MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

Volume One — Number Twenty-Nine
Jackson, Mississippi — Saturday, June 30, 1962
10 Cents Per Copy

Ole Miss Will Integrate in July

COMMENTS

BY CHARLES L. BUTTS

As the new editor of this paper, I will be concerned with encouraging a more democratic climate in the state of Mississippi. Until the political situation is improved, conditions in the ghetto will continue to be poor for everyone, regardless of race.

Good government will mean better schools, improved farm land legislation, and a fair distribution of Federal funds for farms and small business loans. The present Mississippi government is advantageous to the very few and detrimental to the many. The campaigns that are now being conducted are more important in getting people involved than in getting them to register, vote and think. Only in this way will the ar
cratic political, economic, and social institutions be done away with. This is the way those in keeping with the U.S. Constitution.

Word comes from Oxford, Mississippi, that the University of Mississippi and Ole Miss have students sympathetic with the Meredith decision and that some even plan to go. These students did want, however, to have a quiet protest. Their actions were doing this because they wanted such an event and not because they liked Meredith himself.

I have been the same type of person that Meredith has used to be. From my own experience, though, it will not take an open protest to get the idea that Meredith has a real personality, and that he is a real person, with the potential of becoming a real friend.

Mississippi Free Press

Higgs And Group Arrested, Questioned, Threatened; Held Incommunicado 20 Hours

William L. Higgs, Jackson attorney of politics and federal law, was arrested in Clarksdale, Mississippi, after he had spoken at a Negro political rally there. He was traveling in a car that also contained college students from Cee College Iowa and Oberlin College in Ohio. The group had traveled across the state prior to coming to Clarksdale in the evening.

The students were Vicki Rouns, John Johnson, and Phil Early of Cee, and Dave Campbell of Oberlin. The fact that Mississippi was Negro and traveling in a car with other white students was apparently the reason for the arrest.

Three Police Cars In Arrest

Three police cars swarmed the group as they approached the border of Catahoula County. All three cars had their red flashers on and sirens blaring as they surrounded the car.

After being taken back to Clarksdale and booked, they were interrogated as to why they were in Mississippi and what they were doing in Clarksdale. The group was repeatedly defied the opportunity to call relatives. When they asked for what charge they were arrested, the only answer they could get was that it is illegal to ride a car interracially. Higgs, while remaining calm and polite, firmly affirmed the belief that this statement was not true.

The officers spent a great deal of time with Higgs because of his involvement in the political campaigns of the two Negro candidates for Congress and because he himself has run against some of the staunch segregationists. Higgs afterward noted that he stayed quite calm in his appearance but that he was quite surprised that officials of his call would treat people in the manner that they did.

Higgs Life Threatened

While Higgs was being interrogated, a note was passed to him that he could put him in the same cell with a defendant criminal and tell him to finish him while he turned his back. When he was released, the Jackson lawyer described his experience as one that might have happened in Nazi Germany.

In the process of questioning the others, the police also learned that the group had earlier been successful in integrating a public beach that was part of a Federal Reserve. All of the (continued on page three)

NAACP Attorneys Gain 2-1 Decision

Meredith To Begin With Summer Session

As a result of a 2-1 decision of the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, James H. Meredith will be the first Negro student to attend a white public institution of higher learning in Mississippi.

The decision, the result of 15 months of litigation by a team of lawyers, was handed down on Meredith's 29th birth
day. When asked what he planned to do, he indicated that he was pleased but also said, "Now comes the real test."

Meredith's attorneys were Mr. W. W. Greenburg from the New York office, and noted Mississippi attorney Mr. R. J. Brown of Vicksburg.

With the defense attempted to get an injunction to prevent Meredith to enter in January, Judges Wisdom, Tuttle and Rives were on the bench.

The case was argued before Chief Justice "Tuttle dissenting. Judge Anderson also participated.

