

MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

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Harts Employees Continue To Strike

COMMENTS

By Charles L. Butts

I was talking to a grocer the other day about the Harts Bakery strike. I knew that he was in sympathy with the strikers, but I also saw that he had a shelf of Harts bread. When I asked him why he had the bread he said, "I guess I ought to pull it." As he was talking to me he had a clerk begin to pull the loaves off into carts. Apparently, when the Harts salesman came around the next morning and the grocer did not want any more Harts bread until a settlement was reached, the salesman said that several other grocers had done the same thing. The salesman said he "was really hurting."

I was traveling through the Delta last week when the person I was with decided that an ice cream cone would really taste good. We pulled into a parking space next to the business section of a very small town. We went into the first cafe we saw and asked for our cones. They did not have ice cream, but sent us around the corner to another place. We went out and around the corner and entered the first store. It was not marked on the outside. We entered the little 10 foot by 10 foot shop. A man was seated on a chair surrounded by shelves and shelves of a wide variety of booze. They do not bother to be sneaky about bootlegging in the rural areas. We decided we were in the wrong place.

As the Mississippi FREE PRESS is being reorganized, it is trying to get reporters from each community in the state to keep the Jackson office informed. The reporters are sending in reports as they happen in their area and notifying Jackson whenever there is an important story that the FREE PRESS ought to cover itself.

Good reporters are now working in Cleveland, Greenwood, Clinton, and Vicksburg. The FREE PRESS is hoping to get representatives in all of the other communities that have political or social action presently in progress, or communities that would like to be active. Any persons interested are encouraged to contact the FREE PRESS Jackson office, 1253 Valley Street.

Kennard In Prison, Far From Ole Miss

There has been a great deal of publicity about James Meredith going to the University of Mississippi. There is still some question as to when he will actually be admitted, though it seems very certain that he will enroll. (See "The Law" a new column on the editorial page.)

But what about the young man who tried to enter Southern University? Sometime in 1959 Clyde Kennard made his application to the University. He was first arrested for smuggling whiskey and reckless driving, but these charges were apparently dropped when he was convicted of aiding in the theft of four bags of chicken feed. He was sentenced to seven years in prison. He is now serving that term in Parchman State Farm.

It is understood that the man he aided is free while he remains imprisoned. The FREE PRESS feels that the



CLYDE KENNARD

situation is questionable enough to merit a close examination. There will be a feature story in next week's FREE PRESS.

Jacksonian Allegedly Mistreated At Hospital; Rep. Denies Harsh Care

Last week the FREE PRESS said it was investigating an alleged slapping and kneeing to a man who was being treated at the University Medical Center.

Jesse Clark, 73, who had been receiving treatment from the Center since 1958, died on the night of June 22. According to his wife, he had been treated two days before for a kidney problem. Because he became worse, she said she took him back to the hospital. There in the emergency room, a fluid was pumped into his bladder.

Apparently Clark began to move about because of the tremendous pain. Dr. Durant, a neighbor who accompanied Mrs. Clark, and who was in the room, said that the doctor said "Be still old man, be still," then slapped him hard across the face. Disturbed, Mrs. Clark entered the room from the doorway where she had been watching, and asked if doctor's often struck patients.

Durant then reported the incident to the authorities in the hospital. As a result, (Continued on Page Four)

Management Insists On No Union; Sales Hurt By Five Week Stand

The employees at the Jackson Harts Bakery are now in their fifth week of striking for bargaining rights. Last week Harts Salesmanager James Ramsey said he believed the "whole thing would be over in a couple of days." It seems he believed the strikers would give up. According to picket captain Frank Buyer, all attempts to work out a satisfactory settlement have been in vain because Harts management insists that there will be no union in the Harts plant in Jackson.

ABC Union Strikes; Memphis Plant

Spokesmen from the striking American Baker's and Confectioner's Union in Memphis said they had been able to meet with company officials. The union was promised an eight cent raise this year and a six cent raise the following year, but the contract presented still another problem.

Normally, if a man is fired and the Union wishes to investigate the situation, a union official, a company representative, and an outside party from the arbitration board.

