The Truth Shall Make You Free

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Laborers Strike At 14 Sites In Jackson

Clarksdale Funds Unfairly Handled

The FREE PRESS has recently heard from its Clarksdale correspondent that local tax funds for the education of the Delta city’s children are being spent in a discriminatory manner. There is a separate fund for the education of each white child, only $25.97 is being spent for the education of each Negro child. This difference in the distribution of tax monies is not limited to Clarksdale, however. County schools in which the city is located, are typical of many rural counties. While $123.33 is spent on the education of each white child, only $13.33 is being spent for the education of each Negro child.

New Law In Effect

Last week in the FREE PRESS there was an article about the success of some of the people living in Greenwood, Mississippi, who had distributed leaflets that encouraged people to register and vote. As a result of the leafleting efforts, the law enforcement officers and the citizens who went down to the registrar’s office to try to register, they were denied. Later, thirty men were down and were allowed to fill out forms. According to a new law recently passed by Mississippi Legislature, before anyone can be registered their

13 In Greenwood Fill Out Forms

(Continued On Page Four)

Union Rejects Five Cent Raise; Wants Raise Equal To Other Men

A new strike has begun in Jackson. This strike involves Bell Telephone System and 145 members of the Construction Contractor’s Association. The strike began on August 1 at six of the major building projects here and has spread to fourteen building sites. All other workmen on these jobs have gotten thirty-cent raises, while the laborers. The laborers reportedly only were offered a five-cent raise in pay.

Effect Of Harts Strike Spreads

The Hart strike continues in Jackson without incident. According to a report from the company competitors with Harts, their sales are continuing in spite of the strike, because more and more people are still in line and ordering in with the workers right to bargain with their employers. The company is still

Petition Seeks 60,000 Signatures; More Than 20,000 Collected Already

Petitions are now being prepared containing the results of the Democratic Primary in the Congressional District of Mississippi.

Last year, Senator John H. Stennis collected some 34,000 votes for his re-election bid. Senator Smith, with 21,000 votes, and Senator Wicker with some 13,000 votes, were the third and fourth candidates.

The petitions which bear the signatures of about 40,000 second Congressional District Negroes and some 20,000 whites are designed to bring their bread on to their shoes.

Sheriff Threatens Student Worker In Holly Springs

Holly Springs, Miss. — A student working on voter registration was told not to return to the registrar’s office by the deputy sheriff of this rural Delta city. The student, Frank Smith, is working on registering voters at the polls, and has aroused several Negroes to the Clark’s Clerk in his office.

Deputy Sheriff Ben Ross reportedly told Smith, “Nigger, you ask too many questions. We don’t like people asking questions in second house.” He then warned Smith not to return to the registrar’s office.

The Atlanta, Georgia office of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee has asked Federal authorities to investigate the threat. They offer it as “another example of police intimidation of voter registration workers.”

(Continued On Page Three)

I had a friend from Columbus, South Carolina, with me for about a week recently. He was very much liked by my friends — and he being a Northerner as well. When the time came to say goodbye everyone heartily shook hands with him and cheerfully wished him well as his trip here in the United States. After we had left the station we went to the bus, he told me in Spanish how different the good-byes were in the U.S. compared to those in Columbus. He said he in his country when someone went away it was always with the promise that he would have any real feeling in his words for saying goodbye. When I asked him if he liked the American way of saying goodbye, he said, “Ah, much, much.” (Very much.)
The Ultimate Day

Editorsials

Editorsials are usually forthright, often fatherly, declarations of opinions. Invariably they exhort, prod, urge or reprimand. Occasionally they beseech; always they lecture. By their very nature they are "thinking" rather than "feeling;" of the intellect, rather than the soul.

Earthbound, and therefore infinitely mortal, they roar only as high as the nearest cliche on spring tulips or fall leaves, and then disintegrate like yesterday's comics in the garbage pall. A certain myopic vision seems to affect their writers; a myopia of cause and effect, of just-such-utter social involvement, of even right and wrong. All of which is to say, that their bespectacled vision is distorted; it is merely near-sighted.

Thus, there is more to the closing of Cicero's restaurant at the Jackson airport than a possible triumph for desegregation. And the nowecessed Green County teacher rehearsing healing involves more than Negro voting rights. For in the civil rights issue, as in any social issue, it is far too easy to dehumanize people, to divide them into "good" and "bad," and to see no farther. The mustachioed leering villian of the old melodrama has been replaced by — depending upon who may jump you, occupy — the Northern agitator, the white "uncle Tom" Mississippi Plan, the upstart Negro, or the segregationist judge. And in each case, a totally damning vision of the antagonist is as narrow as the vision which originally conjured up the villain.

Man is mortal enough without inescapably binding him to the social issues of the day, a day which he boastfully claims as "his" only because in his narrowness he will know no other. And to measure him, to see him, to believe, to understand him, only in terms of his reactions to certain man-made problems (which by their very origins must share the mortality of their creators), is to use him of even very last "touch of the post," to correct him with an irrevocable burden of mortality.

This does not mean that "The Causes" (or causes in general), are frivolous or misguided. It does mean that they are often near-sighted. Too often, the cause itself becomes the horizon, while men, depending on their social alignment, become either obstacles or aids in its sacred journey towards freedom. However, man cannot be saved through the sacrifice of men.

The embedded hatred, on both sides, which is present in Jackson and the South exists largely because of this narrowing of vision. One side is "good," the other is "bad" — totally. But the civil rights struggle is not simply a matter of black and white. No one can be wholly good or bad according to his response to a single question. And regardless of whether or not Negroes are admitted or seated, a burning, blanketed hatred can only make farther the coming of the ultimate "day," a day long after the coming of integration.