During that hearing, the Judges had several occasions at which they had to break, but to uncontrolled chuckles at the state attorney's insistence that there is no segregation statutes in Mississippi. The judges intimated that if segregation was, nearest, strictly practiced in Mississippi.

On another occasion, after Miss. Free Press

Expands Drive For New Subscribers

The Mississippi Free Press is getting underway a massive circulation campaign designed to get this independent weekly newspaper in the Deep South into homes of freedom-loving people all over the nation.

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The Free Press will be bringing you news direct from Mississi
pis. The newspaper is a page that is aimed to serve the state, has articles about pending legislation and litigation pertinent to the changing South, and reviews of relevant books.

Full and accurate news coverage is important to Mississippi, but because of the powerful position Southern politicians hold in the National Congress, current news of developments in Mississi

The reader is encouraged to fill out the subscription application for himself or a friend (p.3)

NAACP Cooperates

In Campaign Doubling Registered Negroes

Voter registration is the most important task of NAACP at the present time. An all out effort is being made to double the number of Negroes on the registration books. The NAACP's work is being closely coordinated with the Congress of Racial Equality, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The larger towns in Mississippi are the areas where the drive will have the most effect. In the Mississippi, says, "We are trying to increase the number of registered Negroes in the 1964 elections." He went on to say that (Continued on Page Four)
The NAACP: Road To A New Equality

On July 3, more than 1,500 delegates will convene in Atlanta for the 33rd Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The delegates will come to talk over each other’s progress and plan for further advancement.

It was this very same city that a woman newspaper reporter, Mary Ovington, visited 56 years ago. Miss Ovington had become concerned with the problems of racial tension existing in the North but had seen the segregation of the Deep South only once before. She arrived immediately after the Atlanta race riots of 1906 and saw ruined homes and businesses. She learned that Negro men who tried to protect a white woman from molesting a Negro woman might be lynched. Nothing further would be done about it.

In 1909, Miss Ovington read a blood curling record of the Springfield, Ill. race riots which biracial lawyers had been called upon to account for their actions. Struck by the importance of stopping such incidents and bringing about a change in the attitudes that caused them, she wrote a letter to William Walling who had reported the Springfield riots. In the letter she suggested that steps be taken to discover how race relations could be improved on the Madison Avenue line.

As a result of this letter, Walling, a Southern journalist, Miss Ovington, and a third man, Henry Moskovitz, met in New York. It was then that people drew up a document condemning the lack of progress in the Negro’s rights and called for action to improve the situation.

The document released on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Lincoln, contains the names of known persons. These people first called themselves the National Negro Committee, but at the second conference they changed it to the name known to readers everywhere — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

And so, 56 years later, the NAACP still continues its work with sit-ins, racial demonstrations, a trip to Atlanta, a letter, and a meeting of three people, has become a dynamic organization consisting of 600,000 members from 1,500 chapters all across the country.

As delegates of the 1963 convention travel to Atlanta we pay tribute to their many accomplishments. With all that the NAACP has done however, it is no tribute to America that there need be a convention at all.

Neither Atlanta nor Springfield, neither North nor South, and I might be — what they must be if the word ‘democracy’ is to have any real meaning.

Perhaps the most significant, or at least most widely known accomplishment of the NAACP was the 1954 Supreme Court School Desegregation Decision. As credit is often given to the Eisenhower administration for bringing about the historic decision.

The legal staff of the NAACP had diligently struggled against the "separate but equal" clause in what it established as inherently unequal.

But the battle was not alone, and in any way sum up the significance of the NAACP. For several years before the Court’s civil rights action actually suffered a decline, this problem was raised. So, after several years, the NAACP had desegregated integration, the NAACP again showed strength in the court.

The United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals handed down a ruling that the integration had been in the best interest of the Negroes and the community. The case is now one of the most important in the NAACP’s history.

The basic point is very clear that important are both the "power of organization and the power of the vote." But the great lesson known but it has the most important in the broad progress toward equality.

