MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

Volume One - Number Two

Jackson, Mississippi - Saturday, December 23, 1961

10 Cents Per Copy

First Public Civil Rights Hearing Is Held

Christmas Outlook Bleak For Flood Refugees In State

Many people in several areas of Mississippi can look ferward to a bleak Christmas in hastily improvised flood shelters.

The Pearl River, expected to crest at 36.5 feet is experiencing its worst flood in almost 60 years. Conditions in the Flowood Community are the most serious in the Jackson area. Authorities are hopeful that the re-enforced levees will hold.

Prisoners (140) from Parchman State Penitentiary and the Hinds County penal farm have been brought in to provide needed manpower on the levee.

Close to 1,000 people in the Jackson area had been evacuated by last Tuesday with the assistance of National Guardsmen. Three hundred in the Columbus-Aberdeen areas and 250 in Hattieshurg were also affected. Throughout the state over 2,000 persons have been forced from their homes,

At least ten highways and numerous city streets and county roads throughout the state have been closed or declared dangerous by the floods

See And Hear R. L. T. SMITH Candidate For Congress On Station WJTV 9:00-9:30 P. M. on

Friday, December 29.



ATTENDING THE CIVIL RIGHTS HEARING IN JACKSON were the above: seated, left to right, Rev. C. P. Payne, Meridian; Dr. George Powers, Pass Christian; Mrs. Wallis Schutt, Jackson; Dr. A. B. Britton, Jackson; Rev. Murry Cox. Chairman, Gulfport; Attorney William Higgs, Jackson; Rev. Thomas Johnson. Canton; Dr. Allen Lidden, Columbus; Rev. Richard Ellerbrak, Biloxi.

About The Free Press

The editor and publishers of the Free Press are asking the cooperation of all our friends and readers in spreading the good word about the new, dependent newspaper in Jackson The Free Press has as our ultimate goal complete, statewide news coverage, with something of interest to everyone.

Please tell all of your friends and neighbors about the paper. Ask them to mail or bring in the subscription coupon, which appears today on page two, with their check, money order or cash to the office of the Free Press at 1072-1 Lynch Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Spread The Good Word Candidate For Congress Is Native Of State



R. L. T. SMITH

Jackson's own Rev. R. L. T. Smith has decided that the time has come—in fact, is long past -for ALL of Mississippi's citizens to be represented in the halls of the United States Con-

Not since the days of Reconstruction has a Negro served in such a capacity, though they have consistently composed nearly half the state's citizenry. In many districts of the state Negroes form a large majority of the population.

Rev. Smith, lifelong resident of the Jackson area, has served the community in a number of positions during his fifty-nine years: civil servant, businessman and minister.

Born in Hinds County in 1902, first of five children, he was reared on his parents' farm and attended various schools in the area before he was graduated from the public schools and went on to schools of higher learning.

After graduation, Rev. Smith continued his job, which he had taken while still a student, as mail carrier for the Post Office

Department. This job he held for some 34 years. On the side Rev. Smith also engaged in estate transactions, newspaper business, and farming. For the last 25 years he has been a Baptist pastor, serving at a number of churches-netably Mt. Eluam in Jackson. At present, Rev. Smith is also a member of the Board of Direc-(Continued on Back Page)

Police Brutality In Several Counties Reported To Body

At the first public civil rights hearing ever held in Misissippi, he Mississippi Civil Rights Adistory Committee heard ten wit nesses, nine Negro and one white, testify to wide-spread pelice brutality in Madison and Hinds Counties.

p. m. in the Grand Jury room of the Post Office Building in Jackson on December 13. The room, which normally seats 36 or so persons, was packed. Even standing room was difficult to

Rev. Murray Cox of Gulfport presided; Jackson attorney William Higgs, the Committee's legal counsel, conducted the questioning of witnesses. An official of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights attended the hearing and then left for Washington with a tape-recording of the testimony.

The most brutal incident was reported premeditated shooting (by two Madison Coun-Sheriff's Deputies) of the late husband of Mrs. Callie Johnson from the Sharon Community. Mr. Clarence McCulough, who witnessed the killing at close range, testified that the handcuffed Mr. Johnson was shot while peacefully walking with the two deputies.

Mr. McCillough and several (Continued on Page Three)

Clarksdale Boycott Is 98 Percent Effective

City and county officials in Coahoma County, are apparently confused because of the effective selective buying campaign Negroes in this area have brought against downtown merchants who insist on discriminating against them.

