FREEDOM INFORMATION SERVICE

MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER

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EVERS will be in Runoff on MARCH 12

Charles Evers got the most votes of any candidate in Tuesday's Third Congressional District election, and he will be a run-off contest on March 12 with Charles Griffin, former assistant to John Bell Williams. Evers got a total of 33,713 votes to 28,806 for Griffin. Evers carried the five counties in which he has worked the most: Adams, Claiborne, Copiah, Jefferson, and Wilkinson.

Evers' vote was somewhat less than half of the approximately 70,000 Negroes registered in the District. About one out of three Negroes in the District old enough to vote cast ballots for him. His vote was about the same percentage of the registered voters as candidates got in 1966. The figures for each county are on page four.

It is estimated that Evers got about 1 per cent of the white vote in Jackson, probably because he was the only candidate who took a "dove" - get out of Vietnam - position on the war.

On Thursday, Evers held a press conference to speak against charges made by Charles Griffin that Evers is a "left-wing extremist." Evers called the charge " a direct slap at my character, a direct slap at what my platform has stood for, and a direct slap at the American way of life. I challenge my opponent to meet me in a face-to-face debate and prove to me that I'm a left-winger.... If being a left-winger means to believe that poor people should have some representation in Washington, should have jobs and a good education, then maybe he's right.... I challenge anyone who says I'm not a true American."

Evers said that his opponent has been a "run-around flunky for the man who is now governor" and that Griffin has "no program."

He said that the election "proved that Negroes have to be dealt with. We have challenged the power structure." He said his biggest surprise was in carrying Watkins home county of Adams.

Following is Evers planned speaking schedule. Check with your local campaign office for time and place.

Thurs., Feb. 29 - Fayette
Fri., March 1 - Wilkinson Co.
Sat., March 2 - Adams
Sun., March 3 - Hinds, Jackson
Mon., March 4 - Hinds, Jackson
Tues., March 5 - Miss. College and Claiborne Co.
Wed., March 6 - Walthall, Amite, Pike area
Thurs., March 7 - Jackson
Fri., March 8 - Vicksburg
Sat., March 9 - Brookhaven, Wesson, Crystal Springs, Hazlehurst, Terry, Farish St. (Jackson)
Sun., March 10 - same as Mar. 6
Mon., March 11 - Jackson

What Good is a Headstart Center to a Community?

A headstart center plays a great part in up-building the community.

It will learn the little one as well as the big ones how to cooperate with other people.

A child that have been to headstart centers before they start to regular school are ready to work with other students of their size and age.

If people would send their children to the community headstart centers it will help to cut out some of this wrong doing, felony and misdemeanor crimes. If a child starts to learning right from wrong when he is young it would become a part of him.

A headstart center will also help to upbuild the community and the society financially. By this I mean the poor people (as we all are) will have a chance to get some of the urgent necessities that we need.

Some of the poor parents if they could work in a headstart center it would really be of great help, because some don't have the education to get other jobs.

A child that has been to headstart learns some health rules and table manners.

He learns to be obedience to others and respect people no matter of age.

A child that has been to headstart learns to adjust to the society in which he lives.

In my conclusion, a headstart center would be a stepping stone in up-building the community socially, physically, and financially.

I'm a worker for the T.C.C.A.

Gertrude Holmes
Tylertown, Miss.

2/23/68

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Dear F.I.S.:

I am working with the T.C.C.A. Headstart School. I have enjoyed working with them. It has very much improvement to the children. They has learned how to associate with each other. Many other things they has learned.

It has been a lot of help to the children also to the adults workers working together.

Mrs. Maggie Foxworth
Jayess, Miss.
Hope Center, Walthall County

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Dear F.I.S.:

I am so grateful to you all for the newsletter. I am write you concerning the city of Jackson. The welfare want us to buy food stamps, but is not giving no more money. Why would the Negros buy stamps and cannot get the amount in money. The store keeper will be sent the money for the stamps. That is keeping the money out of the Black man hand. The president and the governor want to keep the Negros boys from growing up, but no soon they come 18 the President call them to war saying Fight for your Country. The poor Negros boys grow up half-fed, undernourished and make go to school hungry and cold, no books. The white children have book to burn up in thire school. I want to no one thing - Why Black children can't have the thing need in thire school like the white school.

Mrs. Pearl Singleton
Jackson, Miss. 39209

Dear Mrs. Singleton:

This may sound like a hard answer to your question, but - Black children can't have what they need because rich white folks have all the power. When are Black people going to take the Power?

A Friend

by Rep. Robert G. Clark

I have recently begun to introduce a series of bills into the Mississippi Legislature which are a part of the state reform campaign which I ran on.

I introduced a bill into the House which would allow the State of Mississippi to make adequate provision for its dependent children by letting the welfare department provide not over $50. per month per child.

