

Bias May Halt Job Training



MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING Advisory Committee meets with Pres. Kennedy, Vice Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson and, at Kennedy's left, Labor Sec. W. Willard Wirtz. Labor representatives on the 10-member committee are Pres. Peter T. Schoemann of the Plumbers & Pipe Fitters, next to Wirtz, and Pres. Joseph A. Beirne of the Communications Workers, the latter of whom was unable to be present. Other members of the group are Chairman Eli Ginzberg, Columbia University; William G. Caples, vice president of Inland Steel Co.; Felix Larkin, executive vice president of W. R. Grace & Co.; William H. Nicholls, Vanderbilt University; Mrs. Louise G. Daugherty, superintendent of Chicago School District No. 11; M. D. Mobley, executive secretary of the American Vocational Association, Inc.; Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. of Atlanta; Upshur Evans, president of the Cleveland Development Foundation.

Courts To Be Asked To Open P. S. Here

A spokesman for a group of nine Jackson parents stated that a petition to desegregate the Jackson Public Schools could be expected early next week.

The action will be put immediately into the hands of the courts with no attempts on the part of the children to register until they have a court order. The group is resorting to the courts following the refusal of the city board of education to consider the petition the same group put to the board last fall.

Unfair Labor Practices Hearing Is Postponed

The final portion of the hearing which involves the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the Movie Star Corporation has been postponed until next Monday. The hearing was initiated by the union because it claimed that the company had refused to negotiate in good faith. The National Labor Relations Board has upheld the union's contentions and is acting as attorney for the union in the action against the garment company.

Last week testimonies were heard that pointed out the company's lack of faith in negotiating the contract that expired last July. Testimony also indicated that the company had been intimidating employees who were members of the unions.

In the face of the Unfair Labor Practices charge, the company's witnesses stated that they had not carried on any intimidations. A ruling is expected sometime next week. Whichever party loses is expected to appeal the case to the National Board in Washington.

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No Flamboyancy

"We don't care for all the flamboyancy," stated NAACP field secretary, Medgar Evers, "but we want equal school opportunities for our children." Although the NAACP is watching the case, Evers says that he is presently participating only as the parent of one of the children wanting to enter a superior public school.

Our Objective—Equal Education

The action is not being aimed at any particular school, but rather at all schools. One of the parents noted that this may be a slower method, but a sure one. He stressed, "Our objective is equal education."

The parents said that they wanted their children to have more than the nice buildings that the city was providing for Negroes. They wanted their children to have access to the finer libraries, and better trained instructors. They conceded that it would be difficult for most Negro children to apply to white universities in the state, because they are presently being so badly prepared.

No court order is expected for some time. It is doubtful if an order would be handed down in time for the children to begin this fall.

Three Young Children Arrested In Clarksdale

Three children, ranging in age from six to thirteen were arrested in Clarksdale last week for picking up spilled corn from the bottoms of idle boxcars.

Mrs. Everlean Collins, the children's mother stated in an affidavit to the Department of Justice, that when she went to inquire from the sheriff, she was beaten. She states, "When I entered, Mr. Darby (the sheriff) was there and started to fighting me." The affidavit also said that Darby slapped her and her daughter.

Next Time 10-15 Years

The woman said she was told if the children were ever again caught on the railroad that they would be put into prison for 10 to 15 years. She claims that he also told her that if he ever caught the children without shoes, he would beat them.

The affidavit states, "The shoes the children had on were all they had and they were ragged but I am unable to buy them anymore."

The woman, who is eight months pregnant reported that she went to see a doctor because she was in pain. When treated, a nurse gave her a shot and examined her neck and face where they were swollen and bruised.

A Mound Bayou doctor later told her that she was losing her baby and that staying off of her feet was her only hope of saving it.

Hold Citizen Schools

Clarksdale has been the scene of a great deal of racial conflict resulting from an organized effort on the part of many Negroes to secure their

(Continued on Page 4)

Wirtz Asked To Rescind Approval Of Segregation Training Program

The U. S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz has been called upon to rescind his approval of three segregated training programs in Mississippi that are being conducted with Federal Funds under the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962.