In what appears to have been a move to frighten Negro leaders into calling off the campaign, seven prominent Negro citizens were arrested on Decomber 7 for "conspiring to

withhold trade."

In another move by the officials to break the campaign, more well known Negroes were subpoensed to testify before Justice of the Peace Rodney Brooks, beginning December 19. Among those subpoensed were: Messrs Charles Stringer, Major McMillian, Joseph Henderson, Jesse Wright, Clifton Smith, and Fulton Ford; Miss Mary Jane Pigee; and Rev. Henry Belin.

The seven defendants are Dr. Aaron Henry, president of the Mississippi State NAACP; Rev. Theodore Trammell; Mrs. Vera Pigee: and Messrs. R. L. Drew. John C. Melchor, Walter Wright and Labody Keys. They were represented by Attorney Jack Young of Jackson.

At the hearing were interested people from as far away as Hinds, Bolivar, Marshall, lahatchie, and Quitman Counties. However, at the request of the county attorney, Thomas H. Pearson, the hearing was post-

poned until January 3, 1962.

Meanwhile, no Negrees are shopping in downtown Clarks-

New Confest For Miss Teenager Of Week'

YOU can be "Miss Tecnager of the Week" and have your picture appear on the society page of the Mississippi Free Press. "Miss Teenager of the Week" will also receive \$5.60

Contest rules are as follows: 1. Send in your picture or the picture of a friend.

2. Enclose 6 "Freedom Joe" cartoons, (They may, but need not be all of one issue.)

"Miss Teenager" will be chosen for her charm, poise persenality and photogenic qualities.

Freedom Joe



MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

Saturday, December 23, 1961

Editor Paul E. Brooks Advertising Lester Gene McKinnie James Bevel

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"Together We Stand"

If we are ever to live together on this earth in peace and harmony, we must join hands and walk together down the long road that will someday lead us to complete freedom. This freedom of which I speak can only be attained through earnest efforts on the part of men who believe in human dignity and respecability. As long as men fail to recognize the fact that all men are created equal under God, and as long as men fail to respect the rights of others, we will have strife and missgivings. We must never forget that ours' will never be the right to oppress others. We must always be willing to share with those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We must constantly strive for more love.

With the world suffering from hatred as it is today, one might think there is not much he can do about its conditions, but there is. You can make certain that you, as an individual, will not foster hatred by co-operating in any way with those who would inflict any manner of harm upon

For too long we have allowed ourselves to be governed by men whose morales are too low for them to govern even their own actions.

Mississippi must improve! And the only way Mississippi can improve is by the people improving. Therefore, we strongly urge that every Mississippian - regardless of race, religion or nationality, make an honest attempt to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Be extra kind to someone. Do not frown on a person because of his color. Accept him for what he is as an individual.

We encourage all our readers to write the Free Press and let us know their points of view on the problems with which we are now confronted in Mississippi.

Remember: "Together we stand. Divided we fall.

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NAACP Appeals To Negro, White Citizens:

By MEDGAR W. EVERS

We want to say thanks to those Negro and White Citizens who have decided not to trade on Capitol Street until Negroes are treated with decency, respect, and given employment opportunities like other citizens,

It is our feeling that to ask merchants on Capitol Street to treat all customers alike is not asking the impossible, nor is it asking much. We have asked the merchants on Capitol Street to do this, our request was turned down, inferring that they (the merchants) will go on discriminating against Negro customers in the manner in which they have been for many years.

It is apparent, then, the merchants feel that the Negre will continue to trade with them in spite of the mistreatment the Negro receives while trading on Capitol Street. Our only comment here is that Negroes are tired of this mistreatment and will carry their business elsewhere as long as this practice con-

It is our hope that Negroes who are still shopping on Capitol Street and being discriminated against will cease this practice immediately and join in this campaign to bring greater respect for the Negro People in Jackson and other Mississippi communities. Negroes who continue to shop on Capitol are guilty of helping to maintain segregation, discrimination and the denial of job opportunities to their children and to Negro children yet unborn. Let us strive together for justice and equality-STAY OFF CAPITOL STREET UNTIL PRESENT CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED.

