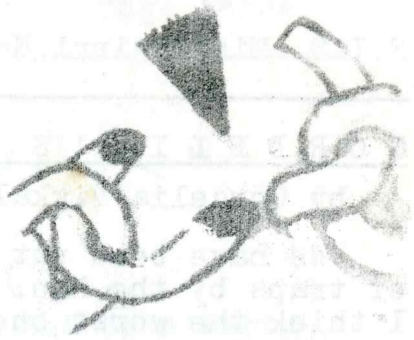
FREEDOM INFORMATION SERVICE



MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



Number Fifty-Two - Box 120, Tougaloo, Miss 39174 - March 22, 1968

The law office of Miss Marian Wright asks you to please READ THIS NOTICE AT ALL COMMUNITY MEETINGS:

Many of us will remember that in 1965 the Mississippi Legislature passed a law which required every child whose parent or legal guardian was not a resident of Miss. to pay tuition before he could be admitted to the public schools.

Although we eventually won a legal battle against the law, many children were forced to pay tuition for several months. We are very pleased to report that the Federal Court on March 4, 1968 ordered all money collected under this law refunded.

The school boards and superintendents must return the money and it should not be necessary to contact them. Sometimes, however, memories are short and records poorly kept: if any person believes that money is due him and has not received it by the end of August he should contact the Superintendent. If you can't get satisfaction then this office is, of course, prepared to help.

Sincerely,
Melvyn R. Leventhal
538½ N. Farish St.
Jackson, Miss.

(948-7301)

THERE WAS NOT A MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER LAST WEEK. We simply did not have any money. Many thanks to those who contributed to make this Newsletter possible. We will need the help of everyone in order to keep on. The next Newsletter will be in two weeks.

LATE NEWS

—A mistrial was declared in Hattiesburg last night as a jury said it could not decide on the case of the second white man charged with the murder of Vernon Dahmer.

—The head of the Mississippi National Guard told about 60 state mayors this morning what to do in case of "civil disturbances"in their cities. He said 13,000 Guardsmen (white) are in 117 Guard units in Miss. He said he had reason to believe "riots" are planned in Havana and Peking and are designed to take our attention and money out of the Vietnam war.

—About 5,000 sheep died this week in Utah, while grazing near a U.S. Army germ warfare experiment station. "Cause unknown."

—Black citizens of Tampa, Florida, demonstrated against police brutality. Police use bayonets against the demonstrators.

VOTES in MARCH 12 RUNOFF

	EVERS	GRIFFIN
Adams	5,326	7,719
Amite	1,397	3,473
Claiborne	2,371	1,410
Copiah	3,062	5,543
Franklin	855	2,506
Hinds	15,512	37,037
Jefferson	2,461	1,266
Lincoln	1,678	7,517
Pike	3,042	7,275
Walthall	1,255	3,351
Warren	3,929	8,819
Wilkinson	2,195	1,845
TOTALS	43,083	87,761

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

by Cordelia Nikkalaos

We have been put into a lot of traps by the Man. Sometimes I think the worst ones are the ones that even he doesn't know are there. Right now I am thinking of the politeness trap.

If a person is "polite" and "refined", "has good manners" and knows which fork to use at a rich folks' dinner, he can get away with murder. Real murder. Like Dean Rusk, for instance. He is the Secretary of State to the Big Imperial Wizard in Washington, Lyndon Johnson. The two of them and all their bloody brothers are the coldest, meanest killers in the world. Every day they kill and hurt hundreds of people. And they don't just shoot or knife them. They burn and gas and blow them up, and they spread germs to make them sick and die slowly in pain.

They don't, of course, do this with their own hands. No. That is dangerous work; a man could get hurt that way - killed even - because those folks have sense enough to shoot back. So Rusk, Johnson, and company do what kings and rich men have always done: they send poor men to do the dirty, dangerous work. That is, they do it with their power instead of with their hands.

Their hands stay clean. Their minds stay clean, because they never see the people they kill and cripple - either the "enemy" people or the men they send out to kill and who happen (unfortunately, of course) to get killed. And Killer Rusk is seen on TV being cool when the senators ask him about Vietnam and people say, "Isn't he a distinguished man! How awful of those senators to talk to him that way!" Yes. Of course. We must be polite. We must show our manners.

Well, I don't like manners. Fact is, I hate them. Because they aren't real. Courtesy is real, and it is quite a different thing from "manners." Manners are something somebody decided was nice and put in a book and made other people learn, so those who had learned them could look down their noses at those who had not. Courtesy is treating other people decently because you respect them. Not fear them. Respect them. Love them - because they are human beings and that is the best thing anybody can be. (Of course, there are some folks you have to scare before they respect you!)

It seems to me an awful waste of time to worry about which fork to use, when a lot of people don't have enough forks for everybody in the family to eat at the same time.

So, what do we do? How do we keep the rich and powerful from killing with their power - and using poor men's hands to do it? It seems to me that we use our hands to take the power from them. After all, they have never used their hands. Without ours they are powerless. All we really have to do is to stop doing their work for them - all of the work, not only the killing.

