Clarksdale Pickets Hit Discrimination At Churches, Court

Clarksdale has witnessed a series of picket demonstrations this week directed against discrimination in local churches, courts, and newspapers. The key demand in the protests has been the creation of a biracial committee to work out problems in the community.

The pickets began Sunday when about 70 Clarksdale citizens marched in front of 14 Negro and white churches. Using the theme of Father's Day, the demonstrators carried signs which appealed to "Father in

Meeting Hall Marooned; Vote Campaign Begins

Last Tuesday night, three hundred persons at a mass meeting at the College Hill Church voted to accept the Mayor's offer to hold demonstrations in exchange for the beginning of four of their eight demands. Jackson Mayor Alan C. Thompson told the representative group of Negro ministers and businessmen that he would hire six Negro police within sixty days. Eight Negro crossing walk guards are to be trained and ready by next September.

The mayor said that at least one Negro would be promoted to driver of one of the city's garbage trucks and seven others would be graded higher than was previously possible for Negroes.

Only The Beginning

Rev. G. H. Haughton told the FREE PRESS that the Mayor was willing to call this only the beginning. He said that the mayor was willing to meet in the future to continue to discuss the improvement of employment and other opportunities for Negroes.

Civil Rights leaders said that calling for demonstrations does not indicate that they are finished. They spoke enthusiastically of putting all of their energies behind a massive voter registration drive.

Mass Voter Drive

When asked about the vote of the people, Dave Dennis of CORE said, "We abide with the community because we work in the community."

The report of a possible split between the civil rights organization and the mass voter registration drive was already underway.

A Freedom Reminder

"We're not going to let the fire kindled by the voter registration drive go out. Register and vote.

To the county clerk at your local court house and take the test. Give yourself a voice in deciding who represents you in government. Remember, the deadline for registering to vote in the coming elections is July 5.

Storkline Workers Have Chance To Vote For Carpenters Union

Workers at the Storkline Plant in Jackson will have another chance to gain union representation June 26. That is the date set for a National Labor Relations Election to decide if the workers are organized. The election will be supervised by the National Labor Relations Board.

Storkline has been trying to organize for many years. In the last few years, two elections were set aside because the company tried to intimidate the workers and convince them to vote against the union. The union lost the last election by only 30 votes.

Illegal Actions

The company threatened the workers that they would lose their jobs if the union won the election. This is against the Federal Labor Relations Act. Seventeen men who were fired for union activity were ordered rehired and given all their back pay.

Then men in the plant who are supporting the Carpenters Union are doing so because they want to raise their wages and gain job security. Most of the 1500 workers make only the minimum wage of $1.15 an hour. Those who do the same jobs in other parts of organized plants make twice as much.

Against Workers' Unity

In the past, the company has forced workers to sign "yellow dog" contracts, which are illegal. The workers were forced to sign these contracts.

Canton Vote Drive Registers Success

Six of 40 people who have attempted to register to vote in Canton have qualified and are on the rolls. Of those who have attempted to register, have reported being harrassed. The court has not seemed to curb the enthusiasm of the citizens who turn out to mass meetings every night in numbers of better than a hundred.

Voter Schools

A Voter School at 312 Franklin Street in Canton has recently been opened. Voter education classes are being conducted.

Many people continue to make the attempt to register, while the Justice Department is investigating reports of intimidations.

Miss. Advisory Committee

The Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission met in Jackson Wednesday, June 19. A complete report of what occurred at the session will appear in next week's FREE PRESS.
We stand for...
GOOD GOVERNMENT
HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS
BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
SOCIAL JUSTICE... IN MISSISSIPPI

EDITORIAL

Mourners Show Unity

Lost Saturday more than 4,000 people attended the memorial services of the murdered civil rights leader, Medgar Evers. Following the service, 1,600 people silently proceeded from the Masonic Temple on Lynch Street to the Collins Memorial Home on Parish.

Many who watched the march, including several hundred white people who had gathered to look on as the mourners crossed Mississippi Avenue, were astounded at how they believed that such unity existed in the Negro community.