Campaign Statement To Miss. Students

we have a Negro candidate for do your share? the United States House of Representatives from the fourth Congressional district of Mississippi. Mr. Robert L. T. Smith is planning to wage a vigorous campaign to capture this Congressional seat. This is wonderful news. But all of it is meaningless unless you pay your poll taxes, register and vote in the June 5, 1962 primary. Not only that, but you must also make absolutely sure that your relatives, friends and associates do likewise. The success of this entire campaign depends on how well you execute YOUR part in it. There is something for everyone to do. Help is badly needed. We need you to assist in door-to-door campaigns to see that citizens pay their poll taxes. The crux of the poll tax campaign will take place dur-ing the Christmas holidays. This means that we have only two weeks in which to wage an in-

You are already aware that tensive poll tax drive. Won't you

The deadline for paying poll taxes is February 1, 1962. Therefore, if you don't pay your poll taxes within the next six (6) weeks, you can't vote for Mr. Robert L. T. Smith, our candidate for Congress.

These are only a few of the reasons why we need YOU to work during the Christmas holidays. Remember that we are all working toward the same goal. So if you are willing to do your share, we will provide any needed assistance (housing, board, transportation, and etc.) for you. You can contact us at Campaign Headquarters, Room 10 of the Masonic Building, 1072 Lynch Street. Our telephone number is FL 5-7224. All necessary information concerning the paying of poll taxes and voter registration will be provided at Campaign Headquarters.

R L. T. Smith Campaing Com-

Your Politics And Mine

By LITTLEMAN

It is quite interesting to analyze the factors present in the upcoming race in the 4th Congressional District. The opposing of Representative John Bell Williams by Reverend R. L. T. Smith, Mississippi's first Negro Congressional candidate in this century, puts into sharp focus many important points.

First of all, one notices that there are 460,000 persons in the district: 247,000 of them white and 213,000 Negro. scurces estimate that there are more than 100,000 registered white voters and less than 5,000 registered Negro voters, many of whom are afraid to vote even though they are registered. One sees that if every person twenty-one years old or above could vote, the Reverend Smith would indeed stand a chance of unseating Representative Williams. But under the present system of voting restrictions, the Negro is kept almost completely disfranchised. When one sees the final election result in June, it may well be that he does not see the true picture as to whom the people of the 4th Congressional District desire as their Congressman. It may be that they only see the tragic effectiveness of the poll-tax and the Constitutional interpretation tests administered as they were irtended-to deny the Negro the ballot.

Such a result however is going to clearly point up the need for the enactment into law by Congress of the first recommendation in the voting report of the Commission of Civil Rights. The law would abolish the poll tax and all literacy tests, extend universal suffrage to all persons twenty-one years of age or

Many informed persons believe that such a law is the only answer to the voting discriminations existing in Mississippi

The thirteen counties in the district are Hinds. Yazoo, Warren. Claiborne Copiah. Jeffereon, Lincoln, Adams, Franklin, Wilkinson, Amite, Pike, and

One might hope that all citizens in this 13-county Congressional District will pay their noll tax, register, and vote in the election the first week in

See And Hear R. L. T. Smith Candidate For Congress On State WJTV 9:00-9:30 P. M. On Friday, December 29

Freedom Rider Trails Confinue

Much of the drama has subsided from the story of the arrest and conviction of Freedom Riders in Jackson, Mississippi. The pace of disposing of these cases has shown, in the words of the Supreme Court of the United States, "all deliberate speed", in true Southern fashion.

To date, the Hinds County Court has disposed of some 150 cases. Some 68 cases are on appeal to the Circuit Court. 62 cases have been disposed of by the entry of nolo contendre pleas, 10 trials have been reset; 4 persons have dropped their appeal and served out sentences ranging from 60 days to 4 months. 2 persons have been acquited.

Three Freedom Riders are presently serving out sentences in the Hinds County Jail, Winona Beamer will complete a f-month sentence on December

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First Public Civil-

(Continued from Page One)

other witnesses were sharply critical of the F.B.I. and of Federal Court justice in Mississippi.

Several Jackson youths testified that on October 31 of this year Jackson policemen picked them up, for no apparent reason, and took them to a side street. There, they were released and told to run while a police dog was sent after them. One boy testified that he escaped onto his mother's porch. A policeman broke into the house, arrested his undressed mother, and took her hendouffed to the jail.

Dr. A. D. Beittel, president of Tougaloo Southern Christian College, testified to current intimidations through frequent arrests and beatings of his students by Hinds County officials who wait in patrol cars near the college gate.

