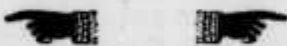


Meredith In College; Doesn't Take 'Never'

Having trouble keeping track of events in Mississippi?



See "Directions" on page two . . .

On-The-Spot Report: Citizens Form Vote League In Ruleville

RULEVILLE, Miss.— While Mississippi blacked out the hour long CBS program, "Mississippi and the 15th Amendment," Negro citizens of Ruleville, who figure prominently in the CBS documentary on Negro voting difficulties, rallied at Williams Chapel in the face of recent shootings and continued threats, to form the beginning of a Ruleville Voter's League.

Several adult Negroes present volunteered to participate actively in the organization and operation of a council to promote voting rights and better communication between Negro and White citizens.

Insurance Cancelled

Even as they met, the cancellation of the fire insurance policy on Williams Chapel became effective. And at least one participant wondered aloud as the meeting broke up, "I guess they're going to burn it down now." The city has already cut off the church's free water, and has stated in a letter to the Board of Deacons its plans to cancel the tax exempt status of the church.

Frocd Off

The Mayor of Ruleville has said, "All of you (Negro citizens of Ruleville) might as well go down and register, 'cause you all got to suffer anyway before this thing is over." Among the 36 persons from Sunflower County who have attempted to register in the past five weeks, their friends and their relatives, 3 have been forced off their plantations, 5 have lost their jobs, 2 Negro cleaners remain closed, all Negro business is closed on Sunday. Threat and harassments have become a part of daily living for many citizens. The meeting progressed under the watchful eyes of the

Mayor, the local police, and the FBI.

FBI In Area

The FBI has been in the area for two weeks, investigating the shootings into the houses of voter registration participants, and the wounding of two local Negro girls.

File Statements

Citizens of Ruleville have filed statements with the Justice Department complaining of economic reprisals, forcing tenants from their plantations, physical violence and unfair treatment at the registrar's office. They have requested immediate Federal Intervention on behalf of Negroes attempting to register to vote.

Lawyers from the Justice Department were in Ruleville last

(Continued on Page 4)

Moderate Wins Georgia Election

The votes of 20,000 Atlanta Negroes defeated Georgia racist James Davis in his bid for renomination to the House of Representatives. The end of the county unit vote system insured the nomination, and thus election, of racial moderate Charles Weltner by over 13,000 votes.

The Georgia legislature, controlled by rural interests, first sought to comply with the Supreme Court reapportionment ruling by altering the unit system more in form than content. The Federal District Court ruled the revision unconstitutional, and state Democratic leaders organized the primary on a popular vote basis.

Events in Georgia parallel what well might happen in Jackson if an accurate reapportionment is made.

Violence Surrounds Close Of 18 Month Battle; World Watches US Win Struggle With State

James Meredith finally became enrolled in the University of Mississippi at 8:30 in the morning on the first day of October, nearly eighteen months after he made his first attempt. As most of the world now knows, he was escorted onto the campus by United States Marshals the preceding evening and spent the night in a dormitory on campus. And as the world also knows, the night that followed was one of violence, tear gas, and death.

Some Students On Campuses In South Support Integration

A couple of news reporters from the Daily Texan, a large, independent student newspaper told the FREE PRESS that on many southern campuses students had donned white arm bands to show their support for Meredith. The move was, the students said, a move for solidarity. Some of the students also wore buttons that showed two hands clasped. One of the hands was Negro and the other White. Underneath was Meredith's name.

The student news reporters, who were on their way to Oxford in order to cover the situation there, stated that many students in Southern colleges and universities were in favor of Meredith's enrolling. The reporters also said that with very few exceptions, all students believed in obeying the laws and the courts.

KKK Disbands; No Response To War Call

An Associated Press report following the crisis on the Oxford campus said that Walter A. Bailey, president of the Mississippi Ku Klux Klan, had announced his resignation. Bailey, who lives in Biloxi, Mississippi, said over 500 members of the Klan are now on their own and without obligation. The move to disband came when there was no response to the call he issued upon the members to assemble and hold a council of war and no one showed.