The great length of that silent column of men and women ought to demonstrate to Jackson and to the state and most particularly to the men and women themselves, that there are many people who were proud to publiclv show their support of the civil rights leaders of Mississippi by walking the mile and a quarter for all of Jackson and the world to see.

Throughout his life, Medgar Evers struggled to bring about unity within his community, which had been so split and divided by fear. He was never able to see how successful he had been.

COMMUNITY'S NEW DIRECTION

A Tribute To Evers

After such a moving expression of the unity it was an unfortunate turn of events for a mob of people, with neither leadership nor direction, to sweep down the street attempting to disrupt the funeral.

Although there may exist well-deserved anger for the treatment that some of the police have given demonstrators and bystanders in recent weeks, the stampede toward Capitol Street last Saturday was a most inappropriate action.

In the first place, it led to a display of violence which could have become a major riot had not John Doar of the Justice Department got there ahead of us so that they could have seen that such unity existed in the Negro community.

But in the second place, it seems clear that the blows were not aimed in the right direction. It may be easy to build up great deal of emotion against the uncalled brutality of the police. However, making an attack on the police and becoming involved in a pitched battle with them is frustrated by the very point at hand. In fact, it is playing right into the hands of those people who wish to see things stay as they are.

It would only add to the tragedy of Medgar Evers' death, if the unity that he has created is wasted on a few superficial and emotional encounters in the street.

Medgar Evers gave his life to building the kind of unity that should show up at the polls with greater and greater strength at each election.

He knew that the only way to bring about the kind of state he envisioned was to get the deprived people of Jackson and Mississippi to the polls, to the ballot box, and to put into office reasonable and humane men on both the state and local level.

Last Tuesday night, the people who jammed the Masonic Temple at the College Hill Church voted to turn their full support toward voter registration. With this decision, the people of Jackson will make each new name that is added to the voter rolls a permanent monument to the ideals of Medgar Evers.

MRS. EVERS

"No One Knows Like I Know"

(Continued from Page 1)

Both civil rights leaders Rev. S. Leon Whitney and Bishop Gerow Monday attended a conference of Negro clergymen called by President Kennedy in an effort to find solutions to the nation's racial problems. We Pulled Trigger

David Evers, the secretary, said, the night after Evers death, "We pulled that trigger and we let him alone; we said we stood behind him, but we were too far behind him."

Rev. A. L. Johnson vowed, "I'm going to pull that trigger."

For 30 days we shall refrain from buying except in our own little store.

When Evers' body arrived in Walthall, many people silently marched behind the hearse as it proceeded to the funeral home. Several people from Jackson left last Tuesday to attend the trial.

Nelson Jack Edwards, a member of the Executive Council of the United Auto Workers, was in charge of the funeral services with a delegation of UAW members.

Henry Conviction In Morals Case Struck Down By High Court

The Mississippi Supreme Court struck down a morals conviction against Clarkdale farmer Aaron Henry and ordered a new trial for him.

It said that the "testimony of the state's witness, Sterling Lee Eillert, is in effect uncorroborated without the evidence disclosed by the inspection of defendant's automobile." That evidence, a broken cigarette lighter and an ash tray full of gum wrappers, was obtained by an unlawful search of Henry's car, the court said.

No Record Of Charge

Henry had been charged and convicted of making advances to a white male hitchhiker he is said to have picked up in Bobo and that car at the Delta Burial wash rack for dancing and servicing and did not pick it up until he returned home in the evening. Henry said.

Mississippians have stated that Henry was at his Clarkdale drug store all during the day and at the alleged incident, except for a few minutes in the morning when he drove his wife home with the week's groceries. When he returned from that errand, he said, he found the Delta Burial wash rack for dancing and servicing and did not pick it up until he returned home in the evening. Henry said.

The County Court had sentenced Henry to 68 days in jail and a $250 fine, overruling a $500 fine and six months sentence that was suggested by the Justice of the Peace Court.

Report Of Intimidations

(Continued from Page 1)

blood spurted from the wound; sudden fall to the ground.