The centers are scheduled to be located at Perkinston and East Central Junior colleges and at Jackson State College. Only the Jackson State center would permit Negroes. Secretary Wirtz has approved the establishment of these centers.

125 Fill Out Voter Forms In Greenwood

According to voter registration people in Greenwood, 125 citizens filled out voter registration forms last Tuesday and Wednesday. More are expected to register throughout the week.

The burst of interest came as a result of mass meetings that have been held by voter workers working for the Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee. The meetings were especially well attended because of the food distribution program that is being carried on. Some 22,000 in LeFlore County have been cut off from the commodity surplus food program since last Thanksgiving. Near famine conditions are reported in the rural areas.

Considered Registering

At the mass meetings, the people were asked if they had considered registering to vote. The response was that they had, but did not know how. The voter workers then went to work with their sample registration forms and instruction sheets.

One man when asked what he thought about registering replied, "Glad to do it, been wanting to for years." He was assisted with sample forms until he understood the procedure. Schools are now being set up in Greenwood to teach those people who cannot read and write. The school will also help improve those who are now semiliterate.

A spokesman for the registration workers stated that very few Negroes have actually been registered because so many fail the test. The recently enacted Mississippi law requires a person to wait thirty days after he has taken the test to find out if he has passed. The time is supposed to be to determine the applicant's moral character. The spokesman said there have been cases in which people with college degrees have not passed the test.

He said that the Mississippi voting laws must be changed. "Until they are, however, we must continue to attempt to register," he said.

He added an appeal for food for the County as the people are "really starving." The food is being distributed through the Emergency Welfare and Relief Committee, 404 Yazoo Avenue, Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Letter Calls For Change

In a letter dispatched to the Cabinet officer on February 19, J. Francis Pohlhaus, counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charged:

"This point Federal-Mississippi effort to administer and operate a racially discriminatory program violates the provisions of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution. It does not even meet the unconstitutional and judicially discredited doctrine of 'separate but equal,' in that it provides training in only one skill for Negroes and in additional skills for whites."

Mr. Pohlhaus reminded Secretary Wirtz that he had already been informed by Medgar Evers, NAACP field secretary for Mississippi, that the two Mississippi junior colleges exclude Negroes.

Hurts Where Needed

Under these circumstances, Mr. Pohlhaus continued, "your approval of this program must be considered a denial of equality of opportunity for those who need it most, colored unemployed in Mississippi, one of our nation's most economically depressed areas."

"We respectfully urge that you qualify your approval of this training program by requiring all institutions participating in it to offer all training to eligible trainees without re-

(Continued on Page 2)

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SOCIAL JUSTICE . . . IN MISSISSIPPI

Editorial Page

Touchy Problem

As we have so often said, Mississippi is poor and both unemployed and underemployed. The Manpower Training Act that passed the United States Congress in 1962 was designed to train people so that they could fill more skilled jobs.

This act can be a great asset to our state. One of the reasons that significant industry does not come to Mississippi is because, although we have a tremendous labor pool, it is not very skilled. Training under the act would permit those people who have jobs that pay less than a living wage, to get better ones. And of course, it would mean that those who have no jobs would have a skill that would make getting one much easier.

Clearly, the Federal Government is concerned about the worsening employment problem throughout the nation and has shown definite interest in our particularly bad situation. And clearly, Mississippi needs the assistance of the Federal government with the problem of training and retraining.

But a touchy problem has arisen with the approval of three apparently segregated training centers here in the state. On the one hand there is the axiom, federal money should not be spent on a segregated basis. And on the other, the problem we are facing cannot get better until we improve economically. Certainly we insist that everything be done to negotiate the situation so that both axi can be met. But if they cannot. What then?

It is a touchy situation, and one that we hope does not come up. But it undoubtedly will. Views on this problem would be appreciated.

If Uncle Sam Stops Buying Undies

The breakthrough in job discrimination at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula seems only to be a beginning for the potential of the Presidents Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities. In a letter from the Executive Vice Chairman of that committee, Hobart Taylor, Jr., to Medgar Evers he said that the committee is presently giving attention to the International Paper Company and the BVD garment company.

