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Continued on Page 2
Is Mississippi As Mature As Georgia?

Something very significant happened in Georgia, our neighbor state here in the Southland. It happened officially at about 10 o’clock on the morning of September 13, when Marvin Griffin conceded victory to Carl Sanders in the race for state governor. It actually happened the day before and the weeks before, when the people of Georgia made their choices, with Mr. Griffin losing a good portion of the vote on the old southern political gimmick—race. This time, it did not work.

Hopefully, this is the beginning of the end of the type of political emotionalism that allows men to gain official positions merely because they promise to keep a certain part of the population content.

Griffin made a special effort to make his position clear on the struggle within that state for Negroes to vote. He did not want the Negro vote. He obviously believed that this would be a way to assure the rural white vote. Although the passing of the old unit system has reduced the importance of the rural power, they still form a great part of the support that politicians like Griffin need in order to win elections.

In fact, in his series on the Albany Movement in the Clarion-Ledger, S. S. Talbert said that when Jackeline Robinson visited the remains of one of the churches that had burned, he mentioned that “it is a shame that a man like former governor Marvin Griffin could be running for governor in Georgia.” Talbert then said, “Robinson could not have said anything more pleasing to Griffin supporters. They feel that it cemented the vote of countless thousands of Georgians.”

Griffin’s contribution to the electorate is his fight against the Negro vote.”

Talbert later stated that Griffin would carry the state. It seems that both Talbert and Griffin were quite wrong. Not only did Sanders defeat Griffin by a 2-1 majority, he sent him in the rural areas, too. Cochran County, the county of the Albany Movement, gave Sanders a substantial majority.

On the race issue, Sanders says that he will obey the Federal laws. This probably does not have much to do with the fact that he got the Negro “vote.” As the fact that Griffin drove away. Atlantic Constitution Editor, Eugene Patterson, points out that “The Negro vote did not go as a bloc in the lieutenant governor’s race, even though Culver Kilgore, elected, received 71 percent of the Negro votes.”

“Negroes did vote heavily for Carl Sanders in the governor’s race, of course ... because Griffin drove them away from his candidacy. It is not unreasonable for a candidate to speak up for the cause of integration, and have his Negro votes. Sanders is attempting to use the Negro vote to win and then to call it “bloc-voting” when the Negroes obligated him.”

Although the two Jackson Dailies each gave the election results largely to the Negro vote, the count shows that Sanders would have won anyway. The maturity of the Georgia voters in the midst of racial conflict is to be greatly admired. It is in the great hope of this paper that the people of our state come through our period of great stress showing as much maturity. Although our political leaders are of the ilk of the Mr. Griffin, we sincerely hope that the people of Mississippi are of the stature of the voters in Georgia.

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Editor — Charles L. Butts

Ga. Mother Tells Paper About Son

The following is a letter to the Atlanta Constitution:

Atlanta—Regarding desegregated classes in the Atlanta high school this year, I thought that you and perhaps the public might be interested in some of the remarks made by my son, a student in one of these classes, at one of the high schools.

Last night, we were discussing the subjects he is taking, teachers, etc. To try and find out what these desegregated classes are, I asked him if he had any Negro students in his classes.

He said that he has several in four of his classes and that he has had several, but there is no integration. I asked them about school in general. He said they were very intelligent. He went on to say that the Negro students in his school are doing the same thing. I am proud of my son because he is a good student and he is cooperating in such a fine way.

A MOTHER

Georgia Editorial

In the past weeks, the FREE PRESS has used this column to publish research by Miss Bessie ed Burris, deputizing the attention of the people of Mississippi. This week, an editorial is the Atlanta Constitution, a daily that has served Georgia for more than 60 years, is to discuss a report by our correspondent. With the support of a new newspaper, the Atlanta Constitution, editor, printed the following editorial last Saturday. It is entitled, ‘Let’s Keep Our Eyes on Mississippi And Observe the Consequences.’

Throughout the series of events that have occurred since the U.S. Supreme Court’s school decision in 1954, one lesson is abundantly clear. The decision stands and in all contexts between state and federal authority, the latter has prevailed.

Now once again this federal authority has challenged in a way that can lead only to tragedy for a state and its people. Gov. Ross Barnett, of Mississippi, reacting to a U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to admit a Negro student to the University of Mississippi, has directed all state officials to enforce state laws—not the federal edict. He has thus resurrected in Mississippi, in the name of the Constitution, a doctrine that has been rejected, discredited and ruled invalid so many times as to leave no doubt of its illegality.