Not Students

Nearly all of the people arrested were not students at the university. Many of those taken into the custody of the federal marshals were not even residents of Mississippi but people who had travelled great distances in order to support the state leaders who insisted upon standing firm against the court order to admit the student.

Patrol Withdrawn

State officials have insisted that the rioting began when a "trigger happy" marshal shot a tear gas shell into the back of unarmed state highway patrolmen who were in the process of causing the crowd to retreat. Robert Kennedy, Attorney General of the United States, told a nationwide audience, however, that tear gas was used only when the crowds began to seriously threaten the marshals.

The Attorney General maintained that the marshals would not have had to resort to the anti-riot tactics if the state highway patrol had not been removed. Robert Kennedy expressed grave concern that Gov. Barnett did not keep his word to insure the peace. Kennedy held Barnett responsible for the patrol being withdrawn prior to the arrival of the U. S. troops.

Ole Miss Editor

The editor of the newspaper at the University of Mississippi, the Mississippian, called for peace and obeying the law in the regular issue that came out onto the riot strewn campus. The front page editorial asked that students refrain from dem-

(Continued on Page 3)

Colonial Bakers Get Contract Here While Harts Workers Continue To Picket For Their Recognition

Local 305 of the American Baker's and Confectioner's Union have settled their contract dispute with Colonial Bakery. Paul Haigler, International representative of the union told the FREE PRESS that the company met the demands of the union before the workers had to strike. There was some question as to whether the company would force the employees to show their strength by not yielding the final penny that the men had requested. The wage increase that was finally agreed upon was eight cents for the first year and six cents for the

next two years.

Reject Seven Cents

Last week, by a vote of 79 to five the union men rejected the company of seven, six and six cents raises. The union also insisted upon getting a strike clause which would insure any worker that walked on a picket line, he would not be fired or in any way discriminated against for his action.

This wage increase means that the employees at the Colonial Baking Company are now making 57 cents more than some of the Harts bakery workers of an equal position. The

(Continued on Page 3)

Editorial Page

The Siege

During the last few weeks, particularly, the state of Mississippi has been under a strange sort of siege. The result, a leaderless mob mad with rage, attacked United States Federal Marshals. That same mob accounted for the death of two men. How could this come about? What strange powers exist to account for such a happening in our nation in this century?

The siege has been upon the minds of the people of Mississippi and the South. Constantly swapping distortions for truth, rage for responsibility, and anger for decency. But if the mob is leaderless, where does the siege come from? From the one word that is as descriptive of Mississippi as cotton—which is the word fear.

The people on both sides of the segregation wall are dominated by terrific fear. Fear of the unknown. On the one side, the side that has considered itself in command, the fear takes the form of reprisal, on the other side, the fear takes the form of submission. In both cases the best means of keeping off the unknown.

The entrance of James Meredith, however, brings to mind a new set of fears. He is proud, brave, and determined. What about this new man? What about the new questions he asks? What about his claim to equality. What? Why? How? And the siege grows.

There is more, though. Men know how to whip the siege into a coordinated reprisal and systematized horror. Men know the effect of the mass media—radio, television, the newspapers—which set in front of the mass every day, much of the day. If the same thing, in different ways is said over and over the heat of the siege can be greatly magnified and put into action. But the siege still controls, there still is no leader to the mob.

Although everyone was made well aware by the mass media that Meredith would come to the Woolfolk State Office Building in his attempt to enroll with the college board a week ago, it was not the radio or television or newspaper that told the people to shout evil until they fairly shook with rage. The people over and over again said the same thing that has been repeated over and over again by the mass media. But all by themselves, the people said the words. All by themselves they climbed to a perch on a dormitory and shot people with a rifle. All by themselves they killed the two men.