The problem with that is that there are still many of us who are blind and will not see this, and they call us bad names when we talk about it. They have been taught by the man to be polite and to say "Please, sir," when they want something, and to accept "Yes," "No" or "Maybe" as answers, and say "Thank you, sir," whatever the answer. And they also say "Yes, sir," even when the Man says "Shoot those niggers" (or those "Reds" or whatever). So, for the present, at least, we have to find other ways. Now, I know what some of our brothers and sisters are doing in other places (and I hope that more is going on here than I know about).

What do you think must be done?

P L E A S E W R I T E ! ! !

POLITICAL CALENDAR

for 1968

April 5:	Last day to qualify either as an Independent or a Party Primary candidate for the 5 Mississippi seats in Congress. Last day to nominate an Independent slate of Presidential electors.
April 8:	Municipal primary election, Grenada.
May 4:	Last day to register in order to vote in the June 4th primary election of Congressmen.
May 6:	General election, Grenada.
May 14:	Municipal primary election, Natchez.
June 1:	Mississippi Republican Party State Convention.
June 4:	Democratic Party primary election, to nominate candidates for the five Congressional seats, to be voted on November 5th.
June 4:	General election, Natchez.
June ---	Democratic Party precinct conventions: voting on delegates to county conventions.
June ---	County Democratic Party conventions.
June or July:	Caucuses of Democratic representatives, by Congressional district.
July 5:	Last day to register in order to vote in the November 5 General Election.
July ---	Mississippi Democratic Party State Convention.
August 2:	Last day for Port Gibson residents to register in order to vote in the December 2 Municipal election.
August 5 to October 4:	Candidates for County Boards of Education (Beats 1 and 2 only) may file nominating petitions and affidavits.
August 5:	Republican Party National Convention, Miami Beach, Florida.
August 26:	Democratic Party National Convention, Chicago.
October 4:	Last day for candidates for County Boards of Education (Beats 1 and 2) to qualify for place on November ballot.
November 5:	General election, of U.S. President, five Mississippi Congressmen, and Beats 1 and 2 members of county boards of education.
December 2:	General election, Port Gibson.

NOTE: To the best of our knowledge, this is a correct political calendar for 1968. In past Newsletters, we have been wrong about some dates. Please let us know if any additions or corrections should be made to the calendar above.

A N O P E N L E T T E R T O B L A C K T E A C H E R S

For 400 years we as Black people in this country have been systematically deprived of our heritage. Black high schools and teachers have contributed to this deprivation by failing to teach and legitimatize our history and culture.

Thus, instead of our graduates being young people who understand and appreciate their heritage, they are products of a racist school system which teaches them to imitate white people and their mannerisms and values. Therefore, although our schools may be all Black, they are white supremist. This is true because the orientation and aims of the Black school are the same as those of the local white school, which are to perpetuate a feeling of the superiority of white culture and to ensure maintenance of this present American system of white domination and oppression of non-white peoples.

Because of this, many Black college students whose eyes have been opened to the beauty of our race and heritage look back to our high schools with great scorn.

The time has come for Black teachers to put primary emphasis on knowing and appreciating our heritage and destroying the system which deprives us of our dignity and human rights. Simply to participate in a day of discussions on "Negro History" is not enough. But we are confronted with the great task of de-whitewashing our schools and classes. Only then will our schools begin to become real educational institutions, and only then will they begin to become relevant to the 20th century Black community.

With much hope and determination that the future will be ours, we are

Your younger brothers and sisters,

the TOUGALOO POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)

(The Tougaloo Political Action Committee is a student group committed to the struggle for psychological and physical liberation of Black people. It is affiliated with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee /SNCC/)

----The statement above was written by PAC to be distributed to Black teachers invited to attend a Negro History workshop last weekend.

PAC's latest campus activity took place Wednesday, when a man was on campus to recruit civilian employees for Keesler Air Force Base. About 40 students confronted the recruiter in the vice-president's office and told him to leave the campus. They told him he should not come back and should tell other military recruiters not to come to Tougaloo to try to get workers for Johnson's war in Vietnam. They told him that Black students must control their own campuses and activities there.

Student Action Closes Howard University

Over 1,000 students at mostly-Black Howard University in Washington, D.C. occupied the administration building several days this week. The school was closed Wednesday and most buildings locked. The protests began Tuesday when students sat-in, demanding that no punishment be given to 37 students who are charged with breaking up Charter Day ceremonies on March 1st. Students from other colleges in the Washington area joined in the Howard rebellion. About 40 police from the Civil Disturbance Unit are on stand-by alert in case the administration calls on them.

STATEMENT ON H. RAP BROWN

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, call upon all Americans who believe in the Constitution of the United States to defend the right of free speech now being denied to H. Rap Brown, Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Specifically, we demand that Attorney General Ramsey Clark stop the present persecution of Mr. Brown and secure his immediate release from prison.

