



Rural Areas Lose Influence In New Reapportionment Proposal

State Legislature Approves 122 In House, 52 In Senate

The Mississippi State Legislature last week adopted a reapportionment proposal which will go before eligible voters February 5. The House voted 91 to 34 and the Senate decided 34 to 13 to approve a 122-member lower chamber and 52-member upper chamber.

Less Rural Control

The plan reduces the representation in the less populated counties of the North-east and serves to minimize rural control of the legislature. Although under-represented counties generally get more voice in the House, the larger urban counties make no gains.

In the House, one seat is given to each of the 82 counties and the remaining 40 seats are distributed to the 23 largest counties on the basis of population.

Plan For Senate

The 22 largest counties receive one Senate each, with the other 30 Senators apportioned among 2-county, 3-county and one 4-county district. In all, 39 counties lose a House representative and 10 counties lose a Senate representative.

In other actions, the House passed a bill raising the ceiling on welfare payments and the Senate okayed a proposal to increase teachers' salaries.

Average \$33 A Month

The House measure raises the limit on monthly payments from \$40 to \$50. However, many people on the rolls will not get an increase; according to Pensions Committee Chairman Edgar Stephens of Union County, the average increase will be \$4. The current average welfare payment is \$33 a month.

The Senate bill provides for \$50 to \$325 raises for teachers' salaries. Senator H. V. Cooper of Vicksburg, past President of the Mississippi Education Association, explained that this only covers the teachers for a minimum program. Since most school districts employ more than the minimum number of

teachers, the money will either have to be divided among all the teachers or the individual districts will have to raise the additional funds.

Higher Taxes?

Lt. Governor Paul Johnson and State Finance Chairman Ellis Bodron stated that the bill means that additional taxes will have to be instituted and asked the Senate to vote the needed assessments. Governor Ross Barnett, however, stated that there would be available funds to pay for the increase.

The majority of the Senators decided that the raises should be granted now and the money

(Continued on Page 3)

Ministers Say, 'Examine Morality Of Segregation'

The Tupelo Ministerial Association, an 18 member body composed of representatives of all faiths and denominations, has asked Christians to examine the moral issues of segregation.

The group expressed "deep concern over evidence of continued unrest in our state, which could lead to renewed violence." It questioned whether it is right to disobey national law to protect segregation.

Moral Issue

"We urge Christians," the statement said, "to face squarely the conflicts of our day and to seek to penetrate to the moral issues involved, and specifically to ask ourselves whether the real point of difference is not the maintenance or abolition of forced segregation and if so, whether it is right to make an all out effort to resist national law and order in order to maintain it."

"We earnestly endeavor," the ministers said, "to examine our personal preferences to make sure that they are in keeping with the will and purpose of God."

Miss. Students Seek Justice For Kennard

Government Seeks To Investigate Lee County Voter Files

The Justice Department has taken another step aimed at opening voter registration rolls to all citizens of Lee County. Circuit Court Clerk Paul Grissom must appear in federal court January 4 to show cause why he shouldn't be required to permit the Justice Department to inspect the county's voting records.

The order was issued at the request of Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall, U. S. District Attorney H. M. Ray and Justice Department attorney John Doar. Grissom was told to appear before Northern Mississippi District Federal Judge Claude Clayton in Aberdeen.

J. D. Seeks Voter Records

The Justice Department is seeking the right to examine and copy all records relating to voter applications and registration which affect general or primary elections for federal office.

The government served the Lee County Clerk with a request for permission to reproduce voting records in April, but he refused. At that time, the Justice Department gave him a copy of the Civil Rights Act of 1960 which provides a fine of up to \$1,000 or a year in prison for anyone who destroys or alters the records in question.

Charge Discrimination

Early in the summer Grissom

(Continued on Page 3)

Nation-Wide Petition Appeals To J.F.K. For His Release

Students at Tougaloo College have launched a nation-wide petition campaign to free Clyde Kennard. The group is seeking thousands of signatures on petitions to the President and Attorney General of the United States asking that the federal government enter the case as a friend of the court in behalf of Kennard.