In a race of intimidation and reprisal, Southern Chapter members were thrown into a fire of hope and make democracy a reality in Dixie. (Fight for Freedom by Langston Hughes was used as a reference for the historical material).

Woman Editor

Letters To The Editor

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1210 Valley Street
Jackson, Mississippi

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MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS
Published every Saturday by the H.C.B. Publishing Company, Inc., 1738 Valley Street, Jackson, Mississippi, Phone, 7-3935.
Published weekly in Jackson, Mississippi.

Subscription price $4.00 per year - $2.00 for six months.

Tens cents copy.

Editor Charles L. Butts
Four members of the Jackson Nonviolent Movement were released on $500 bonds after spending 17 agonizing days in the Jackson and Hinds County Jail. The members of the Nonviolent Movement, who were both CORE and SNCC, were arrested after they had registered their protests against practices that had recently occurred in the city of Jackson.

The students, Robert Talbert, W. T. Allen, Charles McKinlaw, and Peter Stoner, had carried signs that read, "End Segregation on City Buses," "Stop Police Brutality," "Free Lavagnia and Jesse from Jail," and "Don't Let Mississippi Take Over Campbell College," when they were arrested. The latter, which referred to "Jesse" and "Lavagnia," was asking for the release of two students who were serving jail terms for having sat on the white side of the Hinds County Courthouse while attending the trial of Diane Nash Beale. The pickets hoped to make public the injustice and the severity of the penalty for such an action.

The picket referring to Campbell College was protesting the alleged attempt by the state of Mississippi to take over part of all of the land of Campbell, a private school in Jackson, where many students have been active in various student groups. The picket said, "The state of Mississippi is trying to take over the school because the picketers believed that the local police did not have jurisdiction of the school on the campus.

Although the Justice Department appeared seemingly concerned with the students prior to the vigil, when contacted after the arrest they did not intervene. The four were sentenced to four months in jail and a fine of $200. They served 17 days before being able to raise the necessary $500 bond. They were released June 18th. An appeal is being made.

After the arrest, Bob Talbert said that the group being put into cells separate from the rest of the prisoners and that even the guards and trustees were not allowed to see the group.

Talbert also said, "We were not allowed to have any soap and not even our requested request for toilet paper was granted."

Stoner, who appeared to have physically suffered from the arrest, said, "Conditions were at least as bad as we could stand." He also related his shock at finding an 11 year old boy subjected to the same conditions.

All four of the students are now working full time for the voter registration campaign in Jackson while they await appeal.

**Clarksdale Boycott Continues In Effect**

The trade boycott of Downtown Clarksdale continues with the vast majority of Negro citizens participating. Several thousand, according to the governor, have signed pledges that they will not trade in downtown Clarksdale until they do receive the courtesy and consideration they feel they have been denied.

The Clarksdale boycott was written up in Jet magazine on May 30th.

Recently representatives of Downtown Clarksdale were in Clarksdale for a period of time reportedly to try to help the boycott. The result was to give the city and county some way to offset or remedy the boycott.

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**Higgins**

**And Group**

(Continued from Page One)

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"Save At Wells"
June 5th Was Historic Day For Negroes; Two Candidates Try For U. S. Congress

Vote Showed Negro "Block" Vote Does Not Exist

An historic day for the Negro citizens of Mississippi was marked Tuesday, June 5, when Negro candidates in the Second and Third Congressional Districts appeared on the ballot in the Democratic Primary election. In the Second District, Rev. Merrill Winston Lindsey received 2,383 votes according to the official figures released by the Mississippi Democratic Executive Committee at a meeting Tuesday of last week in Jackson. Rev. Robert L. Smith of Jackson received 2,383 votes for Congress from the Third District.

An examination of the votes in the various precincts and counties shows that the Negro candidates received some votes in many precincts where there were no registered Negro voters and it will also show that the Negro candidates received votes by far the total number of voters, of Oxford, registered Negro voters.