Harts said, however, that it, alone, would be the one to decide if the situation required an investigation. The union accepted this unwillingly, but was willing to agree if the company would rehire the strikers under the new contract. Harts refused.

The strike in Memphis still continues. Harts is also being struck by the ABC Union in Sikeston, Missouri and in Jackson, where the union is attempting to gain recognition. The Greenville plant, which has an independent union, is also striking the Harts Bakery.

Buyer told the FREE PRESS that the picketing was moving along relatively smoothly. He said there was one incident reported in which one of the men from Harts told one of the picketers that he was going to "beat" him if he walked any more. He did not follow up his threat. Buyer said that effects of the strike were "really beginning to be felt by the company." He reported that one of the striking bakers who had been fired because he had left his job (Continued on Page Four)

Tennessee Voter Rolls Show Gain

Memphis, Tenn. — Nearly 3,000 new names were added to voter registration rolls in four Tennessee cities and two counties as the result of a five week crash drive.

In addition, 4,518 voters who had moved since the last election were retained on the rolls by reporting their changes of address.

In Memphis, where more than 70 per cent of the potential Negro voters are already registered, 4,036 new names were added to the rolls for a total of 73,588.

The campaign in Chattanooga resulted in the registration of 1,400 new voters and the recording of 2,361 changes of address. At the end of the campaign Negro registration in the city totaled 15,000.

In Knoxville there were 1,123 new registrations and 1,783 changes of address which together with the number previously registered brought the total to 11,000. 1,162 new names were added to the rolls in Clarksville. An additional 374 changes of address were reported.

In rural Haywood and Fayette counties resistance was encountered and slowdown tactics were used by registration officials. In some localities in these counties, the registrars would take 45 minutes to enroll a single voter when it normally should take only about three minutes to register. Nevertheless, 43 names were added in Fayette County and 72 in Haywood County.

4 Jackson Youths Explore Advantages Of Municipal Library

Shortly after noon on Friday, July 20, four young people entered the Jackson Municipal Library on North State Street. Although this may seem to be a normal occurrence at a library the quartet's entrance aroused stares and caused some of the people using the facilities to leave. The group had entered, checked out and read their materials politely and quietly. These reactions in the library were promoted by the fact the two boys and two girls were Negro.

Each one of the group had been working on a "project" using the facilities of the library available to Negroes. They had not been able to find material that they

thought was important for their study. They knew that many of these books could be found at the City Library. Shirley Baily, a senior at Jim Hill Junior and Senior High School in Jackson, was preparing a speech which she was to give in her Church entitled "Popularity versus Real Greatness." Miss Baily said that the four had met the previous Thursday and talked over the idea of using the more complete facilities which are normally reserved for white people only. She said, "We decided we should go down and see how it was and try to check out some books."

Irvin Walker, a Junior at Jim Hill, who is planning to

be a lawyer, wished to find some law books. Vera Ann Baily, also of Jim Hill, and Charles Hopkins, who is a college sophomore, needed books they could not find in the facilities available to them.

When the group went to the desk to check out the books, the Librarian at the desk did not seem particularly alarmed. The four went to the reading tables and worked on their projects for about an hour, returned their materials and left. Apparently some one of those who were surprised to have the students use the books were disturbed enough to call the police, who arrived shortly (continued on page three).

Covering the News

Because of the size of our paper, there is a limit to the amount of news that we can cover. But size should never be an excuse for not covering a story fully. We pointed out in an earlier editorial that it is proper for a newspaper to have a point of view. That does not mean, however, that a newspaper should completely exclude one side of a story. Even though we are small, we will give complete coverage of fewer stories, even if we must represent the side we do not favor.

The Harts strike is an example.

In our editorial we supported the strike and the union. In covering the situation, however, we not only went to the union leaders, but tried to get the company side of the dispute as well. It just so happened that last week the manager was on the wrapping machine. The sales manager, after he had asked the nature of our paper, said that he had "no comment." This week, when we checked back to see what they would like to comment on the situation, they were both unavailable for comment. We really did try to get their side of the situation.