Framed

The students, headed by Dorie Ladner of Hattiesburg, assert that Kennard was framed on a charge of stealing \$25 worth of chicken feed after he sought to enter all-white Mississippi Southern University. Kennard, formerly at the University of Chicago, wanted to finish his education at Hattiesburg, his home town, so he could care for his mother and disabled father.

In her appeal, Miss Ladner declared, "To some of us, he is a personal friend; to others, a symbol; to all, a fellow human unjustly accused. . . . We appeal to you to join with us that, together, we may be heard—to the and that justice may prevail."

White Jury

The petition drawn up by the Tougaloo students charges that Kennard was denied due process of law since Negroes were excluded from the jury that convicted him. Jury members are picked from the voter registration rolls, and a U. S. government suit has demonstrated that Negroes are unlawfully denied the right to register.

The students also declared that "the contradictions and general lack of any valid evidence in the trial record itself are sufficient to constitute a denial of due process of law."

After completing three years at the University of Chicago, Clyde Kennard returned home to support his parents on their small farm. In 1958, he applied for admission to Mississippi

(Continued on Page 3)

6 Pickets Arrested On Capitol Street; Initiate Boycott . . .

At 10:30 a week ago Wednesday morning, six picketers got out of their car in front of the Woolworth store on Capital street in downtown Jackson. They formed a single line and walked 20 feet, turned, walked another few feet and were arrested.

The signs told the reason for the short picket. They read: "Boycott Capital Street, Boycott for Equality." "Negro Consumers, Stay Away from Capital Street — Buy Elsewhere." Each of the signs indicated the endorsement of the NAACP.

30 Police—6 Pickets

The pickets led by John Salter, a professor at Tougaloo College, were arrested by Jackson Police Captain Cecil Hathaway. The fact that the police, some 30 strong, were waiting for the demonstration, meant that they were obviously forewarned.

Salter said that they probably learned of the plan from the wire services which had

(Continued on Page 2)

Arrest Ruleville High Students In Warning To Rights Supporters

Six Ruleville high school students, ranging in age from 14 to 17, were arrested and held without charge Monday. The youths were finally released with the warning not to distribute the Mississippi Free Press or to engage in civil rights activities.

Attempt At Intimidation

Ruleville has been the scene of voter registration activities by members of the Student Non-violent Co-ordinating Committee who have circulated the Free Press as part of their efforts. Since none of the youngsters picked up were involved in any civil rights activity, it appeared that their arrest was an attempt to intimidate others—to keep them from joining the SNCC workers.

The six youths are Joyce Dix-

on, Clemmie Willis, Betty Sue Couley, Patricia Patterson and Margaret Jackson of Ruleville, and Johnny Kennan of Blaine, Mississippi. They were walking through town to a basketball game when the City Night Watchman arrested them.

They were held for 35 minutes until one student's father arrived. When 14 years old Johnny Kennan, a high school freshman, asked what the charges were, after their release Mayor Dorrough is reported to have struck him. Kennan's father asked the Mayor for an explanation and was advised that Dorrough would give him a statement later.

Affidavits have been taken and will be sent to the Justice Department.

Virginia Students Praise Editor Of 'Mississippian'

One hundred students at Virginia's Washington and Lee University have signed a petition commending "Mississippian" editor Sidna Brower for her "courageous refusal to be intimidated by those enemies of free thought who seek to silence" her.

They stated, "We urge you to remain firm in your belief in the importance of an active and independent student press as an integral part of any university."

WE STAND FOR . . .

- GOOD GOVERNMENT
- HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS
- BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- SOCIAL JUSTICE . . . IN MISSISSIPPI

Editorial

Page

A Wonderful Gift

The Yuletide is here. Once again, it is the season of giving—a tradition started nearly two thousand years ago by a few wise men who traveled many miles from their homes in the Orient to give presents to a baby who the prophets said was to be great.

During this season, the spotlighted cardboard displays in front of many churches capture the scene of the giving of the first Christmas presents. Most everyone knows what those first gifts were.