Rap Brown is presently imprisoned by the federal government in Louisiana under bonds totalling $65,000 and, when Louisiana is through with him, must be returned to Virginia to be held there without bond until he is turned over to authorities in Cambridge, Md., where bond of $50,000 has already been demanded. Regardless of the complicated legal issues of his case, two facts are indisputable and unchallenged:

I. Mr. Brown, although he now faces criminal charges in two states, has not been tried on or found guilty of any of them. His imprisonment now, under exorbitant bonds, is a clear violation of the age-old principle that a man is presumed innocent until proven guilty, as well as the "excessive bail" provision of the Eighth Amendment to our Constitution.

2. His present imprisonment came about because he made a trip to California from New York City and made two speeches there. The government claims this violated the terms of a previous bond which had restricted him to the Southern District of New York. Brown's attorneys claim that his trip to California was to confer with them, which was allowed by the court in its travel restrictions. Regardless of who finally wins that argument in the courts, it is significant that there is not an implication that Brown was trying to escape the jurisdiction of the courts, that he had ever failed to appear when required to do so by any court, or that he had any intention of failing to do so. Under our constitutional system, there is only one purpose of a bond: to insure the appearance of a defendant when required.

Thus, the conclusion is inescapable that the government is making a special case of Rap Brown - that it wants to keep him in jail although he has been convicted of no crime, that it wants to keep him from speaking, and that it has violated the most basic tenents of our Bill of Rights to accomplish this.

This nation's black citizens are angry and have served notice that they will no longer tolerate the conditions under which they have lived for so long. The President's Commission on Civil Disorders, in its historic report, has stated clearly that recent uprisings in our city ghettos have occured because of the racism of white America and the conditions under which ghetto residents live. Yet, despite the conclusions of the government's own commission, Mr. Brown's imprisonment coupled with the recent arrest of other militant black spokesmen - gives notice that certain powerful forces in our government have made a decision to try to cope with urban unrest not by programs to improve people's lives but by the police power of the state - by jailing of some militant leaders and the intimidation of others.

Such a decision affects the future of us all. We who sign this statement are dedicated to correcting social injustice and building a better society. Our methods of work and programs differ. Some of us would agree with positions taken by Rap Brown, while others would not. But all of us agree profoundly that we have a vital stake in ending the persecution of this man.

As people in organizations commited to social change, we believe the goals we work for are crucially threatened when our government makes a decision to cope with social problems by using its police power to jail its critics and crush its dissenters. We do not want to live in a country

(continued on page 6)

letters

Dear F.I.S.

I am working with the TCCA without pay. I really enjoy working with the children, and the adult have worked very long as volunteers. So we people here in Walthall Co. we sure do need some money.

The white people have taken some of us off the welfare, so that make it hard for us. So we are doing all in our power to get Mr. Charles Evers in Washington, that we may be helped from being so poor.

Sincerely yours, Mrs. Eddie Mae Harness from New Hope Center

Dear Friend:

We are progressing in school, the headstart TCCA. The children is well acquainted with one another. They love one another. They love to come to school every day. They are learning how to act and how to talk and how to do and what to say.

from Mrs. Myra Jacob, Bethleham Darbun center, Kokomo, Miss.

Kemper County News:

We are yet trying to work our Headstart Center without funds. We have been on volunteer basis since Jan. 9, 1968. We are presently working three hours each day, from 9 am until 12 am. We are poor people trying to carry on, so please try and help us because the children are badly in need for a Headstart program. The program has helped the children as well as the community.

Mrs. Fannie Thedford, Porterville Ctr.

KING'S MARCH

Dr. Martin Luther King spoke in several Mississippi cities Tuesday and Wednesday, hoping to gather marchers for his Poor People's Campaign in Washington next month.

Rev. Ralph Abernathy said shacks will be set up across from the White House and leaders will meet with Congressmen. He said the campaign will be nonviolent and poor people will go to Washington by car or mule or however they can, in order to demand that Congress pass laws to give families a guaranteed income each year and jobs for those who can work.

Hosea Williams pointed out that rich people get subsidies and benefits from the federal government. He said the whole nation should be put on subsistence or Rockefeller should be made to admit he's on welfare. Williams said there would be a 2-day statewide meeting in about two weeks to make plans. He said Congressmen's offices would be taken over and poor people would follow them away if demands are not met.

Statement on H. Rap Brown - continued from page five

that handles its problems in this way.

Furthermore, as critics and dissenters ourselves, each of us knows that if one group of dissenters is silenced, no one is safe. Especially those of us who are white know that if the government jails and silences and crushes militant black spokesmen, it is only a matter of time until white critics of governmental policies will be treated in much the same way.

If there is anything that history teaches us, it is that those who sit silent while another's rights are violated inevitably come to one of two sad ends: either they ultimately compromise their own principles to survive in a police state, or they are eventually crushed themselves when it is too late to resist. Those who would protect their own freedom must do so by making their stand each day at that point where the present brunt of the attack is. Today the brunt of the attack on freedom in America is Rap Brown. We take our stand in resistance to the attack on his rights. We are convinced that at this moment our own future hangs on his fate.

We most urgently call on our fellow Americans who value their own freedom to join us in this resistance.

--- Among several dozen original signers of this statement are Lawrence Guyot of M.F.D.P. and Owen Brooks of Delta Ministry.