When they told the people on the porch to leave, Tommie Gary Miles, 17, protested, "I live here." Police came on the porch, clubbed him on the back and dragged him off. His sister, Carolyn Ann Miles, 15, began crying, "They got my brother." And police wrapped the stick around her neck and started to drag her off. Her family managed to get her inside; the girl was in shock and they laid her on a bed.

When Mrs. Margaret Porter, with an infant in her arms, asked about her children's arrest, police threatened, "If you don't shut up, we'll take her away, too."

Saturday apparently brutality continued. One Memphis reporter was arrested and his film destroyed after he took a picture of police beating a woman. An old man coming out of a cafe was hit with a rifle butt because he didn't walk fast enough.

City Asks $500,000 To Build New Jail

Jackson voters will decide July 9 whether they want to spend $280,000 to build a new jail to house over 200 new demonstration marchers. The new facility would be used for new police training center.

The bond issue was proposed by the Jackson City Council. It did not include $2 million to replace a federal subsidy for the new Jackson Airport. Mayor Allen Thompson said he didn't solicit the federal money after the government said that the city would have to sign a re- discrimination clause.

REGISTER TO VOTE

July 5 Is The Deadline Only 2 Weeks Left
Demonstrations Protest Murder, Court Action Seeks Injunction

(Continued from Page 1)

give us a break and disperses they answered angrily no what are we going to do get home and cry for ms evans those kids have just been arrested give them a break someone announced he's from the justice dept and the protesters shouted there is no justice in mississippi twenty seven people were arrested saturday some were beaten by police wielding clubs and rifles police also were armed with dogs and tear gas but did not use them on demonstrators some observers said the police looked like they were about to shoot the protest march began spontaneously as people hundreds of people stood outside collins funeral home following the mass funeral procession from the maroonic temple some students began singing freedom songs one verse in this light of mine proclaimed all over capitol street i'm gonna let it shine the group surged toward capitol street and were encouraged when police fell back organized demonstrations took place july 12 13 14 and 16

hundreds march last wednesday 200 people were arrested when they marched to protest the killing of medgar evans the night before chargers against 13 ministers and a layman who marched were not dropped but police told them they would not be tried the next day 90 were arrested in another march friday 22 people were arrested when they attempted to walk on capitol street holding picket signs against demonstrators attorney robert carter said the move was not significant and that the court probably felt it did not yet have jurisdiction because other legal channels have not been exhausted the fifth circuit court of appeals will hear a motion june 24 for an injunction against the officials and police of jackson it seeks to stop arrests of demonstrators judge harold cox has heard testimony on the motion but he postponed a decision until after his month long vacation saying no crisis is in at hand storkline workers

(continued from page 1)

tioned about their feelings on unions and had to promise that they would work a pocket line in case of a strike the company did this to break down the workers unity storkline is the largest plant in jackson and a union victory here would be a victory for working people all over the area it would also of course be a victory for the storkline workers because they would be able to win higher wages better working conditions and job security job security they would not have to be afraid of losing their jobs for doing something the boss didn't like they could only be fired for a good reason and would have the union to back them up if the company was unfair in any way the nlrb will be watching this election very carefully to make sure that the company does not again resort to illegal tactics against the union

Primos restaurants woolworths and greens in jackson it is asking for an injunction to prevent them from refusing service on the basis of race it also seeks to stop the city from using its powers to maintain and enforce segregation in these places the supreme court denied the naacp's request to overturn a jackson segregation against demonstrators attorney carter said that the move was not significant and that the court probably felt it did not yet have jurisdiction because other legal channels have not been exhausted the fifth circuit court of appeals will hear a motion june 24 for an injunction against the officials and police of jackson it seeks to stop arrests of demonstrators judge harold cox has heard testimony on the motion but he postponed a decision until after his month long vacation saying no crisis is in at hand the fifth circuit court of appeals will hear a motion june 24 for an injunction against the officials and police of jackson it seeks to stop arrests of demonstrators judge harold cox has heard testimony on the motion but he postponed a decision until after his month long vacation saying no crisis is in at hand

Storkline workers...
Ask Governor For Clemency For Man Sentenced To Death

The Jackson Baptist Ministers’ Union has asked Gov. Barnett to grant clemency for William Smith of Canton who has been sentenced to die July 12 for the rape of a white girl. The Mississippi Supreme Court set the execution date after the U. S. Supreme Court denied an appeal to overturn Smith’s conviction.