Even though a responsible radio, television, press would be most gratefully received by this newspaper, we understand that it can not be expected. We hope to make clear the advantage the mass media does take of the Mississippi siege. But recognize that even this is not siege itself. The siege itself is fear. We must not fear the man who stands proud, brave, and determined. We must not fear either to claim equality nor the man who claims equality.

We are proud of those few men of the press and those increasing number of business men, who are standing up to the siege themselves, and are paving the way for the rest of us. We must first recognize the siege and then rout it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I want to tell you how much the Free Press means to me and my family. The Jackson newspapers stand for segregation 100% and print lies about James Meredith to arouse the people against us. I am anxious to receive your newspaper in the mail every week so that I can read the truth about what is happening.

Everyone in my family is very, very happy and proud that Mr. Meredith is going to Ole Miss. He is a brave man and we have prayed for him. Now my little boy wants to go to Ole Miss too.

We all have to get the vote so we can get rid of men like Ross Barnett. I am a registered voter and I tell my friends to register too.

I showed your paper to a lady next door and she is sending in money to get the Free Press in the mail like I do.

Voter Registration: Close Up

We Meet The Mayor

The series, "Citizen Education Workshop," is being temporarily discontinued. There has been a great deal of publicity about the young people who have been active throughout the state in voter registration campaigns. In most Mississippi newspapers, they have been considered as agitators.

The FREE PRESS has given one of the students of Professor Librus, an opportunity to tell through his personal experiences. The student is Charles Cobb who has spent several weeks in the Mississippi Delta.

Third of a series
By Charles Cobb

We had decided at the Monday night meeting that our work would be much easier if we could enlist the support of professional people such as ministers and teachers; for they are the ones usually looked to for leadership in a community like Ruleville. That Tuesday morning, I went to see the principal of the local Negro High School. He reacted to me and what we were trying to do, pretty much as all teachers in Mississippi do. He thought that what we were trying to do was fine, but that he could not get involved, and suggested that we go out into the community and work on our project.

This attitude, indicating a wish to be apart from the Negro community, is fairly common among Negroes of the professional class (both north and south). Having achieved a certain amount of security and position, they are not inclined to risk it, even if it means denying what they know to be right. There is also a strong desire to simulate the white people as much as possible. They do not like to be reminded that they are Negroes.

Coming back, with a local student, from talking with the principal, we met two of our staff coming up the road with some more local students. While we were talking, someone noticed a police car coming down the street, headed toward us. The car wasn't cruising, but coming after someone. Pulling up in front of us, the driver, who at that time we thought was the Sheriff, called us over. Volunteer workers Charles McLaurin and Landy McNair had voter registration material under their arms on clipboards. Seeing this, the driver asked to look at what they were carrying. After looking at the material, he told McNair and McLaurin to get in his car. When McLaurin asked if they were under arrest, he was told yes.

As the car pulled in front of city hall, they were informed by the driver that he was the Mayor. Inside city hall, McLaurin commented that it was unusual to be picked up and arrested by the Mayor of a town; especially so when they were not told what the charges are. The Mayor's answer to

this was that this was an unusual town.

Not so unusual, though!

What happened to McLaurin and McNair, happens in almost every Mississippi town in which there is a voter registration project. As soon as the local authorities discover that there are voter registration workers ("agitators") in town, an attempt is made to frighten them by arresting them on some trumped up charge. In the case of McLaurin and McNair it was to check and see if they were violating an anti-solicitation ordinance. When they find out that the vote workers are not going to be intimidated, they begin pressuring the Negro community as a whole.

The Mayor told McLaurin and McNair that he was just checking to see that they weren't trying to sell anything, then released them.

More than a little responsible for the quick release of McLaurin and McNair was the fact that they made it known to the Mayor that they knew what their rights as American citizens were; and that if they were under arrest, to prefer charges and place them in jail. If he was not going to prefer charges, release them or prepare to suffer the consequences.