—R. Hollander

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Citizenship Education Workshop

Questions And Answers About Poll Tax

In Mississippi in order to vote you must first register and then pay your poll tax. Even if you are a registered voter you cannot vote at election time unless you have paid the poll tax for this year. The poll tax for the state counties is $2 a year, but in some counties it is $3 a year.

Question: WHEN AND WHERE DO I PAY MY POLL TAX?

Answer: You pay your poll tax at the sheriff's office at your county courthouse in January of each year. February 1 is the last day on which payment will be accepted.

The sheriff will give you a poll tax receipt which you must save and present at the polls when you vote. If you wish to vote in November, 1963, you must pay your poll tax in January, 1963.

If you don't send you notice to come down and pay the tax before this column and remember the date.

Q: Must my wife pay also?

A: Yes, every man or woman between the ages of 21 and 60 must pay a poll tax.

Q: Can I vote if I am over 60?

A: Certainly. You must go to the county clerk's office with social security papers, army discharge papers, a driver's license or other proof of your age. He will give you an Exemptor Certificate which is good for four years afterwards. Take it to the polls with you when you vote.

Q: For the past two years I have been serving in the army and have not paid my taxes. Can I vote?

A: If you are 35 years old and have never paid my poll taxes. If I want to start voting now, must I pay all those back taxes?

A: No. The law requires you to pay only one back tax. Thus if you pay $4 (in some counties, $6) next January, you will be able to vote in November, 1963. Unfortunately, if you have not failed to pay your taxes in the past, you cannot vote until the next State Election in August. You have

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History Of Clyde Kennard...

...the second in a series of articles on Clyde Kennard, a young Negro man who successfully applied to Mississippi Southern College. Clyde Kennard is now serving out a 7 year sentence in Parchman State Penitentiary, as told by A. Hallander.

Clyde Kennard had known the president of Miss Southern before he had applied for admission. Not only had he known him, "he had trusted him", despite the fact that Dr. McCain had been known to be friendly with the individual States to control their own affairs — I have done all that is within my power to follow a reasonable course in college. ...I have tried to make it clear that my love for the State of Mississippi is equal to any man's alive. The thought of presenting this request before a Federal Court for consideration with all the publicity and misrepresentation which that would bring about makes my heart heavy."

Kennard, a Negro presumably residing in Forrest County, today appeared at MSC in connection with his request to be admitted to the college. He was denied because of deficiencies and irregularities in application. According to Dr. McCain could not 'renovate the regularities because, "once a prospective student of record becomes a part of the registrar's records we are prohibited from releasing any part of that information except on the student's request." McColl had added, "Generally we went over what we had discussed in the past. He was denied the opportunity of speaking to the United Press International newsmen."

Clyde Kennard, himself, said that he had been given three reasons for his rejection: Irregularities in his medical records making his "moral character" questionable, MSC's not having received his records from the University of Chicago, and the University of Chicago's having denied him recommendations. Later these reasons were answered, a statement which Kennard held was untrue.

Constables Joe Daniels and Charlie Ward denied having advance knowledge of Kennard's pre-publication plan to enroll at MSC; although there were several law officers on the campus when Kennard arrived, including Highway Patrol Chief Bill Hood, Kennard was denied the full police protection normally given to one of the officers drove his station wagon. Kennard's parole was being questioned, one of the constables entered with 5 half-pints of liquor, claiming they were found under the front seat of Kennard's car. Clyde Kennard was booked under charges of reckless driving and illegal possession of liquor.

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Policeman Indicted in N. C. Killing

Graham, N. C. — A Coro- nelle's Joe Junior Johnson over Patrolman Joe Jucinie to the Grand Jury for action in the killing of Melvin White in Behr City on July 14. Jucinie was killed in the shoot-out in what was described as a drive-by shooting.

As a result of affidavits filed in federal court charging segregation practices, the contract of Cicero W. Carr, operator of Jackson Municipal Airport's dining room, has been canceled. Three staff members of the dining room were among those who filed the affidavits late last week.

Carr's lawyer, presumably upon learning of the affidavits, notified the city council on Monday morning, August 6, that Carr wished to be relieved of the contract. The city council immediately complied.

Airport Director, T. A. Turner, in an interview with the FREE PRESS, explained that "Carr wanted to be let out of the contract. Also, we weren't happy with the operation." Turner indicated that the restaurant would be run by the Airport Authority on a stand-up counter basis, serving only on those dining room, Negroes were denied this right and were served only at a stand-up counter outside the dining room.

The six affidavits, dated August 3 and 4, and referring to events of the 2nd and 3rd, further testify that once one of the whites, having pre- ordered his fare in the dining room, came out and invited the Negro to join him in the stand-up counter. After which both were refused admission to the dining room. A witness who blocked the doorway to the dining area, saying, "You can't go in there."

The affidavits were signed by Robert Gilbert, Lucille Barker, and Donald Holland, all whites, and by Negroes Devoe Crowe.

In each case, the location referred to in the affidavit was Jackson's airport dining room.

The restaurant, as it had been remodeled following a federal court order of early summer, includes a stand-up counter, a dining area marked off as being reserved for air- line personnel and a table-clothed "romantically lighted" dining room, supposedly accessible only to those having reservations.

The affidavits testify that while whites have been seated at the table-clothed dining room, Negroes have been turned away or out having been asked for reservations. However, when Negroes are present at the counter area while persons are told...