

MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

THIRTY

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COMMENTS

By CHARLES L. BUTTS

Just before I sat down to pound out this column I heard the news on the car radio that Kennedy's Medicare bill had lost in the United States Senate. When the vote was counted we saw who caused the defeat. It was the work of the Southern Democrats who joined with many of the Republicans.

This is a great example of the importance of getting people registered and voting in the South. We need people to vote for men who will support programs that benefit most of the population of the South who are poor. It is important not only to the South but to the whole nation. The defeat of this bill by Southern Dixiecrats is harmful to many people in the South and to the little man all over the nation.

In Southern newspapers there was almost no description of what the bill would have meant for the people. The only thing that we heard was that the bill meant socialized medicine, which meant socialism, which meant something bad, and so the bill was not good.

The bill would, however, have put old age insurance under the social security system so that when a person got to the age that he needed medical care, the money would have been set aside for him. Such a plan would be for those people who are not able to save enough money to be able to take care of themselves in their old age, or who would not be able to keep up payments on an expensive insurance plan. It should be clear who this bill helps and who it would not help. It is also clear where the Southern Senators stand.

Out collecting information for a story today, I met a happy woman who said that a miracle had happened. She said that the bus now stopped at the block

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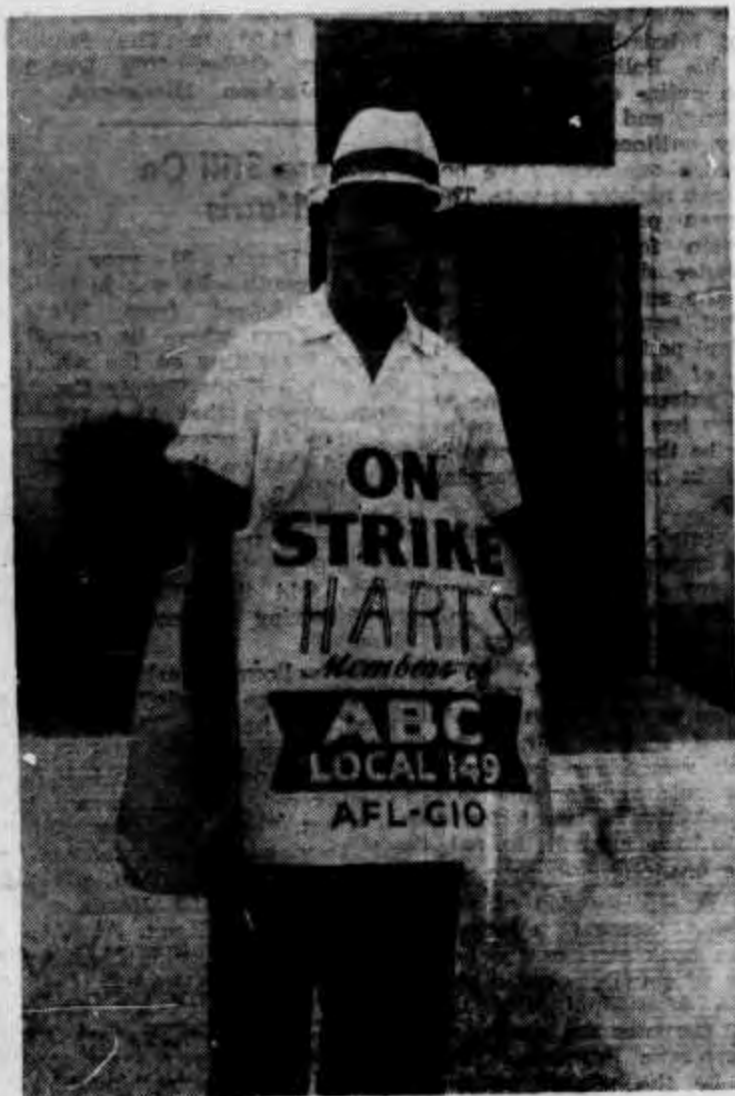
Two Clarksdale Citizens Are Given Honors

On Sunday, June 8, in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Aaron E. Henry and Mrs. Vera M. Piggee, both of Clarksdale, Mississippi, were the recipients of the Outstanding Citizens of Mississippi Award presented by the Mississippi Beauticians and Barbers Association. This citation was in recognition of their participation in helping to bring about equal rights for all people in their home town of Clarksdale and throughout the state.

This award is the second such honor that Henry has received this year. In March he was given the Mississippi Man of the Year Award by another civic group. This award was also in recognition of Henry's dedication to the service of the efforts for freedom for all people.