This was a new type of Negro to the Mayor; a type that wasn't docile; and I don't believe he knew quite what to do with them. The way in which McLaurin and McNair handled themselves with the Mayor is applicable to many situations in which the Negro finds himself in conflict with the whites. If he stands up and demands to be treated justly and with respect, most of the time he will be treated thusly; or at least with care.

Next week: HOT DAYS AND DUSTY ROADS.

CORRECTION

In last week's FREE PRESS (September 29) the byline: Charles Butts appeared under the article "Union Democracy in Action" on page two. The byline belonged with the "personal view" feature article that appeared under the head, "Meredith in Jackson."

DIRECTIONS

In Out

Ole Miss

Meredith

Ole Miss

NAACP Attorneys

District Court

US 5th Circuit

Cameron

US 5th Circuit

Cameron

Black

Barnett

US District Court

State Legislature

US 5th Circuit

Barnett

Barnett

Johnson

Crowd

US Marshals

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INTIMIDATION OF VOTERS SEEN ON NATIONAL TELEVISION SHOW

While the rest of the nation watched an hour-long CBS documentary of the problems that face Negroes who attempt to register to vote in Mississippi, the people of this state had to see a rerun. The television special entitled "Mississippi and the 15th Amendment" was blacked out of all stations that reach into Mississippi. It was thought that the reason for the no show was that much of the film was concerned with the voting procedures of Theron C. Lynd of Hattiesburg. Lynd, Hattiesburg clerk-registrar, is the principal figure in a contempt case now being considered by three judges of the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. The decision on that case is not expected until sometime in November.

No Meredith Case

The program also included scenes from the clash between the federal government and the segregationist state officials. It was clearly pointed out by David Schonbrun, CBS Washington Commentator who was moderator, that such an incident would not take place if Negroes were voting and exerting their political influence on elected officials. Time and again, however, the TV camera caught Mississippi registrars systematically refusing to register Negro citizens. On several occasions the cameras were hidden in order to get the "expose."

The film also had an interview with Mrs. Sisson, into whose home a passing shot-

gunner fired a few weeks ago. Mrs. Sisson in her Ruleville home, pointed out, before the nationwide audience, where the pellets came through the window fan and lodged in the wall on the other side of the room. Again the moderator pointed out that such brutal actions could not happen if the Negro was able to vote and elect law enforcement officers who would assure prosecution of anyone who committed such acts. The bullets shot into the Sisson's home seriously injured two girls; shots were also fired into two other nearby homes. The shootings were all directly attributed to citizens' participation in the local voter registration activity.

Citizens of the United States saw actual films of the barriers that obstruct the rights of citizens of Mississippi. Several civil rights leaders in the state have expressed their hope that by this revelation of the situation, public sentiment will force legislation to remove some of the barriers.

Meredith In College . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

onstrations and return the university to normal. The editor, a coed, had previously chastized the Jackson Daily News for its distortions and for its consistent appeal to emotionalism. It seems that the students either obeyed or, more likely, already agreed with the policies of the paper. The students, for the great part, did not participate in the demonstrations before or after Meredith's appearance.

Reports from Oxford reveal that although many students left the campus for their own protection, those remaining were willing to go to classes including those that Meredith attended.

Personal View

Meredith In Oxford

This is an exclusive report written by one who was on the Ole Miss campus from Sunday afternoon through Monday afternoon during the height of the violence.

In the early afternoon Sunday, the campus was relatively quiet. Few people were around, the weather was nice. Little activity was in evidence, and it was, all in all, a calm, peaceful Sunday afternoon.

Then, word came around 2 o'clock that highway patrolmen had sealed off all entrances to the campus. In about another

hour, planes began to appear overhead. One could see large transports beginning to arrive and unload their human cargo at the Oxford airport, while several jet planes constantly buzzed the area. It was then clearly apparent that the attempt to register Meredith and to bring him onto the Ole Miss campus was going to be made that afternoon instead of the next day as had been earlier expected. Tension at this point rose rapidly. Highway patrol cars began to pour onto the campus.

