

# Mississippi FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

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Jackson, Mississippi — Saturday, June 15, 1963

10c Per Copy

## EVERS MURDERED



Medgar Evers

### Civil Rights Leader Shot In Back

#### NAACP'S "Man In Mississippi" Dies In Struggle For Freedom; Jackson Community Shaken By Tragic Loss: Trembles With Anger

Medgar W. Evers was shot in the back and killed by gunmen at his home shortly after midnight Tuesday. Evers, Mississippi NAACP Field Secretary and a leader in the struggle for human rights, had just returned from a civil rights mass meeting.

A neighbor, Houston Wells, heard the shots and rushed to Evers' side. He found him at the door step where he had crawled 30 yards from where he had been shot.

Wells told the FREE PRESS a short while after the shooting, "I found him face down and I turned him over. I saw that he was still alive. He tried to speak, but his words were not audible. In a few moments his wife and children came out and the kids tried to speak to their father."

Wells called the police; he said they arrived within two minutes. He and the police put Evers on a mattress and took him to the University Medical Center where he died a few minutes later.

#### Charge Winona Police Jailed And Beat Three Delta Women

Winona police beat three women who were among six Delta citizens arrested Sunday for using the white waiting room of the Trailways bus station there, Greenwood registration leader Willie Peacock reported. They had been returning from a meeting in South Carolina. He said that when another vote worker went to Winona to find out what had happened to the six, he was arrested and reportedly turned over to the Citizens Council for a brutal beating.

##### Woman Beaten

Three people who visited the women in jail reported that Miss Annell Ponder's eyes were swollen from being beaten, Miss June Elizabeth Johnson's head was swollen from the blows and Mrs. Fanny Lou Hamer had been beaten all over her body. A voter worker who saw Lawrence Guyot reported that his head was badly beaten and he appeared to have



Mrs. Fanny Lou Hamer—She was beaten by police in Winona.

lost the use of an arm.

The others arrested were Miss Rose Mary Freeman and Miss Euveste Simpson of Itta Bena and James West of Greenwood. Miss Ponder, Miss Johnson and Guyot live in Greenwood. (Continued on Page 2)

#### Kincade Won't Meet Integrationists; Plan Mass Demonstrations

Clarksdale Mayor W. S. Kincade Tuesday refused to meet with Negro leaders to discuss questions of desegregation. A group of seven civil rights spokesmen attended the Board of Mayor and Commissioners meeting to hear Kincade's answer to the proposal they had set before him the week before.

Aaron Henry, one of the spokesmen, told the FREE PRESS several days before the meeting that there would be anti-segregation demonstrations if their demands were not met. Friday night shots were fired into the homes of Henry and Mrs. Vera Pige, who also attended the meeting.

##### Getting Ready

People in the Clarksdale community were called on to get (Continued on Page 4)

#### Jackson Youths Parade Despite "Illegal To Demonstrate" Injunction

##### BULLETIN

Thirteen Negro ministers were arrested Wednesday while marching to protest Medgar Evers' murder. They were charged with parading without a permit.

Integrationist and segregationist forces in Jackson both went to the courts last week in an effort to stop action by the other side. The City of Jackson won an injunction in Chancery Court June 6 prohibiting any more demonstrations.

##### Invalid

The NAACP announced that it would ignore the injunction, calling it "invalid and without force or effect." The next day the Court denied the civil rights group's motion to dissolve or stay the injunction; the Mississippi Supreme Court denied an appeal to kill the injunction Monday, June 10. A hearing on the injunction was set for Sep-

tember 9—three months away.

However, civil rights leaders said "peaceful activities and protest against racial segregation will continue," and it did. More than 55 people were arrested in demonstrations on Capitol Street and at Battlefield Park Wednesday and Friday. Sunday 17 people were turned away from six white Methodist and Baptist Churches.

##### Delays Ruling

Saturday and Monday U. S. Judge Harold Cox heard testimony on an NAACP suit to stop Jackson police and city officials (Continued from Page 3)

#### UM Riot Was Set Gov. Changed Mind

An editorial in the June 10 McComb Enterprise Journal said that the day before Cleve McDowell's entry into the University of Mississippi Law School, "the stage was set for another bloody and murderous riot on the campus of the University of Mississippi."

"As the clock struck eleven in the governor's mansion in Jackson, plans had been made—the die was cast—to pit the power of the State of Mississippi against the armed might of the United States of America."