The ideal behind the presidents committee is wonderful, that contracts financed by Federal monies not be let to companies practicing segregation. But, what is better, is that it seems that something is being done to follow that ideal. The Federal government is putting its shoulder to the wheel and helping to get rolling the ideal of equal employment, regardless of race.

It has a very effective way of doing this. It can merely see to it that government contracts are not let to Jim Crow companies. Now, the government has enough things made, including BVD's that most industries need to have their business or they have to close down. If one customer who buys about sixty million long johns each year decides he will buy somewhere where they do not discriminate, then it becomes expensive to segregate.

We are proud that the Federal Government is working toward these ends, but remember, it is a lot easier for them to move quickly if they have pressure from down here. If you are not able to get a job at a company that has government contracts, and you believe that the denial is because of race, then let the committee know, and let us know, too.

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Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

As glad as my family is when they arrive from school or work and say "Mom has a paper." I couldn't miss out on the dollar a year deal. Nothing could have been any better than the news receiving 52 Free Press papers for as low as one dollar.

My entire family enjoys this paper so well, until in our prayer we pray for you and your company to keep up the Good work.

God bless you,
Sincerely yours
Pearlie Mixon

P.S. enclosed is \$1.00 money order for 1 year subscription of FREE PRESS.

To the Editor:

We heard Dick Gregory last Friday night at San Diego State College, and he told of Mr. Clyde Kennard. We are so sorry to hear of his critical condition. I feel your paper played a big part in getting Barnett to free him. Not only are you educating Southerners but some of us and I thank you.
Doris Florer
Del Mar, California

To Our Readers:

The Free Press is always glad to hear from you, the readers. Ask us questions, comment on what we say, criticize us. But remember one important thing, when you write, make sure that your letter is legible. If we cannot read your letter it will not do either of us any good.

Sincerely,
FREE PRESS

From Canton

'Don't Let Yesterday Use Up Too Much Of Today'

Once again the FREE PRESS is reprinting opinions from other newspapers around the state. We like to pass on signs that we believe mean that many people are beginning to wake up and demand that Mississippi join the progress of the rest of the nation. The following is an editorial that appeared in the Madison County Herald on February 7. The editorial, written by Curtis H. Mullen, was entitled, "The Past is Dead." The emphasis is ours.

Often good advice comes in a small package. For instance, this quotation which we ran across the other day:

"Don't let yesterday use
up too much of today."

In other words, don't live in the past. Today is for the present and the future. Use it not looking back, but in living today and preparing for tomorrow.

One of our main weaknesses has always been in trying to cling to the past and refusing to accept the present and the prospect for the future.

Of course, not all change is progress. Far from it. But changes come and must be recognized and to a great extent accepted. For there is no possible way to cling to the past. And it would be tragic if it were possible.

Nevertheless, we still hear speakers and writers urging people to stand firm against changes although it is well recognized that the change is at hand and already beginning its cycle.

The South is noted for its efforts to cling to an era long past. There exists today argument, some sentiment and some effort to hold to a way of life that came to an end almost a hundred years ago.

Although we do not like to admit it, there is evidence that trying to cling to the past is why this section has lapsed behind the nation as a whole.

We are breaking away from this frame of mind and are now making considerable progress. However, we are still finding much opposition to change and progress. There are still those who insist that we can not give up a way of life that has already ended.

It is probably stretching it slightly to say that this is a great axiom, a self-evident truth, but there is no question but what there is much wisdom in the advice: "Don't let yesterday use up too much of today."

COMMENTS

By Charles Butts

In a recent telephone conversation with a friend, my friend commented, "Mississippi is really making progress. We have an integrated university and a two-party legislature. One Negro at Ole Miss, and one Republican in the legislature."

As part of his State of the Union speech made before Congress at the beginning of January, President Kennedy had this to say about our basic rights. ". . . We need to strengthen our nation by protecting the basic rights of its citizens: . . . the most precious and powerful right in the world, the right to vote in a free American election, must not be denied to any citizen on grounds of his race or color. I wish that all qualified Americans permitted to vote were willing to vote—but surely, in this Centennial year of Emancipation, all those who are willing to vote should always be permitted."