Employees Strike At Harts Bakery

Want Union With Bargaining Rights; One Picket Hit By Company Truck



The picket pictured above is on duty at Harts Bakery in Jackson

Fifteen employees of the Harts Bakery in Jackson, Mississippi have left their jobs in an attempt to gain an acceptable contract with the company. The workers are not members of a union but are attempting to be recognized as a collective bargaining body. The workers have picketed the Jackson plant on Rose Street for twenty four hours a day since June 25.

According to Paul Higler, International Representative of the American Baker's and Confectioner's Union (ABC), the Jackson men have been recognized by the Washington office as ABC local 305. The union has not been recognized by the management at the Harts plant, he said.

Higler who is from Washington, said that the real purpose for trying to get unions is to "try to raise the standard of living of the state."

Colonial Pays 49c More

Frank Buyer, who is a member of ABC local 149 in Memphis, is helping as picket captain for the Jackson men. Buyer told the FREE PRESS that Colonial Bread Company, a competitor of the Harts Company, was paying its union dough mixers \$1.89 an hour in comparison to \$1.40 that Harts was paying the same position.

Buyer pointed out that although Harts men in Memphis receive a minimum of 2.27% an hour, in Jackson they are only trying to get up to the minimum at Colonial.

One of the Jackson picketers said that because the company had to hire so many green workers they have ruined some of their bread. Also the same striker told the FREE PRESS that bread trucks did not normally return with any bread on them but that now they come back with a good portion still unsold. Apparently this is a result both of green salesmen and of the fact that many people have heard about the strike and are sympathizing with it by not purchasing any Harts bread.

Of the fifteen original workers who walked off their jobs on June 25, there are still thirteen who are regular picketers. Two men have left for other jobs. There are only six men who were working before June 25 that are inside the plant, said Frank Buyer.

Truck Hits Picket

Three days after the strike began, Leroy Williams, a Negro was picketing. According to one of the union leaders, a Harts truck approached the truck entrance just as Williams did. The leader said that the driver of the truck, Dempsey Pullin, stopped the truck and seemed to be waiting for Williams to cross the entrance. As Williams started to cross, Pullin allegedly speeded up and struck the picketer. X-rays at the Baptist Hospital showed that there were no broken bones, only bruises.

The same driver had almost hit one of the strikers with his truck the day before one of the other leaders said.

24 Hour Police Protection

On that same day, some of the employees inside the plant displayed a shotgun at the window, said Herbert Scott, who is also a picket captain. The police told them to stop. Ever since that time, the police have given the strikers 24 hour protection.

On Friday, July 13, Frank Buyer, picket captain, was walking with one of the picketers. As they walked by the gate entrance, one of the company mechanics came out with a hammer and threatened them with it, but did not follow up his threats. Just prior to that the sales manager had told them, "I ought to come out and beat your brains out."

Eligh Moore and Preston Shurden, both of Jackson told the FREE PRESS that they had been promised substantial raises. Although they said that most of the men had not received them, Moore had gained a 10c raise. He said he had been led to believe he was going to get a 30c raise.

When the FREE PRESS contacted Harts, sales manager James Ramsey said "No comment." When told that the FREE PRESS wished to get both sides of the story, Ramsey replied that he felt the whole thing would be over in a couple of days. He concluded by saying, "I think you will be treating us fair."

Death Of Jackson Man Being Investigated

It has come to the attention of the FREE PRESS that Jesse Clark who died in University Hospital the evening of June 22 may have been victim of rough treatment. Clark, who is a Negro, was being treated as an out patient for a kidney ailment when he was allegedly treated harshly. The report came so near press time that the FREE PRESS was not able to check out the story with hospital officials. In order to give the complete report that the FREE PRESS feels it must, the paper will wait until next week to give the full report.

The Negro race is struggling for recognition as of human status. The white race having benefited economically from the present status objects strenuously.

Citizen Education Workshop:

Functions Of Miss. County Government

The Mississippi FREE PRESS presents a workshop on several topics of importance to all Mississippi citizens. The articles are long, but contain a great deal of very important material. Readers are encouraged to clip the articles out and save for future reference and study.

Third of a Series
By PROF. LIBRUS

In the past two weeks, I have discussed the great importance of the study of state and county government. This week I will continue with a discussion of municipal government and the role that it plays in our daily lives. Municipal government is the government of the cities, towns, and villages in which we live. It is the government with which we have the most contact. For this reason, it is necessary to be familiar with its structure.