The case of the Jackson man who was allegedly treated harshly in a hospital is another example of covering both sides of the question. We first heard the story from the man's wife. We had a story then. It would have been easiest if we had just left the story the way it was. But in order to get both sides, we went to the hospital and talked to its representatives. Many times in cases like this one there is more than one side to a story. In this instance there certainly was two sides. Although the hospital spokesman did say that the man was slapped, she also said that it was for the man's own good. If they had not, he might well have not understood that the doctor was telling him not to move or he would injure himself. Because we were not at the scene, we do not know which is true.

Our little newspaper even in its limited space can also cover news that other larger papers do not cover at all.

According to the union leaders, there had been no publicity in Jackson about the Harts' strike. This strike which requires 24-hour police protection and has been going on for over five weeks now, obviously is news. But because the local papers apparently do not think that unions are in their interest, they do not give it a line of type.

Our paper will be giving exclusive coverage of news around the state. It is not the size of the newspaper that counts, but the material in it that makes the difference.

Unlike the New York Times which prints "all the news that is fit to print," we can only print all the news that we can fit. But we shall try to make it complete and accurate news, news that other papers might not think in their interest to publish.

Comments-

Not too long ago, I took a couple of friends out to the airport to catch their plane. While we were sitting in the waiting room for the flight to be announced, a gentleman came along apparently looking for the rest room. He saw the door marked "women" then became puzzled when he saw that the door opposite was also labeled "women." There was a door in the center that he tried in desperation, only to find that it was the janitors broom closet.

Finally it was pointed out to him that the rest room facilities for gentlemen were

around the corner (where there are also two doors marked "men" that no doubt have confused many ladies). The reason for the duplication of course, is because the terminal used to be segregated. The interstate ruling, however, has outlawed the use of signs indicating racial segregation. With the signs down, everyone is finding that they can use the same rest room very successfully. The gentleman confused by the identical doors is a demonstration of the ridiculous Southern procedure of duplication.

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Editor Charles L. Butts

THE LAW

Meredith

There are many people who are confused as to the date that James Meredith will enter the University of Mississippi. Apparently, even the Federal judges, themselves, are unsure about the answer to this question.

As a result of the thirty-day stay granted last week by Mississippi's "own" judge on the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, the elderly segregationist, Judge Ben F. Cameron of Meridian, there is now a distinct possibility that Mr. Meredith will have to wait until the spring semester of 1963.

However, the odds still appear to be in favor of his entering Ole Miss this fall.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals panel of three judges which decided the case has now recalled its mandate from the U. S. District Court of segregationist Judge Sidney Mize in Jackson and has asked both the State of Mississippi and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (attorneys for Meredith) to file briefs within five days on the question of whether or not the original panel — of which Cameron was not a member — can vacate or void Cameron's stay.

The legal issue is a delicate one, as the Federal statutes seem to say that Cameron does have the power to grant the stay in order to allow the State of Mississippi time in which to try to get the U. S. Supreme Court to review the case — which the Court probably will not do. On the other hand, Cameron was not on the original panel of three judges that heard the case. However, there can be no question but that the delay is far more damaging to Meredith than it is to the State of Mississippi.

Yet Meredith can find assurance in that though victory may be shortly delayed, its achievement is now no longer in doubt.

Letters To The Editor

When Dave Campbell was home from Jackson he was able to tell me a little of the racial situation in Mississippi. I felt that though it made me enthusiastic it did not give me enough to tell others about what is going on.

I would appreciate any time you can take out to tell me about what is going on in Mississippi. (I need all the information I can get my hands on to get the slightest bit of enthusiasm up around here.)

I received my first MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS and enjoyed all of the articles, particularly the one on William Faulkner and Newspapers And Their Point Of View. I hope that I can fulfill my mission up here in Tulsa to get subscriptions for your paper. It's a great paper and I'll try to do all I can for you.

Best of luck.

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"
Karen Francis
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Citizenship Education Workshop

Mississippi Registration Requirements

By PROF. LIBRUS

Our first three articles discussed the general question of "For Whom and for What One Votes." This article and the ones to follow will deal mainly with "How One Votes."