After all the publicity that was given Sidna Brower, editor of the Ole Miss, Mississippian for her editorials during the crisis at that campus, it is interesting to see that the United States Student Press Association chose as its outstanding student editor, Melvin Meyer of Starkville, Mississippi for his editorials in the University of Alabama newspaper.

Meyer, whose paper is called the Crimson and White, was cited for his courage in expressing his beliefs on the right for equality in education during the time Meredith was entering the University of Mississippi. Miss Brower also attended the conference and received an award from the Reader's Digest.

Did you know that the lash is

still used as a punishment in Parchman State Prison? Former State Sen. Howard McDonnell, a Biloxi attorney, claims that he has been informed of the return of the cruel treatment. The lash had been abolished under Fred Jones, prison superintendent who was fired last April. McDonnell stated that he has informed Governor Barnett about the barbaric custom, but that the governor has done nothing.

H.E.W. Says, 'Segregation Makes Unsuitable Schools'

An official in the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare said February 8 that the federal government may run integrated schools for the children of military personnel in some Southern cities.

James Quigley, assistant secretary of H.E.W., said that the government would build or rent schools for children living on military bases who are now forced to attend segregated schools.

Segregation Not Suitable

Last March, Abraham Ribicoff, then secretary of H.E.W., said that segregated schools would not be considered "suitable" for these children after 1963.

The U. S. government has given millions of dollars in aid to local school districts to help them educate the extra children brought into communities by servicemen and government workers on military bases.

Quigley said that the government is considering opening integrated schools only in areas with the largest numbers of children living on base. This includes Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, but not Mississippi.

Bias May Halt . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

restriction as to race, color or other discriminatory qualification."

In Jackson, Evers said that he has just received word from Daniel Shoulder, spokesman from the Department of Labor who is investigating the situation, who said that he was going to the office of Health, Education and Welfare, which is putting part of the money. Shoulder indicated that the various people involved might be brought into compliance by negotiating, or that the program might be closed altogether.

When Evers tried to get an appointment with the Mississippi state employment director to learn how prospective applicants can apply, he was turned down. He was told that the director would be out of town for a week and that he could not set an appointment to see him.

The center at Jackson State would conduct instruction in woodworking and carpentry while the training at the two white centers would be in auto mechanics.

Letter To The Editor

To The Editor:

Mississippi doesn't need any tax money. The Deputy Sheriff refused to permit Negroes to pay poll tax for their sons or their daughters or their husbands, but would accept property tax paid by anyone in Amite County.

This is why Mississippi holds to the poll tax—to keep the Negro from voting.

They also use violence to keep Negroes from getting an education.

It was said by our Gov. Ross A. Barnett that the Negro was satisfied with the present condition. How can they be satisfied when it takes the federal court for one to enter school and the federal marshal over one while he attends class.

No Negro is satisfied in such condition. E. W. Steptoe, Osyka, Mississippi

What Is A Labor Union?

The Free Press has frequently printed articles about the activities of labor unions in Mississippi. Some readers have asked us to explain just what labor unions are and why they are important. This is the second of a series of articles about unions and what they mean to you.

Second in a Series

Last week, in our first article, "What is a Labor Union?" we often mentioned the importance of a contract. We pointed out that it was the contract that a representative from both the company and the union decided upon and to which each signed his name. In this contract there are several guarantees for the worker.

One of the most important is that he can not be fired without a good cause. Of course, this does not mean that a worker can be careless on the job. It does mean, though, that an employer cannot fire an employee just because he did not like something that he did.

For instance, many of you feel that you are taking a chance by speaking out very loudly on an issue with which you know your employer disagrees. Obviously this reduces the opportunity for an individual to be a man.

Free From Fear

The guarantee of a union contract allows a man to be free from the perpetual fear of being fired because he said something that he believed in or did something that he felt was right, but with which his bossman did not agree. Although most workers in Mississippi are underpaid, and almost without exception, a union is able to demand higher wages, probably the most important thing that a union can offer to Mississippians, is an opportunity to be free from the awful fear of being cut off from a means to support himself and his family.

Protects Jobs

You have perhaps heard, that in the process of forming a union some workers lose their jobs. You might have read about that in the FREE PRESS. Usually not many are fired, but in an attempt to keep the union out, at times a company will fire some who are working

to organize a union.