But even more important are the gifts that the baby gave to his people when he grew up. To his people he gave wisdom and leadership. Unlike the gold and the frankincense and the myrrh, which have passed away and lost whatever usefulness they once had, the fruits of that wisdom and leadership are still valued and useful to this day.

It must be remembered that that child was born into a hostile country, was ruled by a powerful and ruthless foreign emperor. Although his parents took him into the safety of Egypt for a short time, he returned. Instead of fleeing from the problems of his land and his people, he stayed and tried to do something about them by giving his wisdom and leadership. He was a poor man and could not afford to give gifts of gold, but he gave these far more important gifts.

Here in Mississippi, there are those who have wisdom and leadership to give. But often they leave. They may go off and forget, but the leaderless masses of poor, exploited people remain with no place to go.

There are a few who stay who have wisdom but fear to give themselves as leaders, and their wisdom wastes away. They improve what they can for themselves, but leave the others without their wisdom, without their gift.

There are those few who stay and face the problems. There is the man who faced angry mobs and powerful politicians to go to school. He could have gone to another school in another state. Or he could have stayed here and accepted the state of things and not stood up.

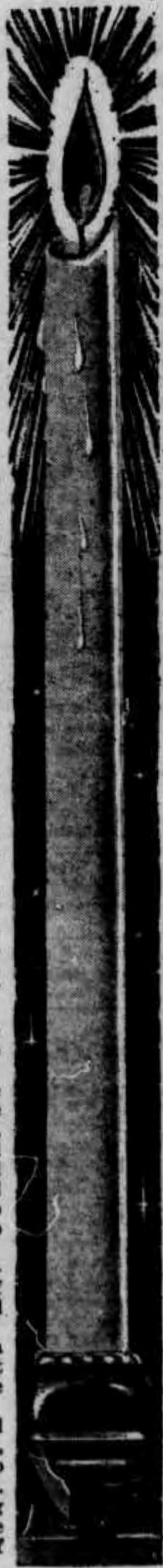
But he gave his gift. When he began he did not know but that his life might be the gift.

And there are a few others. But there must be more. There must be those people who will look at the people of Mississippi, so lacking in wise leaders and say, "I shall give my greatest gift. I shall stay and face the problems. I will train my mind so that it can best help and then stand up and take my place among the leadership of my state."

The sparkle of good is quite as appealing as it has ever been, but the value of that gift of wisdom and leadership is still the highest.

And it is a gift that can be given by a poor man as well as a rich man. It cannot be bought, but is the result of courage and faith.

In measures other than dollars and cents, the cost is high, to be sure. In fact, it is because the price appears to be so high that few people are willing to give. But wisdom and leadership have lasting value, as is attested by the fact that we still remember each year the birthday of that man who gave his greatest gift.



Petition To Free Clyde Kennard

TO: PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F. KENNEDY

We, the undersigned, urgently appeal for the release of Clyde Kennard who is now serving a seven year sentence in Parchman Penitentiary. Convicted on clearly false charges of planning the theft and receiving \$25 worth of chicken feed, he is in fact a political prisoner—jailed because he, a Negro, applied to all-white Mississippi Southern University in Hattiesburg, his home.

According to the testimony of the State's witness, Johnny Lee Roberts, who confessed to the theft, Mr. Kennard did not have the necessary knowledge of the warehouse and of the watchman's schedule to have planned the robbery. The contradictions and general lack of evidence in the trial record are sufficient to constitute a denial of due process of law.

Further, as proved in federal courts, Negroes are systematically excluded from registering to vote in Forrest County, the scene of the trial, and were thus excluded from the grand jury which indicted Mr. Kennard. This too is a denial of constitutional rights.

Lastly, it is a tenet of our constitutional law that what the State may not do by direction, it may not do by indirection. By convicting Clyde Kennard, the State of Mississippi has made a successful and unveiled attempt to persecute him for applying to Mississippi Southern University.

We petition you to file an amicus curae brief on behalf of Clyde Kennard—as you did for James Meredith.

We appeal for justice.