Before one may vote in the State of Mississippi, he must register and pay his poll taxes. Both registration and payment of the poll tax are necessary; but as they are two separate things, they shall be discussed by themselves in separate articles. An easy way to remember that these two are not the same thing is to note that they are done at different places. That is, one registers to vote at the Circuit Clerk's office, while one pays his poll tax at the Sheriff's office.

Article I, sections 2 and 4 of the United States Constitution, vests in the States the power to determine the qualifications an individual must have before he may vote. Thus section 249 of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi accordingly states:

"No one shall be allowed to vote for members of the legislature or other officers who has not been duly registered under the Constitution and laws of this state, by an officer of this state, legally authorized to register the voters thereof. And registration under the Constitution and laws of this state is hereby declared to be an essential and necessary qualification to vote in any and all elections."

What then are the qualifications required by the state of each prospective voter?

First, in order to vote one must be twenty-one years of age by the date of the general election, which is always held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. One may register if he is not twenty-one years old if he will be twenty-one before the Election Day on which he wishes to vote.

Secondly, there are residence requirements which must be met. Thus to qualify one must have lived in the state of Mississippi for at least two years, and must have lived for at least one year in the election district in which one wishes to vote. This means that if one has lived in Greenville, Miss., for twenty years and has voted

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there for twenty years and then moves to Jackson, he must live at least one year in Jackson before he may vote in Hinds County.

It must also be noted that during that year he may not vote in Greenville either, for the moment he has changed his address he has lost his right to vote for at least one year. There are certain special residence requirements for ministers, persons in the armed forces, and people who move to another address within a city.

However, these requirements are too detailed to be dealt with here.

(Should you want additional information on these qualifications write to Prof. Librus, c/o the FREE PRESS)

Thirdly, in addition to paying poll tax for at least two years in a row, one must take a written test which requires each person to read, write and give a reasonable interpretation of a section of the Mississippi Constitution, and the registrar may select any section at all to be used in the written test. To be sure it is possible for a registrar to ask people to interpret long and difficult passages of the Constitution. However, if the test is fairly administered, one should have no fear of this part of the examination. All that is required is that one give a reasonable interpretation, which means very simply, "Put this passage into your own words, as best as you possibly can."

The test also asks that the applicant set forth his "understanding of the duties and obligations of citizenship under a constitutional form of government." A very simple and proper answer to this might be:

1. Obey all laws of Mississippi.
2. Pay all taxes.
3. Cooperate with the police.

4. Be an informed voter and vote in all elections."

The examination may be taken any number of times, and one should not fail to take advantage of this. Indeed, it is not uncommon to take the exam two or three times — or even more — merely to "practice" and to gain familiarity with this part of the registration procedure.

Federal Government Aids Voter Registration; Grants Rights To 26

Shreveport, Louisiana — Surmounting numerous obstacles raised by state officials, 26 Negroes became on July 24, the first members of their race in 40 years to be registered as voters in East Carroll Parish. A three-judge federal court, Judge John Minor Wisdom, Fifth U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, presiding, certified the 26 applicants, while simultaneously enjoining state and parish officials from interfering with the registration process. The applicants will thus be able to vote in the Louisiana Democratic Primary scheduled for today.

The East Carroll registrar had previously resigned rather than comply with a federal order of May 30 to halt discrimination practices in registering voters. During the period from June 14 to the present, the office of voter registration had thus been closed. The 26 Negroes, having attempted to register during this time, had their applications reviewed directly in a precedent setting action by U. S. District Judge Edwin Hunter. Hunter acted

under the 1960 Civil Rights Act, which provides for federal registering of applicants where a "pattern of discrimination" exists.

This represents the first action of its kind in the nation to be taken under the provisions of the Act, and is probably the first time that the Constitutional right to vote has been "personally" insured by a Federal official. East Carroll has a population of 15,000 of which some 60 per cent is Negro. Yet not since 1922 had a Negro been able to register in this northeast Louisiana parish, governed by a Police Jury.