The challenge, of course, will leave the federal government no choice. The constitutionality will be upheld. The court’s edict will be enforced, if the governor follows his course. The consequences ensure, there will be another situation such as we had in Little Rock when troops were called out to preserve order. There should be no doubt on the part of our writer of past experiences what the eventual outcome will be.

We suggest to all Georgians that they observe events in Mississippi closely in the coming weeks. Let them observe what Mississippians must face. It happens here because they have chosen the course of law and order and preservation of public education. The scars still visible in Arkansas will, in time, be evident here. There is no doubt of such a situation if the people of Georgia do not act quickly.

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The History Of Clyde Kennard

The seventh and last in a series of articles on Clyde Kennard, a young Negro who unsuccessfully applied to Mississippi Projects, is now appearing. Clyde Kennard is now serving a 7 year sentence at Parchman State Penitentiary.

By Ronald A. Hollander
Free Press Feature Writer

In order that the reader might be legally guilty as an accessory before the fact, (which in Mississippi is equal to being a principal in a crime), it is necessary that the State prove that Kennard conspired with Norwood in the robbery. Collusion, suggestion and agreement, "must have taken place", in order that Kennard might be guilty of the robbery in equal measure with Roberts.

But evidence supporting such collusion is rather meager. Aside from Roberts' highly questionable testimony as to the instructions he received from Kennard, there is, in fact, very little to support an accusation that the two conspired together in planning the robbery, or, indeed, even that Norwood was present at all.

The trial took only about one week. The State made efforts at linking Kennard with knowledge of the schedule of a c e m engaged in handling the feed.

Without testimony from Kennard or Roberts, it was impossible for the prosecution to show that Kennard knew about the robbery at the time it was committed.

No Joint Plan

Further proof of this lack of collusion may be found in several exchanges in the trial record between Roberts and Kennard. Questions and answers, whether the subject under discussion was the time for the robbery, were made by Kennard.

Q. And what, if anything, did he say to you then?
A. He asked me if I was going to the concert that night.

Q. Who suggested what time you should get the feed?
A. He asked me to be there at 7:30.

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A. Well, I can't say that I didn't tell him that it would be Sunday morning.

Q. But did you and he discuss whether you would come before daylight or not?

A. Be called me "bott feed,"

MRS. KENNARD goes about the household chores. She says, "I hope Clyde's stay in jail is not in vain."

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A Quarterly Publication of Student Opinion

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Carey McWilliams on Kennedy and the Last Days
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Catholic Students and Political Involvement
The States and Conscientious Objectors
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"SAVE AT WELLS"
Special Leg Begins; Ross's Stand Lauded

The special session of the state legislature was convened in Jackson last Tuesday to consider how the state will repay a portion of the general expenses. The session began with both houses passing a resolution supporting the state governor, James J. G. Fleming, for his action in presenting the fiscal council of the state with a resolution for the advancement of the Mississippian. The session ended in a joint session in the old courthouse, with the former house present in the old building, and the latter house present in the new building. The latter house was present in the old building, and the former house present in the new building.

Interposition “Down Drain” — Sauders

A crowd of about 200 persons heard Mr. Robert Saunders speak last Sunday afternoon at a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The meeting was conducted by Mr. Saunders, President of the local chapter, and included a short speech by Medgar Evers, state field secretary and organizer. J. E. C. Frazer, Shirley Bailey, member of a Jackson youth council, gave a brief address to the gathering.

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The trial for Miss Willie Griffin of Clarksdale was postponed, local leaders told the FREE PRESS. The delay is thought to be a means to give racial tensions a chance to cool off. It was the first time in a year that any significant activity claim that this will only give them more time to prepare their defense.

Miss Griffin was arrested August 11 while working Negroes downtown to accompany her to the courthouse to register to vote. Administration held for until that day to register after the threat of violence and trample of rights. When the organization was informed that she would be retried if she was let out on her $1,000 bond, she decided to remain in jail until her trial.

Supporters of the protest are now wearing black arm bands to display their sentiments of the injustices they feel are being leveled against certain citizens of Clarksdale. The arm bands signify several things, a leader told the FREE PRESS. They feel that they shop downtown until they are hired at more than menial jobs. That they will postpone vital matters regarding their schools and local areas until the Griffin trial is settled. They said that the black arm bands are to be worn only by those who have gained some interest in the city. They have not been going to step short of full integration. Improvements are being made in the area of housing and employment, the speaker added.

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