A municipality comes into being when it is granted a charter by the state under laws passed by the state legislature. The charter gives its name, defines its boundaries, specifies its form of government, and clearly states the political and corporate powers that it may exercise. The governing body of a municipality in Mississippi may be either a city commission, a city council, a board of aldermen, or a city manager to-

gether with his city council. All of these forms except the city manager form generally have a mayor who is the chief executive officer of the municipality. There are general laws in Mississippi for governing municipalities.

The two major forms of municipal government are the Mayor, Alderman and the Commission types. The City Manager-Council types have come into major use only in recent years. The Mayor-Alderman form is usually of the weak mayor type. The mayor has only a few powers which are all carefully restricted. Together, the mayor and the board of aldermen comprise the governing body of the municipality. This body has powers of control, management, and care of the municipality. This includes control of the property and the finances of the village, city or

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The Importance Of Labor Unions

Most people in the South are not familiar with labor unions. Anything that they do know is probably bad. They also know that most of the "big people" in the South do not like the unions. Therefore they think it best to leave well enough alone in their ignorance. It is safer that way. But is it?

Almost all industry in the North is unionized as are nearly all working men from bellhops to garbage men. We often hear that conditions are much better in the North—that hours are shorter, wages higher, and working conditions pleasanter and safer. Is this just because management is nicer up North? Or does it have something to do with the fact that there are unions?

In Mississippi when people discuss labor unions, one often hears the word "corrupt" in their conversation. The charge of corruption is a good term with which to discredit an organization even if it does not apply. What does it mean when applied to a union? If a union passes laws denying many of its members the right to vote in the elections, and the leaders use this to their personal advantage, then the union is corrupt. This more nearly applies to some state governments than it does to unions.

Unfortunately there are some unions whose leaders do misuse their power. There are, however, many unions, most unions in fact, which are democratically run. It would be a poor farmer who would go into their field at picking time, look at the first few bolls of cotton in the first row, see that the boll weevil had gotten them, and walk out of the field without picking any cotton. The person who sees that some unions are corrupt and then says that all unions are evil does the same thing.

What is the value of unions? Paul Higler, International representative of the American Baker's and Confectioner's Union, says "A bread company has the right to put whatever price it feels is proper on the bread. And it certainly does have that right. But the men who make the bread have something to sell, too. They have their intelligence and their manual labor. I feel that a man has as much right to put the price on his intelligence and his manual labor."

Of course this seems right, but it is impossible for an individual worker to go to his employer and claim that he is worth more than he is getting paid. There are many men who could fill his job. If however all the workers get together and tell their employer that they believe they are worth more, it is much more difficult to find enough new men to take over. Here in Jackson the Colonial bakery is unionized and pays 49 cents more to have men mix its dough than does Harts a non-union bakery.

The company does lose something by having a union. The price on a loaf of Harts bread made in Memphis is the same price as a loaf made in Jackson, but the Harts company in Memphis (which certainly still makes a profit) pays its workers 87½ cents more than the same company does in Jackson. The company does gain too, though their immediate profit may be lower. Because Harts had so many unhappy workers leave the job, some of their dough went bad. Colonial has none of these problems, and its workers have confidence in the knowledge that their voice can be heard. They are likely to work harder because they feel they are being treated fairly.

Labor unions are necessary for the worker to have his rightful voice in his place of employment. This does not mean that we must support corrupt unions. We believe that government is necessary but will not support corrupt government. From what we have seen, we may find more men to support in Mississippi unions than in the Mississippi government.

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Editor — Charles L. Butts

Facts About Mississippi Laws And Politics Put Into Easy-To-Read Handbook

A book of very great importance to everyone in Mississippi has recently been published. The title of the book is The Mississippi Political Handbook, written by William L. Higgs, a Mississippi attorney. Mr. Higgs has done a great service to the community in writing this book, because he deals with many complicated parts of state government in a very easy-to-understand manner.

Of prime importance now is the drive for voter-registration which is going on all over the state of Mississippi. Mr. Higgs begins his Political Handbook with an entire chapter devoted to "Voting and Elections." He carefully outlines the qualifications which one must have before he can register to vote. The book even provides a sample registration form with which each reader should become familiar. The author then gives a very full explanation of the Mississippi political process. This portion of the Political Handbook is extremely well done as Mr. Higgs has taken great pains to describe the process thoroughly and in ordinary, everyday language.