Another bill would allow migrant workers to vote absentee ballots. Several other bills have been introduced which would allow for absnetee voting, but not any of them covers the migrant workers. Many of our best and most concerned citizens are migrant laborers. They must do this work to provide for their families; therefore, they should have the same voting opportunity as those workers covered in the other bills.

I've introduced an amendment to a bill, which would take one week from the present Holmes county court in January and add it to the September term. This would result in two 12-day terms of court and therefore in more efficient operation.

Our forestry services are very inadequately staffed during the peak forest fire months of the year. I am therefore in the process of taking legislative action to make the necessary correction.

A bill which I introduced to give tenure to school teachers has been referred to a sub-committee for consideration. I will be trying to get the support of the Mississippi Education Association and the State Education Department to help get this bill through. I already have the Mississippi Teachers Association's endorsement for the bill.

A bill was passed in the House Thursday which allows towns to support or help support the Food Stamp program. Contributions can be made from the general town funds or from local sales taxes.

This bill does give white office-holders a certain amount of control over the program. But it also means that Negroes can bring pressure on their local officials to give this help so that all those who need Food Stamps can get them. This bill is now being sent to the Mississippi Senate for its approval.

I had a wonderful reception at the University of Mississippi in Oxford on Wednesday night. The Young Democrats asked me to speak, and they say that the crowd was the largest they had ever gotten out for a meeting.

For those who might think that I should not speak to groups that don't support F.D.P., I want to say that I'm interested in speaking to any group that asks me to present my ideas to them. For instance, even though I don't go along with all the ideas of the Malcolm X Society in Detroit, which wants a separate black nation in the South, I will speak at their meeting in March. I believe that we must each keep our own identity but for certain causes, we should unite.

On Thursday, March 7, 1968, the National Committee for Free Elections in Mississippi is having a Victory Celebration in my honor in New York City. A similar affair will be held in Washington, D.C. on March 9th.

Several students from Tougaloo College have been helping me in research and office work. We would like to present a decent compulsory school attendance law to the Legislature and one to create a fair and equal standard for paying high school principals. The students are pulling together

(continued on page five)

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

by Cordelia Nikkalaos

The United States government says it will no longer tell how many of its men are killed and wounded in each battle in Vietnam. I have to admit that is better than what they did before, which was to lie.

One man who got home alive said that the way they get away with it is that the families in different parts of the country here never get together, so nobody ever really knows how many other people lost husbands or sons or brothers in the war.

Many more people are now getting the idea that fighting an army is one thing, and fighting a whole people is another. The United States cannot win in Vietnam or anyplace like it (where the people are fighting for their country and their lives) without killing every last man, woman and child in that country. Now, generals and Johnsons may be willing to do that, but most Americans are not. And that includes many of the men who have been trained to do the killing, the soldiers.

In the last few weeks there have been several protests by servicemen. There may have been many more. It is very hard to learn what goes on in those prison camps that are called "Army Camps" or "Marine Bases" or whatever. One protest we do know about was at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. There, some soldiers decided to have a time of prayer and meditation at their chapel. They wanted to think and pray about what they were supposed to do in Vietnam. But they were arrested and dragged away by Military Police.

On the other hand, if some Americans have doubts, many other people do not. The most sure are the people who are fighting to get the United States out of their countries and their lives. For instance:

Some tiny Vietnamese children singing on a record. They sound sweet and innocent. And so they are. But the song is not. It says that the American G.I.'s are brave only when bombing schools, but when they meet the Liberation Fighters they G.I.'s run like rabbits.

All over South and Central America the people are getting together and getting stronger. This week there were bombings of U.S. factories and government offices in Puerto Rico.

And in Guatemala there was another "execution" by the people. This time it was a mayor who served the U.S. and its Guatemalan terrorist government, instead of the people.

The Liberation Front in Mozambique, Africa, has made many attacks on the Portuguese (whites) who rule their country. In December, they killed Portuguese soldiers, destroyed military camps, freed 52 Black prisoners, and captured guns, ammunition, and radio sets.

Votes for EVERS

in the February 27th election:

County		
Adams	4,622*	*means
Amite	1,080	counties
Claiborne	2,071*	where
Copiah	2,426*	Evers
Franklin	668	got more
Hinds	11,378	votes
Jefferson	2,121*	than any
Lincoln	1,189	other
Pike	2,225	candidate
Walthall	780	
Warren	3,364	
Wilkinson	1,789*	
TOTAL	33,713	

Totals for white candidates:

Griffin	28,806	Pigott	8,320
Bodron	22,839	Thompson	7,983
Watkins	10,453	Perkins	2,653

February 23, 1968

URGENT ACTION MEMO

FROM: Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC), Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) and Highlander Research and Education Center

TO: Concerned individuals and organizations

These are the facts:

On Monday, March 4, John Parker, 20, of Houston, Texas, will be tried for murder. Parker is one of five former Texas Southern University students who face the possibility of the death sentence. Trazwell Franklin, Douglas Wayne Waller, Floyd Nichols and Charles Freeman will be brought to trial later on this spring.