The editorial said that advocates of continued resistance favored closing down the University to avoid McDowell's entry. "They advocated defiance (Continued on Page 4)

#### Rev. Selah Resigns In Protest Against Church Color Bar

Dr. Selah, pastor of Galloway Jackson's largest white Methodist Church resigned Sunday after ushers turned away Negroes seeking to worship at his church. Two weeks ago the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Church decided by a close vote of 97 to 94 to expel Rev. Edwin King, the white chaplain of Tougaloo College, from the conference.

Dr. Selah, pastor of Galloway Methodist Church, and his assistant Rev. Jerry Furr, both resigned minutes after 5 Negroes were turned away from the service. Negroes were also

(Continued on Page 4)

##### Long Range Rifle

Jackson police investigators on the scene had no definite clues, but believed that the gunman used a long range rifle fired from the far end of a vacant lot across from Evers' house. The bullet passed through Evers' body, through a window, a metal venetian blind, a 4½ inch kitchen wall, glanced off the refrigerator and stopped under a watermelon on the kitchen counter.

The shooting, which seemed to involve at least three men, was apparently carefully planned. J. G. Wells, Houston Wells' brother, said that when he drove down the street near Evers' home, he crashed through a 10 inch high barricade of tin cans.

##### Trap

Wells said he thought that the (Continued on Page 3)

#### McDowell Enrolls At Ole Miss Law School; No Riot Repetition

Cleve McDowell registered for classes at the University of Mississippi Law School Wednesday, June 5 and later told newsmen, "I have not heard even one rude remark" from other students on the campus.

McDowell plans to practice law in Mississippi after his graduation.

The next day James Meredith signed up for the University's summer session without incident. McDowell, an honor graduate of Jackson State College, will live in Baxter Hall with Meredith.

##### Futile

Gov. Barnett admitted defeat when he appeared on television and said "It would be unwise and futile for the state of Mississippi to enter into a physical or shooting combat with the United States Army."

Both McDowell and Meredith appeared at a Jackson mass meeting Friday in support of



Cleve McDowell—New student at Ole Miss Law School.

the effort to end discrimination and segregation here.



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# Editorial Page

## Where Lies The Blame?

As we write this, still stunned by the tragic and wasteful murder of Medgar Evers, the gunmen have not been found, but several accomplices are in clear view. They are the incredible poverty and ignorance perpetuated in Mississippi that drive people to such dreadful actions.

The blame for the accomplices?

The selfish and corrupt government of the state is clearly to blame for the death of Medgar Evers. He died because he stood in defiance of the interests that wish to see Mississippi remain in its past.

Of course there are those people in political control who do nothing to improve the situation here in the state. These leaders ought to be pointed out as contributing to the murder that occurred last Tuesday. But there are others to blame—those people who did not heed the pleas of Medgar Evers to do their part in defeating the politicians who scream "Nigger" to get elected.

No one could know Medgar Evers and not hear him prod, urge, cajole, and encourage all people to register and vote so that they could end injustice and suffering in Mississippi.

Medgar Evers was no outside agitator in any sense of the term. He was born, bred and educated in Mississippi. He loved his state for what it could be, but hated the way it was.

No one can feel sorry for what happened to Medgar Evers, the "Man in Mississippi," without thinking that by not heeding his advice he has contributed to his murder.

This man worked throughout his life for what he knew was right for the people of his race and all people who were injured by the affairs of the state. He gave his life in that effort. The only proper credit to the memory of his life and work is to take to heart the philosophy which he has symbolized.

## Federal Failure

According to the McComb Enterprise-Journal, which is quoted in a front page story, Gov. Barnett was set to start another full scale riot to block Cleve McDowell's admission to the University of Mississippi. He reportedly only changed his mind the night before McDowell was scheduled to register at the University Law School.

The article said that Barnett had been called on to make another defiant stand by die hard racists and Citizens Council leaders.

However, if Barnett had gone ahead with his plan, the real criminal would have been the federal government. Instead of immediately citing Barnett for contempt last fall and making sure he was jailed until he agreed to the integration of the University, the government made deals with him—and played politics with the lives of Negroes throughout Mississippi.

The Justice Dept. agreed to let Barnett defy the government in public so that he could save face—and continue to deny that the University was actually integrated.

Hundreds of Negroes have been jailed in Jackson and throughout the Delta in the past few months because they wanted to vote and enjoy equal rights in a segregated society. Yet, Barnett is not in jail after he was responsible for countless deaths and injuries—including the lynchings, bombing and violence that occurred throughout the state in the wake of his appeal to racism and lawlessness.