For example the author points out that anyone can pay a poll tax for any other person. Many people do not realize this and feel that if they do not have the money to pay the poll tax themselves, then they should not bother to go to the circuit clerk's office and register. Mr. Higgs makes it very clear that these people should register and that it is perfectly all right for a person to have his poll tax paid by some one else.

There is a discussion of primary and general elections. Here the book stresses the importance of the Democratic primary in Mississippi. For all practical purposes the winner of the Democratic Primary is going to be the winner at the time of the general election. For one's vote to count, a person must qualify to vote in time for the Democratic Primary. To do this he must have registered and paid his poll tax by July 1 that is 30 days before the date on which the primary election is to be held. The Democratic Primary is usually held in the first week of August before the November general election.

An entire chapter is devoted to an analysis of the way in which political parties in the state are organized and includes a discussion of political campaigns themselves and how they are conducted.

The following chapter deals with every form of government in the state, from the governor and the legislature to the municipal and county governments.

These three chapters by themselves should be of great importance to a citizen of Mississippi. A large part of being a good citizen is in being informed about what is going on in one's own community. However, it is often very difficult to understand what is happening when one doesn't know why it is happening. Often people will say that it is too complicated to understand why a particular thing occurred. But we are certain that after one has read this book, many things will become clear which had before seemed to be so very complex.

The last two chapters are important for a different reason. They deal with the ways in which one can help himself

when his basic constitutional rights are denied him. There is first a description of the federal laws which have been passed to protect these rights, and then an account of the federal agencies which have been created to protect these rights and enforce these federal laws.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Mississippi Political Handbook is a book which should be read by all people who are interested in being responsible citizens of Mississippi and of the United States. It can be purchased by sending \$1.00 to The Smith Campaign Office, 1072 Lynch Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Pressure Still On Jessie Harris

Jesse Harris, 21 year old Jackson youth who was just recently released from Hinds County Farm where he served a term for sitting on the white side of the Hinds County Court room, reports that the police still have the pressure on him. He said that on the morning of July 10th a police officer came to his house to collect a fine of \$5.00 for a traffic ticket. After the officer identified himself, Harris told the FREE PRESS the following conversation took place.

The policeman asked, "Are you Jesse Lee Harris?" He answered that he was. The officer said, "I have a ticket here that you didn't pay." He said that he answered that he knew of the ticket, "but I had my trial and they suspended my sentence." The officer then asked if he had the \$5.00. Harris replied that he did not. At this point the officer said, "I have to take you down town."

Harris concluded his report to the FREE PRESS that he was then taken down town and out into jail for something that had happened five months ago.

Headline Mistake

The headline on page 3 of the FREE PRESS which read NAA CP Stresses Role of Politics was a mistake. The headline was supposed to be for both the NAACP and CORE articles concerning their national conventions. The headline was to have read NAACP and CORE Meet.

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Questions, Answers Of Interest To Veterans

Q — Are those who fought in the Mexican Border campaign against Villa in 1916 eligible for veterans benefits?

A — They are eligible to receive a burial flag at the time of death. Although other benefits have been proposed in Congress, no legislation for benefits has resulted.

Q — Must an eligible war Orphan attend college to take advantage of the War Orphans Education Assistance Act?

A — No. Vocational training and other subjects that will help toward a career are permitted. All subjects must be above the high school level, however.

Q — Can inductees and draftees entering service now secure GI life insurance?

A — No. GI insurance in any form is no longer available.

Q — What is the maximum length of pre-bed care for patients at VA hospitals?

A — This has just been inable its hospitals to treat even creased from seven to 14 days. The VA hopes the step will enmore patients, without increase in number of beds or staff members.

Q — As a Korean Conflict veteran, I have a \$10,000.00 non-participating, term GI insurance policy. A special dividend is being paid to those who convert this type policy to a non-participating permanent plan before September 14, 1963. If I convert half my policy now, will I get some dividend payment?

A — You will get half the dividend if you convert half your policy. You will receive the remainder of the dividend if you convert the remainder of your policy before the deadline, September 14, 1963.

Q — Does a publication exist explaining the benefits available to veterans and their dependents?

A — Yes. It is called "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" and may be purchased from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The price is 20 cents per copy. Veterans organizations or others desiring copies in quantity may obtain discount rates.