Does this mean that you should not work to organize? Certainly not. Because if you will recall, in the one instance that you read about in which a person lost his job because of his union activities, the International union had lawyers who got his job back with all his back pay.

Case In Point

That case was at the Storkline plant here in Jackson. Seven workers were laid off from their jobs. The union believed that it was because of their union activity. They took the case before the National Labor Relations Board. The Board ruled that the company was interfering with the union's activity (which is illegal) and made the company take the seven men back and pay them all the wages they would have earned had they been working during that time. The International (which is the large parent body of a union) knows that in order to be convincing to the workers of a plant that they are trying to get organized, they must protect the men who are helping them. AND THEY DO.

International Will Help

Anytime a union is preparing to organize, it has the assistance of a union organizer, who is a representative of the International. He is an experienced man who knows how to protect you as you seek to organize a union. He needs your help, so be ready to give it to him.

Remember, what you would be working for would be very valuable: a contract with your employer that stated that he could not fire you without a legitimate reason. You would be free to speak as a man. It is a cause worth working for.

Watch for other articles about, "What is a Labor Union," in the FREE PRESS in the coming weeks.

The 'Law Of The Land'

This is the fourth article (slightly condensed) of a five part series, "The Oxford Disaster — Price of Defiance," by Karl Wiesenburg, Jackson County's man in the Mississippi House of Representatives.

"Mississippians have been washed by waves of accusations that attempt to place blame for the consequences of defiance on everything and everyone connected with the federal government," wrote Chronicle Editor Ira Hurkey of Pascagoula in his foreword to the series.

The political leaders of Mississippi who led the people to the tragedy at Oxford have evidenced no repentance, shame or remorse.

Instead, they have used the executive, legislative and judicial agencies of the state government to place the blame on the President of the United States, the federal courts, the attorney general, and Chief Marshall James P. McShane.

Conspirator Praised

Edwin A. Walker, the former general accused of leading rioters, has been eulogized on the floor of the state legislature, and was permitted to address the legislature at a time when he stood charged with insurrection, conspiracy and sedition against his country.

The powers exercised by the President of the United States were exercised not by choice, but from necessity. . . .

President's Duty

In the absence of maintenance of peace and order by the state, it became the duty of the President to see that order was maintained.

As a matter of fact, the riot was underway, two human lives had already been taken, scores had been injured, and property had been damaged, before the federal troops appeared on the university campus or in the city of Oxford.

Had they not come when they did, the carnage would have been worse.

The federal courts without exception have been denounced as "puppet courts" by a resolution of the state Senate.

The Kennedy administration has been accused of having "appointed little men to the judiciary." . . .

(As chairman of the powerful Judiciary Committee of the Senate, Senator James Eastland has personally been responsible for the recommendation and appointment of our Mississippi federal judges.)

. . . Contrast their conduct with the intemperate utterances of some of our state judges. Which are the "little men?"

Claim False

The claim that the attorney general precipitated the riot because he was unwilling "to await the completion of judicial processes" is directly at variance with the facts.

Meredith first filed suit for admission to the University of Mississippi on May 31, 1961. Between that date and September 10, 1962, myriad phases of the Meredith case had been heard

Government by Law



by the United States District Court, and three times by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals.

The order issued by Justice Black was issued with the full knowledge and concurrence of all other Justices of the Supreme Court.

Under our system of government there is no appeal from the orders of the Supreme Court of the United States, it being our constitutional court of last resort.

How could there be any "judicial processes" beyond the final pronouncement of the Supreme Court of the United States? . . .

The "interposition" doctrine had already been declared by the Supreme Court of the United States to be "illegal defiance of constitutional authority."

Gov. Barnett could have ordered the closing of the University of Mississippi. Section 213B of the Mississippi Constitution and Section 6232-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1942 purport to grant the governor such authority.

Gov. Barnett did not choose to order the University closed.

Illegal Orders

Were the series of proclamations and executive orders is-

sued by the governor in his attempt to block the admission of Meredith a usurpation of powers not granted him by the constitution of his own state and expressly denied him?

Was his status that of an interloper meddling into the affairs of a great university in violation of Mississippi's Constitution?