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# Labor Law Protects Your Right To Organize Unions

The National Labor Relations Act sets out the federal laws which protect and regulate the right of working people to organize trade unions and bargain with their employers about wages, hours and other working conditions.

Many people don't know about the federal labor laws and this article will be the first in a series explaining these laws. The first article will explain the rights and protections which the National Labor Relations Act provides for workers. Future articles will deal with the workings of the National Labor Relations Board, restrictions on unions and other questions important to all working people.

The National Labor Relations Act declares, "Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection . . ."

### Section 7

This is the famous "Section 7" which makes unions legal. Before this law was passed in 1935, unions were prosecuted under the anti-trust laws as organizations in restraint of trade.

The second important benefit the law provides is this: an employer must recognize any union which has been chosen by the majority of the workers voting in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). This means that it is not necessary to go on strike to win recognition.

The NLRB protects the rights of workers while they are trying to organize a union. It is an unfair labor practice for an employer to interfere with workers seeking to form a union.

### Can't Threaten

Companies are not allowed to threaten employees with loss of jobs or benefits if they join a union. They cannot threaten to close down the plant if a union is organized. They are not supposed to question employees about their union activities or membership in a way that will intimidate them. They are not to spy on union activities or discriminate against union members.

People in Mississippi might be especially confused about this part of the law because it seems as if companies are continually violating it. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to prove unfair labor practices, but when they are proved, as in the recent case of Storkline in Jackson, a new election is set and the company is ordered to cease its illegal activities.

Often, as in the case of Storkline, they repeat the illegal practices; however, it is important that working people know what the law says so that they can report illegal acts to the NLRB.

### Must Bargain

After a union is formed, the NLRB still protects the workers. If an employer refuses to bargain with a union which has won an NLRB election, he is guilty of an unfair labor practice. The NLRB can ask the federal court for an order to force him to sit down with the union representative to discuss wages, hours and other benefits, including pensions, bonuses, insurance, grievance procedures, safety and seniority. If he still refuses, he can be cited for contempt of court.

If a worker has been fired for union activity, the NLRB can get a court order telling the company to rehire the man with back pay.

The NLRA protects the worker's right to strike and picket for economic benefits or to end unfair labor practices.

Workers who are striking for higher wages, better working conditions and benefits are

called economic strikers. They cannot be fired, but if their employer hires people to take their place before they decide to go back to work, he does not have to take them back.

Workers who strike to protest unfair actions committed by their employers are called unfair labor strikers. The company is not allowed to fire them or replace them. When the worker decides to go back to work, the employer must take him back, even if he has to fire someone he hired during the strike.

Unless workers are violent or are striking for an illegal purpose, the government must protect their right to strike.

### Right To Picket

Workers also have the right to picket. There are restrictions against picketing a company which has already recognized another union, picketing a firm which does business with a company where workers are on strike, preventing strike-breakers from entering a plant and other unfair labor practices. However, the law protects the right of workers to picket peacefully for legal reasons.

When the FREE PRESS asked a Jackson police officer whether union picketers would be arrested here just as desegregation picketers are, he answered that they would be arrested if they caused a breach of the peace. In Mississippi no one can picket without a license issued by the police department. The officer said that picketing would be allowed only if it didn't stir up controversy—Jackson is "nice and peaceful" and we want to keep it that way, he said.

Anytime a union pickets there is controversy, a picket line means there is a dispute with the boss. Therefore, the law which was passed to be used against integration demonstrators is often used against labor union picketers.

The fact that Mississippi laws are so anti-union makes it even more important for people to know their rights under the federal law. Watch for another article in this series in next week's FREE PRESS.

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## Charge Winona . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

wood; Mrs. Hamer is from Ruleville.

Peacock said that the six arrested at the Trailways station were convicted Tuesday of disturbing the peace and resisting arrest and fined \$100 each. They had no legal counsel; bond was set at \$200 each. It hadn't been raised at press time.

### Spoke With Barnett

Peacock spoke with Gov. Barnett by telephone Monday and complained that citizens of Mississippi were being held incommunicado. West and Guyot had been moved from the Winona jail and could not be located. A few hours later, Guyot called Peacock and told him to send someone to get him. However, when two people went to Carrollton, where Guyot was being held, police would not release Guyot and the two were arrested for traffic violations.