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Student Voice Features Jackson Activity

The Student Voice, a monthly paper issued by the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, featured civil rights activity in Jackson, Mississippi in its June edition. The publication covers the arrests of Lavagn Brown and Jesse Harris who sat in the white section of the Hinds County Court room. The Voice also has an article on the arrest of a SNCC field secretary, Mrs. Diane Bevel.

Each month the Student Voice presents news of student activity throughout the South.

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Greenwood Man Dies While On County Work Farm

The FREE PRESS was told by Samuel Block, student working in Greenwood on voter registration that a Greenwood resident, Curtis Crosby died while serving a 30 day sentence on the Leflore County Farm. "Crosby was under doctor's orders at the time of his arrest not to do any heavy work," said Block.

Block said that Crosby was arrested on Sunday, July 1 allegedly for stealing a dollar from his wife and put to work the following day cutting grass and digging ditches. That evening he became ill. He was not taken to the hospital, according to Block's report, until Tuesday evening. He apparently died on the way to the hospital, and was reported dead upon arrival, the FREE PRESS was told.

An autopsy showed that there was pus on the dead man's lungs. The prisoner's father, Marshall Crosby said, according to Block, that the doctor who performed the autopsy told him that it appeared as though Crosby had been beaten. The FREE PRESS is hoping to get a further report.

Eight Tons Of Books Gotten For Miles

More than eight tons of books have been collected in behalf of a "Book For Miles College" drive. The book drive was begun in April after Birmingham city officials refused to let the liberal arts college conduct a fund drive in the Negro community to raise money for the library. Without the books, Miles College will not be able to meet Southern Association requirements.

Most of the books for the drive were collected through the Northern Student Movement, which is an association of civil rights groups on college campuses.

Among the schools contributing to the drive were: Connecticut College For Women, Ohio Wesleyan University, Lehigh, Yale, Sarah Lawrence, the College of New Rochelle, New Haven College, Manhattanville College, Swarthmore, the University of Delaware and Delaware State College. The drive is sponsored by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Miles College president, L. H. Pitts, praised the SNCC officers for their help.

Anyone wishing to contribute books to the drive may send them to Miles College, 5500 Avenue G, Birmingham 8, Alabama.

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Union Strikes Harts Plant In Memphis

All Harts Bakeries in the area are being picketed by their employees. In the Memphis plant 98 percent of the workers are still out after leaving their jobs on June 22, says union officials. "All of us were given final checks" said Herbert Scott, union man from the Memphis American Baker's and Confectioner's Union Local 149. The union decided to strike on Friday, June 22. Each man received a letter Saturday giving him until the following day to return to work or lose his job, the spokesman said. This apparently means that all of the strikers have been fired.

Workers at the Greenville, Mississippi, and Sexton, Missouri, plants also have struck. The dispute dates back to before Christmas, 1961. According to Union leaders, the company at that time gave all employees a profit sharing plan in which an equal amount of a man's average income would be put into investments. The worker would then be able to take out 10 per cent of his share for every year he worked. A clause in the plan, the union men claimed, set up a board which included no union men and whose purpose was to consider whether or not a man was insubordinate and thereby ineligible to receive the benefits.

Won't Give 12c For Plan

Harts stated, according to Scott, that the profit sharing plan would be worth an equivalent to 12 an hour to the worker. The union men could only figure the plan worth 6c an hour. Since the union had not been asked if they wanted the profit sharing plan they decided to trade it for the straight 12c raise to which the company said it would be equal. Union spokesmen said the company "turned us down flat."

Another disagreement the union men had with the company managers concerned a three week vacation that was promised to anyone who worked for the company for ten years. In the first year of the plan, one man was eligible and received his promised vacation. This past year, union officials said, several men became eligible for the vacation. The plan was thrown out.

The Memphis and Greenville plants have the ABC International Union. The Sexton plant has its own independent union. Jackson is the only Harts in the area that does not have a union. Presently men are striking in attempt to gain bargaining rights there. The Jackson workers, who were also told that they were fired, hope to win in effort to establish a union at the plant so that they can earn as much as the men at Colonial Bread Company. According to Harts workers, men doing the same work for Colonial get 49c more.

Civil Rights Group Requests Equal TV

According to the state representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, (NAACP) Medgar W. Evers, has requested time on WLBT-TV. They claim that they have the right for the time to present the opposing views of the Citizens Council Forum that has been irregularly presented on WLBT on Sundays over a period of time. In answer to the letter requesting the time, station manager, Fred L. Beard, pointed out that none of the topics that Evers had mentioned (i.e. integration) were discussed on recent programs. Beard said in his letter that the programs were to present "personalities of current interest to the American people."