NAME

ADDRESS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Cut out this petition, get 10 signatures and mail it to President John F. Kennedy, The White House, Washington, D. C. Get your church group, union, community organization and school club to make copies and secure signatures.

Be sure to write to the Mississippi Student Committee to Free Clyde Kennard, Dorie Ladner, Chairman, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi, to report how many names are on the petitions that you have sent to the White House.

6 Pickets . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

been contacted the previous Monday.

Captain Whispered Charge

Salter reported that when he was approached by Hathaway, the policeman whispered, "You're under arrest." Salter said that when he asked the charge, Hathaway replied, again whispering, "Blocking the sidewalk."

When asked why he had whispered, Salter suggested that it was because it was so obvious to everyone that they were not blocking the sidewalk. "We were on the extreme outside edge of the sidewalk," he said.

Pickers Dignified

After the arrest, the six, including four Tougaloo students and Salter's wife, were taken to the police station and booked. Although some of the picketers claimed that they were verbally abused by some of the officers, it was noted that the demonstrators maintained a courteous non-violent attitude.

Cash bonds were accepted for the two women and one of the men students. Salter and two others remained in jail overnight and were released on bond the following day.

Boycott Fast Christmas

The boycott will continue throughout the Christmas shop-

Controversy Rages Over Ending Of Food Surplus

CORE National Director James Farmer last week called on the federal government to immediately investigate the

ping period and long enough afterward until Negro shoppers are shown more respect and permitted to work at more than menial labor, report the demonstrators. Thousands of leaflets have been prepared and are being distributed. A telephone canvass has also begun, they said.

Salter has promised more pickets despite threats from Jackson mayor Thompson that he will sue "agitators" and put 1,000 police on Capital Street if necessary.

distribution of surplus food commodities in Mississippi. Farmer charged that thousands of Negroes were dropped from the food rolls in Leflore County in reprisal for attempted voter registration.

22,000 Dropped

Mississippi State Welfare Commissioner Fred Ross asserted that Farmer's charge was an "unqualified lie. He declared, "I want to say categorically that that was not the purpose nor the effect" of stopping the food program for the 22,000 people.

Ross stated that the county board of supervisors appropriates money for the distribution of the surplus food provided by the federal government and can thus determine who receives the food.

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Miss. Students . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
Southern University.

Refused To Withdraw

He was called to a meeting with Governor J. P. Coleman and M.S.U. President W. D. McCain and told that, if he withdrew his application, the state would pay his expenses at any college in America. Kennard refused but agreed, at the Governor's request, to withhold his application until after the coming elections.

Kennard applied again in the fall of 1959 and at an interview with the President, in the presence of Zack Van Landingham—chief investigator of the State Sovereignty Commission—was

rejected because of undisclosed "deficiencies and irregularities" in his application.

Said Police Planted Whisky

When he returned to his car, he was arrested for reckless driving—before he had driven off. At the police station, officers who had taken charge of Kennard's car suddenly discovered illegal liquor concealed in the automobile. A cousin of the young man said, "It's obvious those men planted that whisky in Clyde's car. . . . He neither drinks nor smokes." Kennard was fined \$600 and denied an appeal.

Contradictory Testimony

Then in 1960, Kennard was charged with receiving and being an accessory to the theft of five bags of chicken feed worth \$25. The illiterate youth who admitted the robbery and was the state's witness said that Kennard had planned the theft. However, his testimony was contradictory in many places and actually proved that Kennard could not have been responsible for the burglary—he did not even have the necessary knowledge of the warehouse and of the watchman's schedule to have done so.

Sentenced To 7 Years

The state's witness, who admitted to robbing the feed, was sentenced to five years—on probation. Clyde Kennard, who proclaimed his innocence, was sentenced to seven years in Parchman Penitentiary. The verdict was reached by an all-

Government Seeks . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

was told that a Negro applicant had filed charges of voter discrimination with the Justice Department and the federal government would thus attempt to examine the voting records. Grissom said that he would consider the request if he were told who filed the complaint, but the Justice Department refused to divulge the name of the individual.

white jury after 10 minutes deliberation.

