. For too long we have nothing but background scenery for Mr. Charlie. Now we have something to say, and we are going to say it loud enough for the whole world to hear.

As a Black man in the white army, I cannot help but feel like a Black mercenary fighting to maintain a white privileged class rather than for the political freedom of Black people. All across the land, Black men in and out of the white military complex are calling for new action in the promotion of Black freedom. Honkey had better get right or suffer the consequences.

The FREE CHOICE period for Most Miss SCHOOLS is MARCH 1-31st. Sign school choice forms (for school de-segregation) during March..

You can get information and legal help from: INC. FUND, 538½ North Farish St., JACKSON, Ms.

Poetry Workshop

The Poetry Workshop at Tougaloo College has completed two of its five weeks. It meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4 P.M. in room 24 of the Library building.

All writers of poems are welcome to come or to send some of their poems. Some Newsletter readers have already done this, and after Audre Lorde, the poet-director of the workshop, answers these poets' letters and gets their permission to use their works, they will be printed here.

Here are some poems from last week's meetings. They are by a writer who signs her works "PAM."

Poem 1

A wicked white lady
Awoke the dead for Bell
Killed a few black voters
To make the elections well.

Poem 2

When
will
white folks learn
that they can't
pull the wool over black folks' eyes when black weavers spun the wool and black seamstresses taught them
how to use it?

ATTENTION SMALL FARMERS (from p 6)

Also, you should apply for an increase in your allotment on ASCS form MQ-30. If you have an allotment of 10 acres or less - do not apply for so many acres that your acreage will be over 10 in all. If you have an allotment of more than 10 acres, apply for as many acres as you need and are equipped to crop.

See Bob Fitzpatrick, Lawyers Committee, 233 North Farish Street, Jackson, Miss., or your local ASCS office for more information. Lawyers Committee phone number is 948-5400.

CORDELIA'S COLUMN

(continued from page three)

News Items:

Algeria is the latest of several African countries to say that it will not send athletes to the Olympic Games in Mexico City. The reason is that the Olympic Committee let South Africa back into the Games, and South Africa treats Black people worse than any place in the world. Of course, there is also a boycott of the Olympics by Black athletes from the USA, who do not want to be used by the U.S. government as a "commercial" for what a good place this is for Black people.

In Honduras, in Central America, 600 farmers who had no land took over a big private estate. The government there is trying to get them out, but says they are "well-organized."

February 21, the day on which Brother Malcolm X was killed in 1965, was also the day in 1934 when the leader of the liberation struggle in Nicaragua (in Central America), Augusto Sandino, was murdered by the father of the present dictator of that country, Samoza.

Dear F.I.S.

This is to certify that we the Web Chapel T.C.C.A. Head Start Center send love and greeting to you. We were organized July 5th, 1967. We are getting along fine. We enjoy working with the children. They seem to be very happy. We are working hard and praying that this organization will be approved soon in order that we may do more and better work. This done by the order of the above name center.

Mrs. Willie Mae Vick, secretary
Rev. W.F. Summers, counciler

P.S. We have a grand total of about 1,800 children in our organization.

around the state

There are six Black candidates for School Trustees in the March 2nd elections.

They are:
Mr. George McGee, of north Pike Co.
Mrs. Hattie Lee Turner, west Tallahatchie County
and from Bolivar County,
Catrel Hall, Rosedale
Rev. J.W. Fairman, Cleveland
William Lucas, Sr., Mound Bayou
Rev. W.L. Jones, Shelby

All of these elections are in consolidated districts, where one trustee is elected every year. The last day to qualify as a candidate was Wednesday.

You can get more information on the election in your district from Rev. Rims Barber, Delta Ministry, Box 457, Greenville, Miss. or by calling him at 334-4587.

Members of the Political Action Committee at Tougaloo College spoke to students Wednesday about Malcolm X, who was killed three years ago. At supper, they played a recording of his called "Ballots and Bullets."

On February 7th the Wilkinson County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution saying that if the Negro boycotts in Woodville and Centreville are ended, the Board will hire one Negro County Road Patrolman. Also, they will clean up the county jail and put in a telephone, allow bail on Sundays, pay for a free school lunch program, allow beer to be sold until 9 pm instead of the present 6 pm. All these changes will be in effect "so long as there is no Negro boycott."

This resolution was suggested by Negro supervisor James Jolliff, Jr. of Beat 1, and signed by him and the four white supervisors.

New York City is going to spend $100,000 to give each city school a "hot line" (direct telephone) to the local police station.

ATTENTION SMALL FARMERS

If you have a cotten allotment of 10 acres or less, or if your projected production (allotment times projected yield) is less than 3,600 pounds, and you do not release any acres for reapportionment - you can receive special ASCS benefits this crop year.

You need not divert any acres in order to receive a diversion payment.

For example - if you have an allotment of 10 acres and a projected yield of 300 pounds - you will receive $341.66 in addition to your production.

On 65% (6.5 acres) of allotment of 10 acres you are eligible for a price-support payment of 12.24 cents per pound on projected yield. So you would receive $238.68 on that 6.5 acres.

On 35 % (3.5 acres) of the allotment you are eligible for a small farm diversion payment even though no acreage is actually diverted.

You will be paid 10.76 cents per pound on projected yield for the 3.5 acres even though you didn't divert it and planted it. You would receive an ASCS check for $112.98 on that 3.5 acres.

So, by planting the whole allotment you already have $238.68. This year like last year, cotton will be scarce and the price high. You would have a full 10 acres planted to cotton. ASCS would pay you around 20.25 cents per pound for cotton production. So if you produced 3,000 pounds on those 10 acres - you would get about $607.50. On the open market you might get a better price than 20.25 cents or you could put it under ASCS loan and sell it later in the year or even in 1969 at a higher price.

If you are a small farmer - you should indicate in writing to ASCS that you want to participate, but that you are not going to divert any acres.

The sign-up period began on February 5 and continues until March 15.

(continued on page 5)