He was charged by the Southern Association of Colleges with such political interference in the affairs of the university. . . .

In the ultimate analysis, can any defense be made for a public official who publicly proposes to defy the federal courts?

Such defiance is what set into motion the sequence of events that led to the Oxford riots.

Barnett's Fault

That innocent blood was shed was not the fault of the President, the federal courts, the attorney general or Chief Marshall James P. McShane. It was the price of defiance.

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Congressman Wroten Praised For Statesmanship; Businesswoman Mrs. Harvey Cited For Service



Mrs. Martin L. Harvey of Jackson, Miss., was honored for her work for peace and brotherhood in a citation presented here (Jan. 31) by the Methodist Board of Christian Social Concerns. The citation was awarded by Bishop A. Raymond Grant (left) of Portland, Ore., chairman of the board's Division of Human Relations and Economic Affairs.

The activity in brotherhood and other Christian concerns of two Methodists from Mississippi was recognized in awards given here (Jan. 31) by the Board of Christian Social Concerns.

The recipients are Mrs. Martin L. Harvey of Jackson and Joseph E. Wroten of Greenville. She is secretary of the board, and he is a member of the executive committee.

Given Citations

The citations, read as follows:

For Mrs. Harvey: "who has ably served as a leader and representative of Methodist youth in the life of the church; who pursues a distinguished business career in her native city of Jackson; who demonstrated her continuing devotion to peace by her journeys abroad and her services at home; who gives generously of her time, talents and energy to the cause of Christian social concerns; and who witnesses faithfully and effectively to the ideals of justice and brotherhood where she lives and works."

Responsible State Legislature

For Mr. Wroten: "who, as a lawyer, fulfills his vocation in Greenville; who, as a churchman, vigorously leads his annual conference Board of Christian Social Concerns; who, as a member of the House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi, courageously stands for human rights and Christian brotherhood; and whose responsible statesmanship during the Oxford crisis merits the appreciation and commendation of Christians everywhere."

Greenville Attacks Give-Aways; Asks For Over \$300,000

The City Council of Greenville voiced their opposition to the federal government's "give-away" programs and then unanimously approved 4 applicants to \$321,661.50 in federal aid.

Councilman Jake Markuson declared, "That's a funny philosophy. You don't like give away programs, but take away programs are all right."

For Segregated Projects

The federal money would go for a Negro community center, an addition to the white community center, a library and a water tank and lines. Last spring the voters of Greenville decided that they didn't want to spend their own money for the library and community centers; they defeated a bond issue for these items.

If they want the federal money, voters will have to approve bond issues to pay half the cost of each project. They will decide on each item individually and may approve some and defeat others.

Depressed Area

The City Council applied for the aid under the federal Depressed Areas Program. The government had already approved \$101,500 for a Greenville road project. It is now considering two other requests for aid for road and sewer construc-

tion also sent by the Greenville City Council.

Councilman R. A. Blackman stated, "As long as everybody else is getting money, we may as well, too."

These construction projects, aided by federal funds, will provide many jobs for skilled workers. In the past skilled jobs have been closed to Negroes.

Cheap Labor Company Threatens Miss. Move

A representative of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union reports that one company man who spoke against higher wages in Puerto Rico threatened to move his plant to Mississippi.

The union official is part of a U. S. Department of Labor team investigating wages on the island of Puerto Rico. They will make recommendations about minimum wages in the food industry there.

Mississippi Wages Lowest

One employer declared, "We came to Puerto Rico to get cheap labor. If the government boosts the minimum wage here, we'll move to Mississippi." He appeared to know that people in Mississippi receive the lowest wages of any state in the nation.

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Three Young . . .
(Continued from Page 1)
rights. Several citizenship schools are now being conducted in Clarksdale in order to better acquaint citizens with their rights and how to gain them. The schools are conducted from 8:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Monday and Tuesday night. They are held at: Chapel Hill Baptist Church; Rayford Chapel Baptist Church; Silent Grove Baptist Church; Pigeon's Beauty Salon; and Johnson's Sandwich Shop. Spokesman for the schools say "All citizens are invited and encouraged to attend these schools to effect self betterment in every facet of life."

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