Meredith, with his escort, arrived around 6:30 at the Lyceum Building on the campus. It was then evident that an agreement had been worked out between the State Highway Patrol and the federal government. It was announced that Meredith could not be registered that night because it was Sunday, but that he would be registered the next morning, which did occur at 8:30. 14 violent hours later.

Meredith was taken to Baxter dormitory, a three story brick structure located on the highest point in the area. Unfortunately, the highway patrol appears to have made no attempt to either prevent outside agitators with dangerous weapons from getting into Oxford or onto the Ole Miss campus. As a result, a crowd began to gather around the Lyceum Building, and bottles, rocks and other missiles were thrown at the marshals protecting the structure.

Tear gas then began to go off.

Jackson Clergy Send Letters To 3 Officials

A group of Jackson ministers sent letters to the governor, the mayor of Jackson, and the sheriff of Hinds County "calling for reason, law, and order." The ministers pointed out that Americans must be "united in maintaining the principles upon which our Democracy is founded."

The letter reads as follows: "We, the undersigned ministers, being deeply concerned with the peace, prosperity, and progress of all the people of the state of Mississippi lift our voices in calling for reason, law, and order. We feel that the future of our state depends entirely upon this. There cannot be peace, prosperity, and progress without law and order.

"We plead for the understanding, the cooperation, and the protection of all citizens in this hour of great crisis.

"We cannot push back the tides of communism, unless we are united in maintaining the principles upon which our democracy is founded. We commend all officials who have helped maintain law and order at the University of Mississippi and throughout the state. And we hereby pledge our support and our prayers to all efforts to bring peace, prosperity, and progress to our beloved state. We call upon all who believe in the Bible to join in earnest prayer for Divine Guidance."

This letter was signed by P. E. Lott, B. D. Rushing, L. L. Williams, R. L. T. Smith, and S. L. Whitney. All five men are pastors.

Colonial Bakers . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Harts bakers are presently striking in order to gain recognition as a union so that they may have a voice in deciding the amount their talents are worth.

Raise Living Standards

Haigler said, "The settlement at Colonial demonstrates the influence a union can have on raising the standard of living in this state." Haigler had earlier said in connection with the Harts strike that the reason why the men were so interested in having a union in the plant was not only to raise their own living standard, but to help set a pattern for the whole state to pay its workers more for their services.

Then guns and other dangerous weapons such as Molotov cocktails began to appear in the crowd, apparently brought in by the outside agitators and not by the Ole Miss students. Interspersed between the firing of tear gas canisters, one could hear rifle and gun fire throughout the night. Every five minutes or so a high roar would go up from thousands of voices as if a championship football game were being played. About 11 or 12 at night, the word came back that people were actually being killed and seriously injured and that federal reinforcements were on the way.

In the early hours of the morning, federal force began to arrive, and about 4 o'clock it began to rout the rioters and the hard core of the agitators. About 6 in the morning the campus was declared secure, the area was heavily populated with patrolling troops. Well into the day mop up operations were going on in the city of Oxford.

As more troops poured in, the city was completely sealed off; and mass arrests were made. Persons were interrogated five at a time in the Lyceum Building.

So ended a night of fear and tragedy, with two dead, many injured and the state government of Mississippi apparently waiting for the next battle while the world watches.

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MOB VIOLENCE OPPOSED BY MISS. BUSINESSMEN

In a subtle attack on the Jackson Daily News and other elements of our state's racist press, 135 Mississippi professional and business leaders called on the news media to "refrain from the publication of inflammatory statements."

Local newspapers have continued to print letters and reports urging violent resistance to James Meredith's entrance into the University of Mississippi. Jackson radio stations last week falsely announced that federal marshals were about to arrest Barnett and urged people to form a human barricade around the governor's mansion.