The five were arrested in the wake of last spring's police attack on the TSU campus, then charged with felonious rioting and having caused the death of an officer who was killed during the incident. These students are not charged with having actually fired the shots that killed the policeman -- even the state admits this would have been impossible. Instead, they are alleged to have incited the riot in which he was killed. Under Texas law the penalty for this is the same as for first degree murder.

There is no doubt that these black militants were singled out and framed on account of their political activity.

The freedom of all of us is involved in the TSU case. For it signifies an obvious attempt by the power structure to stifle and crush social protest. Such attempts are going on nationwide. They must not be allowed to succeed. If we stand together, we may be able to stop them. Otherwise there is little hope for democracy and justice in this country.

(You can get full information on the incidents at TSU by writing to S.C.E.F., 3210 West Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky 40211. Letters of support can be sent to TSU Five Defense Fund, Box 21085, Houston, Texas 77026.)

(NOTE: There is a bill being considered by the Mississippi Legislature which would make all demonstrators responsible for damage caused as a result of their protest. So some of us may find ourselves in the same situation the Texas students are in!)

by REP. ROBERT G. CLARK (continued from page 3)

information to use in writing these bills, as well as a Newsletter to be sent to those I represent.

Many concerned citizens contacted me last week about the situation at Alcorn College. I am continuing to investigate the uprising there, and am waiting for the results of the disciplinary hearing that was held for the three students on Monday night.

I am very much displeased at the police brutality described to me by some of the students at Alcorn. They report that some students were tear-gassed while in bed and that blackjacks were used on them as they ran out the exits. You can expect to hear a lot more from me on this brutality after I have thoroughly checked out the various reports.

I am anxious to hear from people all over the state of Mississippi who would like to make suggestions concerning laws that should be introduced into the Legislature. You can write to me at this address:

Rep. Robert G. Clark
House Of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

around the state

A disciplinary committee hearing was held for the three Alcorn A&M students accused of cursing and insubordination by President Boyd. A lawyer for the students was allowed to say a few words at the beginning, but then had to stand outside in the hallway while 11 witnesses testified in the nearly six-hour hearing.

The administration admitted that James Bishop was indeed a student, although he had not yet turned in one form, which is due only today, March 1st. Earlier, the administration said Bishop would not get a hearing because he was not really a student.

Over last weekend, Prof. Keith Glasgow, Alcorn's only white Mississippian, was "escorted" off the campus. Shortly before, he had received a letter, dated Thursday when he spoke in a press conference. The letter said he had 24 hours to leave campus, that he was being fired for making "statements disrespectful to the administration."

While Glasgow was attending a party with fellow instructors, 4 Highway Patrolmen and 3 campus security officers entered and told him his 24 hours were up. They threw his belongings into cardboard boxes and took his hunting rifle, which is out of repair. They drove him to Vicksburg, followed by fellow teachers, who were not allowed to ride with Glasgow. The Vicksburg bus station was closed, so the cops put Glasgow's belongings on the sidewalk. Friends picked him up there.

Robert J. Miles of Batesville was defeated Tuesday by a white man in a special runoff election for Beat 5 Supervisor in Panola County. Miles got 1,185 votes, carrying 3 precincts. Former Sheriff James L. Travis, Jr. got 2,561 votes, carrying 9 precincts.

A hearing will be held in Bolivar County chancery court Saturday morning to try to get four Negroes on the ballot that afternoon in school trustee elections in four consolidated districts. The four were disqualified by the county superintendent for supposedly not submitting a required statement with their nominating petitions. The candidates say that the law is unclear as to what procedure is correct. Candidates in other counties were told by the superintendents just how to file properly.

At least two church fires in the Meridian area this week have been deliberately set, according to police.

The head of the National Guard was in Jackson Thursday and said that Guard is prepared for any riots that might take place this summer. A Mississippi Guard official said, "We have all the necessary and basic equipment to do the job of riot control. We're not short on leadership." Every Guard unit has had 32 hours of riot control training since last summer. Mississippi is one of about 40 areas of the country where it is felt trouble might break out.

Lawyers from the Lawyers Committee and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund are appealling separate cases to the Fifth Circuit federal court, trying to get permission to have out-of-state attorneys work on all cases where they are needed. In a hearing before Judge Russell recently, witnesses were not allowed to say why they don't trust local white lawyers. Russell referred to the lawyers as "barbarians" and ruled against the civil rights lawyers.

H. Rap Brown, chairman of SNCC, was moved to a New Orleans jail Thursday, in case he has to be force-fed. Brown has been refusing most food and water since going to jail instead of paying $100,000 bond on federal charges.