Deprived Of Due Process

Attorneys for the American Civil Liberties Union charged that Smith “was deprived of due process of law every step of the way” and “was treated unfairly by every agency of the state with which he had contact.” Smith is mentally retarded.

The letter from the Ministers’ Union called on Barnett “to show that here in Mississippi justice is sometimes tempered with mercy.” It also reminded the iniquity shown by cases of white men raping Negro women and girls, as young as 3 years old who “without exception have been shown either in the trial and/or executive clemency.”

Smith, who weighs 120 pounds, was found guilty of raping a 14 year old girl while he held her football player boyfriend at bay with a pen knife.

Threatened By Police

He was questioned continuously by police for 12 hours; then he was taken to another court and tried and he was turned over to a mob unless he confessed, the ACLU said. Smith was found guilty of raping a young girl for 33 days and then “repressed ineffectively by his trial by his court-appointed attorney,” the ACLU charged. He was found guilty in one day by an all white jury.

Negroes make up 70% of the population of Madison County, but less than 5% are registered to vote.

Letter To Barnett

This is the full text of the letter sent to Gov. Barnett by the Baptist Ministers Union: Honorable Ross R. Barnett Governor, State of Mississippi Mississippi State Capitol Bldg. Jackson, Mississippi
Re: William Smith’s Execution

Dear Sir,

Recently we read the account of the new date set by the State Supreme Court for the execution of William Smith, an apparently defective Negro, who is accused of raping a white girl near Canton, Mississippi in 1961.

We would not dare question the guilt of this man after the verdict has been upheld by such an august body as our Supreme Court, for we know that all wrong must be punished whether

or infinitemal or heinous; al-

though, we do wonder at the
evident inequity shown when we are reminded that there are numerous cases on record wherein white males have been proved guilty of raping Negro

females (whose ages range from 5 years old up) and without

exception have been shown either judicial and/or executive
clemency.

As we struggle now here in Mississippi to solve our own problems with mutual under-

standing and trust, and as we try to work from beneath tens of unkind criticism, we beg you to show clemency in this case as has been shown in others.

We make this appeal prayer-

fully, not believing it will help our overall situation at present to show that there in Mississippi justice is sometimes tempered with

mercy.

Very respectfully yours,

Jackson Baptist Ministers Union
510 North Parish St.
Jackson, Miss.

Clarksdale Pickets . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Heaven” and “Fathers on Earth” to “Grant unto us Free-

Highlight marchers who

Picketed Newspaper

On Monday several people picketed in front of the Clarks-

in the streets.

Daily demonstration lasted about two minutes until the group dis-

banded on orders from the police.

Tuesday the demonstration was directed against discrimi-

nated, in the local courts.

Marching outside City Hall a group of four carried signs which read, “We Seek Justice for Negroes in City Court” and “A Biblical Committee is the Answer.” The group was ar-

rested on grounds of parading without a permit.

However, Aaron Henry, state presi-

dent of the NAACP, indi-

cated that the series of small demonstrations would continue at least until the formation of a bi-racial committee.

At STATE MUTUAL FEDERAL dividend payment time is just a few days away for the first 6 months of 1963. You may be one of the fortunate hundreds who will receive a dividend from STATE MUTUAL FEDERAL for this period.

The second period for 1963 is just around the corner. Make plans now to join your friends and relatives with a savings account at STATE MUTUAL FEDERAL.

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JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

SMITH’S SUPREME MARKET

Valley Street At The Railroad Crossing

Where

You Can’t Beat The Food

SALE

HATS 1/2 PRICE
Special Values on
Dresses & Sportswear

Sandor’s Women’s Apparel
BST N. Parish St.
FLEETWOOD
FREE PARKING

SMITH’S SUPREME MARKET

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