Guyot was first arrested Sunday when he went to Winona to investigate the situation of the other six who had been jailed. He was ordered to leave the jail and did so. Minutes after he started to drive away, a highway patrol officer stopped him. When Guyot refused to say "sir," the officer slapped him and arrested him, according to Willie Shaw and Milton Hancock who had accompanied Guyot from Greenwood.

### Said Fell From Car

Carroll County Sheriff Fisher Sanders later said Guyot had been bruised when he fell out of his car. When three vote workers went to Winona Monday, Guyot had been moved. That is when Peacock phoned Barnett. West was also moved from the Winona jail after his arrest, but was returned there Monday. Guyot was also moved back to the Winona jail.

A reporter asking the charges against Guyot was told that he had been arrested for disturbing the peace, resisting arrest and murder. When he asked if a murder had been committed, officials were vague and later dropped the murder charge.

The Justice Dept. has called on the FBI for an investigation.



# SHOT IN BACK

(Continued from Page 1)

barricade was part of a trap to facilitate the murder since Evers often went home by that route. Because he returned home from another direction Tuesday night, the barricade was untouched.

Mrs. Herbert Bishop, whose home faced the barricade, said that she and her children heard a very loud noise at the time of the killing. Willie Mae Bishop, one of the children, who was watching television, told the FREE PRESS that when they heard the shots "we shut off all the lights because we were scared." She said that when she looked out the window, she saw three men running from the spot where the shot is believed to have been fired.

Jackson police authorities said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been called in on the case. Detectives at the scene said it appeared as though Evers was struck just as he stood in his driveway to close the car door. He apparently staggered about 30 feet to the back entrance and then collapsed in a pool of blood.

## NAACP T-Shirts

Over the route that he staggered, he dropped blood-stained T-shirts imprinted with the words NAACP and "Jim Crow Must Go." The jacket he was

carrying was also dropped in the driveway.

Among the several hundred people who visited the scene to look or to comfort Mrs. Evers were NAACP youth leaders who said they planned to have everyone wear NAACP T-shirts like those Evers was carrying when he was killed.

Mrs. Merle Evers, 30, and her three children, Darrel Kenyatta, 10, Denise, 6, and Van Dyke, 4, were in the house at the time of the shooting. Evers would have been 38 July 2.

## Horror And Anger

The reaction in the Negro community was one of deep horror and anger. Many Negroes were reported to be carrying guns. The chief of police has made an appeal for people to leave the situation in the hands of law officers.

Governor Barnett and the Jackson Chamber of Commerce issued a statement condemning the shooting.

Evers, who has worked full-time for the NAACP since 1954, has been the most out-spoken leader for the dignity and equality of Negroes in Mississippi.

He was born in Decatur, Mississippi and graduated from Alcorn College a state college for Negroes.

## Man In Mississippi

His record of work for the NAACP dates back to his youth. He became very active in the dangerous Delta area of the state while still a representative for an insurance agency. Medgar Evers was known nationally as the "Man in Mississippi."

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# Pressure Continues In Face Of Municipal Order; Additional Jackson Mass Demonstrations Expected

(Continued from Page 1)

from interfering with the right to peacefully protest against segregation. No testimony was heard on their motion to dissolve the injunction against civil rights demonstrations. Tuesday Cox announced he would consider the motion and give a ruling later. He is set to go on vacation soon.

Civil rights forces have also filed an application for a writ of habeas corpus to free demonstrators still being held in jail.

The injunction against integration demonstrations names students Bette Poole and John Frazier, Rev. Charles Jones, Rev. Edwin King, Dave Dennis of CORE, James Jones of SNCC, Willie Ludden, Mercedes Wright, Gloster Current, all of NAACP, Pres. A. D. Beittel and John Salter of Tougaloo College, Dick Gregory, NAACP, CORE and their followers and supporters.

## Sides Of Mouth

One spokesman said that Jackson officials spoke "from two sides of their mouths. . . . Why enjoin a 'faltering' movement?" Newspaper advertisement by the Downtown Merchants Assoc. recently called on people to shop downtown in spite of the demonstrations.

## Integrate Golf Course

Last Thursday, Jessie Harris and Sam Jones played on the Municipal Golf Course while Mrs. Jones and Sam Love watched. Chairs and tables were removed from the club house while the group was on the course, but they were permitted to play. Police were on the scene, but didn't interfere. Someone let the air out of the

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ires of the car the group was using.