Seventy-eight Negroes had originally asked the court to register them. However, 25 failed to appear when the test was given in Monroe on July 12, and another 25 failed the exam. Two more were later disqualified when Hunter, who had administered all of the tests, expressed dissatisfaction with their responses to questions on their applications.

Ironically, the 12-question citizenship test administered was that drafted by the state Sovereignty Commission, headed by Frank Voelker, Jr., son of the Louisiana judge who issued a restraining order — later overthrown — to suspend Hunter's action.

Louisiana plans to appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. However, the action of the Federal Government, in directly preserving the voting rights of these Negroes, must stand as an inspiration to those throughout the South fighting for their rights as citizens.

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MISSISSIPPI VISITOR TALKS WITH FREE PRESS . . .

During her visit to Mississippi, Miss Sarah Woodman of New York City spent three weeks traveling around seeing the educational events of the state. She spent one afternoon on the 64-square-mile Delta Pine and Land Company plantation just north of Greenville, Mississippi where she looked into the educational opportunities of the workers. The following is an interview that Miss Woodman gave to the FREE PRESS.

Q. Miss Woodman, what brings you into the South?

A. I am interested in education. I have heard that the opportunities for education in the South especially here in Mississippi, are very limited for many people who live in the rural areas. I have been told that particularly the Negro is denied easy access to schooling. It seems to me that good education is essential for a democracy to work. I wanted to see first hand whether these accusations of the South were true and if so, what can be done about them.

Q. Did you find the situation as you had been told?

A. I found that it depends a great deal where I look. There obviously are some schools that have very fine facilities, both Negro and white. I have not been here long enough to judge the quality of the personnel, however. There are many places, particularly in the rural areas. I understood that Mississippi was quite proud of its separate but equal policy. I have seen with my eyes school buildings that I would not care to enter. Buildings that are falling down, that have great cracks in the walls, rags and cardboard in the windows. Surely these facilities could not be proudly compared with anything. One can be certain such conditions could not attract good teachers.

Q. Miss Woodman, I understand that you spent an afternoon visiting the Delta Pine and Land Company plantation in western Mississippi. What were the state of educational conditions there?

A. I had been led to believe that most of the workers there, all of whom are Negro, were kept in an illiterate state. That is apparent

ly quite false. I first had a discussion with several of the workers about the amount of schooling they received. I was told that many students now are encouraged to finish high school. I have no idea of what quality the school is. The man I was speaking with pointed out, however, that because of the poor conditions of the people the pressure to quit school and "go to field" was very strong.

Q. You mention that high school education is encouraged now. What about the people who are adults?

A. Apparently many of them are literate, but only can read and write with difficulty. When I asked if the adults would be interested in an adult education class, I found a very enthusiastic response.

Q. If such a class could be made available for the people would the plantation owners permit it?

A. Yes, they seemed to encourage it. I spent nearly two hours with the president of the company. When I spoke to him about adult education, he told me that they had an adult education program, but that they did not have one at the present time. He said that they encourage such things, but that the workers did not support them.

Q. According to what you said the workers had told you, they would support an adult education program. That

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is encouraging. Do you think there is hope in Mississippi being able to lift its educational level?

A. Yes, I think so. There seems to be an awareness of the importance of education in being responsible citizens. I think that awareness is an important first step. But it will be necessary to get as much local, state and federal aid as possible. Enthusiasm alone is not enough.

Four Jacksonians —

(Continued from Page One) after the group's departure.

There now is a policeman on duty inside the library, who, according to Walker, was not present at the time of the group's visit.

When the FREE PRESS checked with the police department, they said that the officer had been put in the library in order "to maintain peace, harmony, and quiet." He is also to "keep undesirables out," the police spokesman said.

When asked if they would use the library again in the near future, a member of the group said they would when they felt the library had materials they needed and to which they could gain access in no other way.

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North Carolinian Killed By Policeman; Community To Seek Legal Assistance

By GENE SCHUNK

Siler City, North Carolina — July 22 — Negroes in this small North Carolina town are greatly disturbed following the killing of a young Negro man by a white rookie policeman.