Kennard has served about two years of the sentence. He suffers from a disease contracted while fighting in Korea and at one time, seriously ill, required 14 pints of blood transfusions. The state has announced that the time spent in the hospital will not be credited to his sentence.

Rural Areas Lose . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

appropriated later.

Lowest In Nation

Mississippi teachers now have starting state salaries ranging from \$850 to \$3,175, the lowest in the nation. The plan

which passed the Senate changes the state base pay to sums ranging from \$800 to \$3,300, a reduction in the lowest class pay rate. Some teachers will continue to get raises of \$80 yearly for the first five years, while others will now receive \$100 a year for the first six years.

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Book Review

Stories, Essays Seek Negro Identity, Suggest Explanation For White Ideal

A man's personality is usually organized around the chief problems of his life; for Negroes, of whatever economic or social status, this ever present factor is Jim Crow.

The Angry Black, edited by John A. Williams, is a collection of short stories and essays which tell soulfully and tragically how Negroes feel.

No "Colored Names"

In a story by Langston Hughes, Simple complains that you don't see any "colored names" in the newspapers—except "when there's been a race riot or a lynching or a boycott and a whole lot of us have been butchered up or arrested."

Talking about the American theater, James Baldwin asserts that the Negro characters are unreal fantasies—how could the white authors draw them correctly when they don't know

anything about Negro life?

Pretended To Be Black

Well, how does it feel to be black? Can whites ever know? John Howard Griffith, a white Texan, disguised himself as a Negro and traveled through the deep South to find out. His selection tells about some experiences in Mississippi—and the distorted image which Mississippi whites have of the Negro people.

But it's not just Mississippi. Ralph Ellison writes of a young Negro man shot down by a policeman in the heart of New York City, and Shirley Jackson tells of the vicious prejudice of a small New England town. The articles are both fictitious—but they skillfully portray the unspoken feeling that Negroes are not really people.

Is White Right?

And the result of American

culture and law saying "white is right"? A revealing sociological essay which unfortunately sometimes uses an excess of shop talk, talks about the psychological effects of a racist U. S. on the Negro personality. The essay is a summary of the results of a survey conducted by Columbia University professors Abram Kardiner and Lionel Ovesey.

The chief sear on the personality of the Negro is self-hatred.

Self Hatred

The self-esteem of the Negro suffers greatly because he is constantly receiving an unpleasant image of himself from the behavior of others toward him. This leads both to a feeling of self-contempt and to an idealization of the white and an effort to be white.

Since this object is impossible

to achieve, the Negro develops a hostility to whites and a self-hatred. (This is in addition to the open anger against whites which results from discrimination.) This self-hatred is often projected onto other Negroes and can lead to a hatred of Negroes.

Very often the feeling of self-hate begins in childhood. Unstable families with early deaths and the separation of parents make it difficult for children to develop strong emotional ties to their parents.

Unreasonable With Children

Although many adults try to be good parents, children frequently tell of beatings and cursing used as discipline. This happens often because the Negro parent is not an authority in the social world in which he lives and is greatly tempted to exercise strong authority in the only place possible—his home. Parents inflict unreasonable punishments on children and fail to give rewards for obedience and good behavior. The children thus have a lack of confidence in people and feel that the world is their enemy.

In addition, it is difficult for Negro children to identify with their parents, because their parents are members of a hated and discriminated group. And often even their parents teach, unconsciously, that the ideal is white. This leads to continual self-hatred and frustration, and together with the feeling that the world is hostile, serves to destroy the self-esteem and humanity of Negro youths and adults.

The tragedy of the feeling that "light is right" is plaintively drawn by Junius Edwards in "Mother Dear and Daddy." This short story tells of the crying anger of two little orphaned boys whose relatives don't want them—because they're too dark.

The Angry Black is a good introduction to some of the current authors—black and white—who are searching to find and establish the Negro identity in a white culture. These selections are only a sampling of the many works on the subject.

The Angry Black, edited by John A. Williams, Lancer Books, 26 West 47 Street, New York 36, New York, 1962, 160 pages, paperback 50 cents.

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