Evers claimed that a definite point of view was represented by the programs. In his answer to Beard Evers said, "We are of the opinion that in any controversy, both sides of the issue should be aired. In the case of the Citizens' Council Forum, which expresses one point of view to the American people, the NAACP with an opposing point of view should be granted equal time."

Evers said that the rejection will be appealed to the highest authority. "We hope that you will reconsider giving equal time for the NAACP." Evers is hoping for 15 minutes each Sunday in order to dispel some of the myths about the NAACP.

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Citizen Education —

(Continued from Page One)

town.

It is the mayor's job to preside at the meetings of the board of aldermen. He is elect-

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ed for a four year term from amongst the qualified electors. He is the executive head of the city government. The mayor is the superintendent of all the city's officers and affairs. He has responsibility for the enforcement of all laws and ordinances. However, the mayor has little control over the appointment and removal of the non-elective officials of the municipality.

The board of aldermen is the legislative body of municipal government. The aldermen are elected for a four year term concurrently with the mayoralty election. In addition to making the laws and ordinances, the board selects the non-elective officers of a municipality. The board has five members in cities of under 10,000 population, and seven if it is larger. The mayor may influence the policy formulation of the board and may call special sessions when he feels that it is necessary. The non-elective officers of the municipality which the board appoints include the marshal, tax collector, clerk, and street commissioner.

In the Commission form of government, the government authority and responsibility is placed in the hands of a small commission that replaces the mayor and his council. The mayor and 2 councilmen elected at large serve four year terms of office. The mayor is designated as the presiding officer of the commission. The commission has all the executive, legislative, and judicial powers of the municipality. It determines the policies through the ordinances that it passes. The commission has administrative powers to create, abolish all offices, appoint and remove all officers, determine their pay and rules for their tenure, and raise money through bond issues.

Each commissioner is a head of an administrative department. He is responsible for the administration of his own departmental policies. The departments are allocated by a majority vote of the commission. The mayor supervises the police department. He is president of the commission. The mayor is also the general superintendent of the affairs and departments of the municipality. The City Manager-Council

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form of government is headed by small council and city manager which it selects and holds responsible for municipal administration. The city manager has far reaching powers. He is responsible for the entire administration of the city or town government. He prepares and recommends to the council, the annual budget. The city manager administers and enforces all laws and ordinances. Additional powers of his office include the power to appoint and remove all department heads and other administrative officials and the power to negotiate all contracts and purchases. The council is the supervisory legislative body.

The city clerk is an important municipal official. He may be either elected or appointed, depending on the municipality. This official is responsible for the registration of voters in the city. A voter living in a city must register with the circuit clerk of the county and then with the city clerk of the municipality. The city clerk keeps the minutes and the record of the proceedings of the city governing body, and the various election books of the city.

There is generally a city police chief, who has control over the police department and of arrests for all crimes and misdemeanors that might be committed within the limits of the municipality.

There exists usually a city tax collector and a city tax assessor, all under the absolute jurisdiction of the governing body of the municipality.

There is normally a municipal court presided over by a city judge in which misdemeanors committed inside the city are tried. This court hears not only traffic violations, but also such other matters as charges of breaches of the peace. This court normally does not have a jury and is not a court of record. If one is convicted here, he has a right to a complete retrial be-

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Comments—

(Continued from Page One)

near her house so that she would not have to walk so far. She told me that several months ago she had drawn up and circulated a petition to have the bus stop on their block. The woman had worked hard on the petition but because of the length of time that had gone by

fore a full twelve-man jury on appeal to the county court, if the county has one, or to the circuit court, if the county does not have a county court.

Each municipality may also have a city prosecuting attorney who represents the city in criminal cases before the municipal court and frequently before the county and circuit courts. Each municipality almost always has a city attorney who represents the municipality in general legal matters. He frequently will serve as prosecuting attorney in small municipalities.

This article concludes the series on state and local government. I hope that you now realize the great importance of knowing these governmental structures. They are the governing bodies with which we have the most contact. They are ours, and are organized to serve us in the best manner possible. In future weeks we will continue our discussions of politics and government on subjects such as registering to vote and the poll tax.

she had practically forgotten about it. When she learned today that the bus was now stopping there she was very pleased. Proof that sometimes if you are willing to try and do something for yourself you can get results. Congratulations.

Hi
Diddle
Diddle

The
Cat
And
The
Fiddle

The
Cow
Jumped
Over
The
Moon

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