Mrs. Mary Smith of Canton told of her husband's conviction for allegedly raping a white

26, 1961. Arthur Brooks and Herbert Mann will spend Christ mas in the Hinds County Jail for not obeying a police order to "move on and move out" of a Jackson transportation terminal when it became apparent that local citizens would attack the Riders.

It is very dangerous when American citizens are arrested because they are allegedly the root of trouble as they commit no overt act in standing against the evil of racial segregation. Under this premise the First National Bank should be dynamited because a burglar says that he intends or appears to intend to rob it. This points up just how rediculous the Mississippi application of the Breach of the Peace statute is.

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The News In Brief

Albany, Georgia: Jim Forman, National Director of SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) is free on appeal bond, and nearly all of the over 700 people jailed in a week of demonstrating-including Mar tin Luther King and Rev Ralph Abernathy-are being released on their signature. After 500 arrests, a tempory halt was called in anti-segregation demonstrations. The city agreed to integrate the bus and train terminals (both, scenes of arrest this fall) but failed to meet other requests of the Negro community, Demonstrations were resumed, resulting in 232 more arrests. A few days later a 60 day truce was called with all demonstrators arrested on local charges being released and further negotiations scheduled,

Washington, D. C.. The Supreme Court overturned the conviction of 16 students arrested in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for breach of the peace during sit-in demonstrations last year. The Court ruled that there was no evidence that they had broken the peace or the law.

Baton Rouge, Leuisiana: About 2000 students, peacefully demonstrating against the arrest of 23 fellow students, were dispersed by fire hoses and tear gas, A number of students were arrested and the State Board of

girl while holding a knife at her boy friend's throat Mrs. Smith said her husband was held incommunicado for several weeks and was convicted after the court-appointed lawyer had refused to talk with her or call her to testify for her husband. She said that the court allowed only four days to prepare the case, and that the lawyer's words to her were, "I'm too busy to talk to you about this case."

The Rev. L. O. McMillan of Vicksbugg testified he lost school principal jobs in Jasper County in 1955 and in Greene County in 1961 as a result of attempting to register to vote.

Rev. Cox, the chairman called to the attention of all present the federal law which provides for a penalty of five years in the Federal Penetentiary and/or a \$5,000 fine for persons convicted of threatening or intimidating anyone for being a witness before a federal agency. He instructed all witnsses to notify the Committee immediately at the first indication of any threats or reprisals as a result of their testimony. He urged that everyone teel free to file complaints with the Committee.

Rev. Cox also ertended an open invitation to law enforcement officers and other interested persons to appear and testify at future meetings of the Committee which are held every second Wednesday in the Post Office Building in Jackson at 1:00 p. m.

Education has ordered the expulsion of any student attending a state supported school who is jailed or arrested in connection with arti-segregation demonstrations, Federai Judge Gordon West has enjoined CORE from future demonstra-

New Orleans, Louisiana: Tues day night 292 people were jailed for demonstrating at the State Office Building against police brutality in Baton Rouge. Elevan more were arrested the next day for parading without a permit as they began a march on City Hall.

Birmingham, Alabama: The city of Birmingham has decided to close all tax-supported parks and places of recreation—except the zoo and Legion Field

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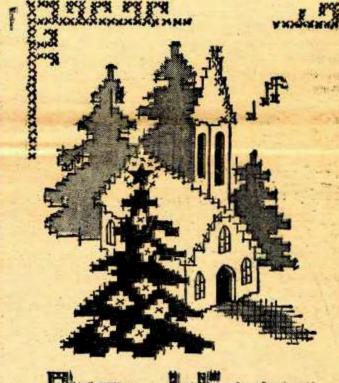
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1962

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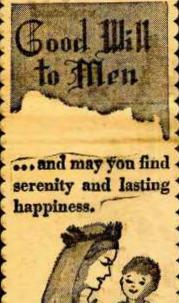
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Whites And Negroes Should Work Together For Freedom And Opportunities, Says White Minister

Let's not be blind. Our Southern way of life is under fire both from within and from without. It isn't wise to turn aside and refuse to look at the reasons. Much of the white as well as Negro population are unhappy with this unwholesome sitation. We are living under an established policy of race separation. Why is this policy under fire? It is under fire because many indignities and unequal opportunities have grown up under cover of the segregation

Can we separate the merits of segregation from the evils that it nourishes? Shall we risk losing segregation because of un willingness to correct its faults?