As one observer said: "This shows only one thing—that the Negro voters did not come out to register. It is a vote in protest, or if they did vote they did not vote solidly for Negro candidates.

"This fact should certainly serve to lessen the fears held by some white people on the Negro vote, some of them who believe that Negroes will vote as a solid block when they are allowed to vote," the spokesman continued.

Anthony S. Perry, campaign manager for Rev. Lindsey issued the following statement about the outcome of the election:

"It is encouraging to note that in almost all communities, in which there were Negro voters, Lindsey received a majority. This clearly shows that the Negro vote cannot be considered by any party as the "black vote" for obviously some Negroes voted for Smith and Wyatt. We plan to register as many who are able to have poll watchers allow Negroes to vote where Lindsey's interest. None of our requests for managers or clerks was honored and this shows that there are 40 Registrars in the county. While we feel most of our requests were honored by the registrar with only Whitten and Smith representatives being able to conduct the voting and count the votes (during the voting period at the auditorium) there was an opportunity for dishonesty.

Walter Williams
Testified June 15 To Congressional Comm.

Speaking on behalf of the Americans for Democratic Action, Walter Williams told a Congressional Committee that because of strict segregation in Mississippi, it was not until he went North that he "began to understand some of the problems that confront Southern white students."

"Williams, in his June 15 testimony, prepared for the House Subcommittee on Integration on Federally Assisted Public Education, said that passage of desegregation legislation would provide a basis for local communities (rather than the Department of Education) to see that the policies of the public schools meet federal standards for educational practices. The American Nation Student Association is an arm of the Southern Unit of the General Education Board, which is the federal body present at Jackson in support of the segregation laws and to prevent any Negro from entering the college. He was suspended from the college because he led the first Mississippi march protesting segregation. During this march, he and other students were attacked by police dogs, tear gas, and tear gas trucks. In urging passage of legislation which would require every school board and "separate but equal" school in the state to submit a plan for desegregation within six months of enactment of the bill, he pointed out that only 7.6% of Negroes attend "separate" schools in the Southern and border states, eight years after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on school desegregation. He said agencies of the Southern Christian and Mississippi, schools are completely segregated in the state, and that the Southern Student Association aide told the Congressmen, "I can assure you that there is no such thing as "separate but equal" in the Mississippi elementary and high schools."

A NAACP Cooperates—
(Continued from Page One)

say that it is hoped to have Negroes as voters in Hinds County, which contains the city of Jackson, which has a total population of 50,000 and 5,000, 3,000 registered. It is estimated that of that number about 4,000 have paid their poll taxes. In Mississippi it is necessary to pay a poll tax of $2.00 between December 13 and February 1 for two consecutive years in order to vote in the primary election (which is the most important in the one party South). For the general election it is necessary to pay the poll tax once during the designated 48-day period and possible to pay the other year's delinquent tax. The NAACP will continue to file complaints with the Justice Department whenever voting rights are infringed. To date, the Justice Department has been most responsive to all such cases. The NAACP has won its lawsuit to desegregate the public parks, but Federal District Judge Minor ruled that it was open only to those Negroes who filed suit and that the park is open to three Negroes, Qualified with the rule; the AACP is "opposing the decision. The Association also plans to litigate at the law school to open the public schools on the second- ary level.

Inadequate educational facilities.

He also discussed the harmful effects of the fact that Mississippi has no state-supported schools for Negroes and that those that exist are established in the South for Negroes because they are not accepted by the school authorities. He said that Negroes of the state have in mind to return and offer to maintain the school authorities.

He summarized his testimony by saying that "segregation in education has every destructive effect upon both the Southern Negro and white. It breeds: (a) ignorance, (b) laziness, (c) brutality, and (d) a desire for the destruction of Negroes for Negro teachers who will accept Negroes for higher training after they have finished college before they are willing to attend a college outside the state, to which he has no desire to return and offer to maintain the school authorities."