Fear Business Loss

The businessmen are apparently concerned about economic injuries caused by the anti-Meredith agitation. When Meredith was refused admittance to the State Office Building in a registration attempt, some out-of-state businessmen with appointments to discuss Mississippi prospects with state officials were forced to push their way through the hostile crowd. Most businessmen are not enthusiastic about setting up plants in a "war zone."

The declaration, signed by a former Jackson mayor, several bank presidents and other influential big business and professional men, attacked the 1954 Supreme Court desegregation decision as immoral and illegal, but asserted that mob rule and violence should not be allowed to reoccur.

Urge Arrest Agitators

Public officials were urged to immediately advocate the maintenance of law and order and to investigate, arrest and prosecute individuals who had incited riots against Meredith's registration at Ole Miss.

The statement urged students to return to the University and appealed for restraint to save the state's institutions of higher learning.

Legislature Reapportions State; Bill Probably Will Not Pass Court

By a vote of 96-37 the Mississippi House of Representatives voted to accept a Senate proposal that would reapportion the legislature to consist of 82 senators and 133 representatives. This action is the reason why the lawmakers were called to the special session by the governor. Prior to the session, Governor Barnett had said that reapportionment was the sole purpose for calling the legislature. Although the date for the special session was, for a long period of time indefinite, when it became clear that James Meredith might attempt to enroll in the University of Mississippi on the 19th of September, the date for the legislature was conveniently called on the 18th.

Pass New Law

The legislature, before it got down to the business of reapportioning did pass new laws which were aimed at keeping Meredith from being able to enroll. One local paper even used the headline describing the legislation as "Block Meredith" laws. With fits and starts, however, the congressmen began to work on redistricting the state.

Given Until Nov. 1

The lawmakers have until the first of next month in order to determine the number of legislators each area may elect. The plan must meet the approval of the courts. Judge Horton of Hinds county has submitted a plan that would go into effect if the proposal of the special session does not get the court's acceptance. The state, which has not been apportioned since the Mississippi Constitution was adopted in 1890, does not have a legislature that has

its membership in proportion to the population.

Reason For Reapportionment

The reason that reapportionment has been required in Mississippi is that there is such a great representation of the rural areas as compared to the urban areas.

The few cities, which contain large parts of the state's population, have only a small per cent of the voice at the capitol. For instance, under the system that Mississippi is presently arranged, Hinds County, which according to the 1960 census had 187,045, had three and one half votes in the House, while Yazoo with only 31,653 has an equal voice. Benton county, with a population of only 7,723, or about 4 per cent of Hinds county, has one and one half votes. To further the confusion, Jones county although it has a population of 59,542—more than seven times as large as Benton—has less voice with only 1 vote.

New Proposal

The Senate, which was distracted somewhat according to population under the old style is guided solely by geography in the present proposal. Each county would receive two senators. In this instance, Benton's 7,000 would have the same voice as Hinds 187,000. The proposal also allows one representative from each county, regardless of population. Because the new resolution cuts the number of representatives from 149 to 133, there would be only 51 seats to decide among the more populated regions, in-

stead of the 58 under the previous method.

Expected To Be Unacceptable

Because the reapportioning is supposed to bring the voice of the people more nearly into line with the number of people in each county, it is doubtful that the recently passed bill will be acceptable to the courts. If the courts refuse to allow the plan of the Mississippi legislature, than the plan submitted by Judge Horton will be put into effect. As Horton is elected by Hinds County voters, it is not surprising that his plan is particularly favorable to the more heavily populated areas. House speaker, Walter Silvers, fearful that the proposal would not pass the courts, urged that the bill be defeated and one favoring the cities somewhat more be substituted.

Ruleville . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

week end gathering affidavits from workers and citizens active in the voter registration campaign.

In addition, citizens of Ruleville sent letters direct to President Kennedy demanding Federal help.

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