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LETTER TO EDITOR If we believe in separate black and white societies, are we willing to extend the separate but equal theory into this sphere with good faith? Can we refrain from doggerizing the one and exalting the other?

The expression "social equality" should not sound alarming if we look behind the confusion. It doesn't mean social mixing: it means two separate societies with equal respect for each other in honorable contact relations. With the two separate we still have the problem of the relationship between them. Can we conduct this relationship on a high and honorable plane of dignity with no unfair reflection on either? We cannot change mens' philosophies with laws, neither can we, with laws, prevent men from their philosophies. Society must voluntarily adjust itself to take care of these changes.

Over two hundred years ago when the two races began mingling on this continent, a peculiar superior-inferior relationship was adopted and marked by certain customs of conduct and exchange of mannerisms between the two which was quite proper in the master-slave relationship. This custom developed a psychology of in-feriority on the part of one, and a type of egotism on the part of the other - an order which is out of place today, but still casts an influence that degrades both, and elevates neither.

Much water has passed under the bridge in two hundred years. The relationship has changed. Observant white people will agree that the Southern Negroes have made great strides of improvement in the last few decades. As a group they have earned an improved status. Maybe we haven't kept up with the progress of civilization by growing along with it.

Upon earnestly studying the situation close at hand today, we find that the dissatisfaction is hard to put into words. But it is apparent that much of it is due to our failure to grow out of the mannerisms denoting that old superior-inferior relationship which does not fit today. It tends to recall with bad taste an old past relationship that has been left behind and tends to inject into today's modern relationship an unfriendly element of hostility and bitterness. Let's encourage our people to cultivate harmony by growing away from the old outmoded mannerisms that breed hostility into today's scene.

A higher more respectful type of relationship will make a higher type of citizenship in both groups by cultivating a better moral atmosphere and encouraging general character building. The day of humble childish submission to domination has passed. The child is growing up and requires more chance to stand uprght and fill a respectable place in the world. Respectful treatment begets a respectful reaction. Kindly crumbs can no longer buy the needed privilege of dispensing

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indignity and humiliation, A Candidate Fordisrespectful attitude on the part of individual whites breeds an atmosphere of resentment, frustration, and lack of respect for the white man's laws, thus making an unhealthy relationship inherent in the situation. Respectful Treatment Makes Anyone Feel And Act More Respectable.

The difference between black and white naturally suggests an apartness of the races, but the apartness should not require a high and low arrangement; an honest equality of opportunity does not necessarily mean togetherness. Contempt of race means hostility and discord. A respectful and courteous relationship is necessary for har-

The Mayor and Police have shown some interest in launching a campaign to improve the general citizenship atmosphere by encouraging a more respectful relationship, Such a program will find its most fertile field in inter-race business relations. The best way to popularize a thing is to show the possibility of some profit in it. All persons of good will are urged to use their influence on the authorities and police to start and cooperate with such a program.

The key to the situation lies in the attitude of the individual. Segregation itself is not un-Christian, but it nourishes nume rous unChristian situations to such an extent that many people, even Southern whites, lean toward a complete diseard of the system as being the only way to reach higher ground and a more normal way of life,

Do we deserve to remain a free nation? If we abuse freedom by poor citizenship practice and cause the failure of the free enterprise system, we may drift into a socialistic system similar to communism. If we are too small to regulate petty personalities internally, how can we hope to cope with the pressure of the world ideological cure all doctor with his kill-all remedy - communism?

A local home courtesy gram advocating a voluntary improvement in common courtesy in race relations should be readily accepted and supported in a spirit of good will by all reasonable people - as a forward step toward the tomorrow which will not wait for us but

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Charles Evans, Mgr.

(Continued from Page One)

tors of the State Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association.

In 1923, Rev. Smith married the former Annie Mason. Since have become the then, they parents of eleven children, five boys and six girls. The Smiths' make their home on land which has been in the family since 1865. For over thirty years, Rev. Smith has been a Mason, An avid reader of several national magazines, he also regularly keeps informed on national and international events through the New York Times and the At-lanta Constitution. Such an artive man does not have much time for relaxation, but when such moments do come, Rev. Smith tells us he "likes to fish,"

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will pass and leave us one hundred years behind if we cling to something just because it was good for grandpa.

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