## Recreational Facilities

Public recreational facilities in Jackson were ordered integrated by the Supreme Court

rested for walking on Capitol Street wearing sweatshirts marked with slogans demanding equality and carrying American flags. Friday there were 47 arrests; two groups



The city of Jackson has won an injunction to stop demonstrations like this one. The NAACP is seeking an order to prevent police from arresting protesters as they are doing here.

over a year ago. Mayor Thompson said two weeks ago that Negroes would be allowed to use the facilities, but threatened that they would be closed if it appeared that Negroes were "taking them over."

Wednesday 9 youths were ar-

were arrested in demonstrations at Walgreen's and Primos, and a large group was jailed (Continued on Page 4)

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## Federal Court Frees Whites Arrested At Ole Miss Riots

An all-white, all male jury last Friday freed two men who were arrested after the segregation riots at Ole Miss the night of James Meredith's enrollment.

Richard Hinton, 28, of Lucedale, Miss., and Phillip Miles, 22, of Prichard, Ala., had been charged with interfering with U. S. marshals and violating the court order for Meredith's admission.

During the trial, FBI agent Allison Caplin testified that the two men were part of a group called "Alabama Volunteers for Oxford" which left from Prichard September 30. He attended their meeting and followed them part of the way to Oxford, he said.

### Saw Fire Bomb Thrown

U. S. marshal Edward Bartholomew testified that he saw Hinton throw a Molotov Cock-tail at marshals during the rioting. A national guardsman told the court that he saw Miles put a pistol on the ground when he was arrested and that cartridge cases on the campus came from Miles' gun. He said that Miles

tried to hide the gun in a folded newspaper.

Hinton and Miles both said that they had dropped in at the Oxford campus on the spur of the moment out of curiosity; they said they were going to Tennessee to buy some cars. Miles denied having a gun.

He also testified that he arrived at the campus at 4 a.m., after the height of the riots; October 1 he signed a statement saying he had arrived at 11 p.m., when the violence was just getting started.

Their attorneys said that no "positive" evidence showed that the men were on the campus during the rioting.

In another action, Federal Judge Claude Clayton dismissed \$250,000 damage suits filed against Justice Dept. attorney John Doar, Deputy Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach, Chief U. S. Marshal James McShane and Federal Prison official William Tucker by three Alabama men.

The men, who were arrested during the Ole Miss riots, charged that they had been deprived of their rights by the arrests.

Judge Clayton said that the defendants were immune from the suit because they had been performing official duties as Justice Dept. officers.

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## Rev. Selah ...

(Continued from Page 1)

barred from the Capitol Street Methodist Church.

Dr. Selah, who has been minister at Galloway since 1945, told the congregation, "I know in conscience there can be no color bar in a Christian church, so I will ask the Bishop for another appointment."

Rev. Furr, one of the 28 ministers who signed a statement against discrimination earlier this year, said, "I could not willingly serve a church that turns any people away."

## UM Riot ...

(Continued from Page 1)

and urged the governor to invite the people to meet him on the Ole Miss campus," the Enterprise Journal said.

Barnett had agreed to the plan but changed his mind late Tuesday night, the paper said. "To decide not to defy the federal courts was in essence an admission that a terrible mistake was made last fall," it said. It supported Barnett's change of mind.

## Kincade Won't ...

(Continued from Page 1)

ready for the demonstrations. They were asked to sign pledges promising to remain non-violent. They were also assured that "any person who participates in the direct action movement and is fired from his job because of it will have his needs of food, clothing and shelter provided."

Citizens have also been asked to report instances of arrests for breaking the 12 o'clock curfew. They were told, "You do not have to stay away from home all night if you can't get home before 12 o'clock midnight. . . . This harassment gimmick can be broken in the courts, if you are willing to stand up."

### Boycott

The boycott continues against downtown merchants, Jordans Furniture Co., Fifth Street Grocery, Monneyhans Service Stations, Dentons and Clarksdale Dairies, and all service stations with segregated restrooms.

## Pressure Continued ...

(Continued from Page 3)

after it tried to play softball at Battlefield Park. They left when they were ordered out, but were then arrested standing in a street in a Negro section of town.

Justice Dept. attorney Thelton Henderson told the FREE PRESS that reports by Jackson Daily News editor Jimmy Ward and other local reporters which said he had praised conditions in the fairgrounds compound were not true.

The news articles said Henderson stated, "What I have seen here impresses me very much. . . . Accommodations are good, they're clean, and all of them (the demonstrators) seem to be in good spirits. . . . Everything's fine." Henderson said the statements were false and were manufactured by the newsmen.

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