A mass meeting was called following the shooting in nearby Graham on Saturday night, July 14 when a policeman shot Melvin White of rural Chatham County. The policeman said White tried to run away after he was arrested for drunkenness. (Under North Carolina law it is illegal for the police to shoot in connection with a misdemeanor such as drunkenness.)

Eight days after the killing the policeman still had not been indicted. According to local officials, the case is still under investigation. Newspapers first reported the officer was under only \$100 bond, but when Siler City Negroes talked of calling outside legal help, the figure given out rose to \$1,000.00.

Louis Alston, publisher of the Carolina Times of nearby Durham, and main speaker at the meeting, urged the people of Chatham County to

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seek legal assistance. He said that as long as they made no protest at racial injustice, they themselves would be morally guilty of such killings. The meeting voted to retain the services of F. B. McKissick of Durham.

The patrolman says the shooting was accidental. He claims that he fired into the ground as a warning and that the bullet ricocheted. However, when the victim's family obtained permission for an autopsy in another county, two bullet holes were discovered. The autopsy reportedly showed no alcohol in the dead man's body.

There have been four similar incidents in Chatham County in the past five years.

Jacksonian—

(Continued from Page One)

Mrs. Clark said, the doctor was taken off the case, and a nurse was overheard to say that she was glad that he had been removed. Mrs. Clark stated that she was told that her husband would have to be hospitalized. Some time later, she said she was informed that he had died in the hospital.

The spokesman for the hospital explained that because the man was old enough to be "wandering" that during the very painful washing of the bladder, he apparently had a time of hysteria. She said that he was so sick that he was not cooperative so that the doctor did need to use a "light, sharp slap" to gain his attention.

The urinary condition, from which Clark later died, was so delicate, the hospital representative said, that the doctor needed the patient's cooperation to keep from injuring himself. She denied any kneeling and stated that she knew of no doctor being removed from the case.

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—ONE DAY SERVICE—

Harts Employees—

(Continued from Page One)

to join the strike was offered his job back. Apparently the company was having difficulty with the inexperienced help that they had gotten to replace the men who had struck. The baker who was offered his job refused because he still believed that employees ought to have the right to bargain with their employers.

Apparently, the effects of the strike are hurting the sales of Harts bread throughout the city. Buyer said that he did not know what the figures were but that more and more people are hearing of the strike and that grocers and shoppers are refusing to buy Harts bread until the company agrees to bargain with the workers.

Harts is also being struck in the other cities where they have plants. Herbert Scott, another Jackson picket captain, said "Both Sikeston, Missouri and Greenville, Mississippi sales, have been cut by 50 per cent, and the Harts Bakery in Memphis has lost 30 per cent of its normal sales."

Union officials pointed out that because there are so few unions in Jackson, most people do not understand what a strike means. One of the union leaders said that he was talking with a woman who was buying some Harts bread. When he said that the employees at Harts were on strike in an attempt to get bargaining rights, the lady asked, "How can they be on strike, I just saw the truck this morning." This woman is quite typical of many people who do not realize that the right-to-work law allows a company to hire men and keep on operating during a strike. In this case, he continued, the company has refused to listen to the wishes of the workers, and instead has hired new people under the present low wages. With the new people, Harts has

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Clarksdale Druggist Sued; Retrial Wanted

A prominent Clarksdale druggist, Dr. Aaron Henry, has just lost two libel suits total \$40,000.00. A circuit court jury ruled in favor of Police Chief Ben C. Collins to the amount of \$15,000 last

Monday. On the previous Thursday, County Attorney Thomas L. Pearson was awarded \$25,000. In both suits Dr. Henry was charged with making statements which he could not prove concerning the officials involved in his arrest on a morals charge last March.

Henry told the FREE PRESS that the court has proved he was arrested on a non-existent warrant. The Shelby County law officer who was supposed to have issued the warrant denied doing so. Henry also said that the only affidavit was dated March 14, 11 days after his arrest.

Henry's attorney, Jack Young, moved for a retrial on a statement made by Pearson, which said that a few years ago Henry would have been killed — now it is only \$40,000.

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