

# Thousands Mourn Evers

## Meeting Halts Marches; Slain Leader Buried Vote Campaign Begins In Arlington Cemetery

Last Tuesday night, three hundred persons at a mass meeting at the College Hill Church voted to accept the Mayor's offer to halt demonstrations in exchange for the beginnings of four of their eight demands.

Jackson Mayor Allan C. Thompson told the representative group of Negro ministers and businessmen that he would hire six Negro policemen within sixty days. Eight Negro cross-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 upgraded higher than was previously possible for Negroes.

### Only The Beginning

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

Civil Rights leaders said that calling off the 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 for the community." In response to queries about a possible split between the civil rights groups he said, "any reports that there is a split are irresponsible and inaccurate." He noted the importance of a significant voter drive and said that work was already underway.

The body of Medgar W. Evers was laid to final rest Wednesday in the Arlington National Cemetery. Evers, who for the past eight years was the Mississippi Field Secretary for the NAACP, was shot to death by a rifleman who is still at large.

Memorial services for the highly respected civil rights leader were held in Jackson last Saturday and drew over 5000 people from all over the state and the nation. Many national leaders including Ralph Bunche, Hon. Charles Diggs, Roy Wilkins, Rev. Martin Luther King and James Farmer attended. The United Auto Workers sent a delegation of several members.

Following the service, 1500 mourners marched 17 blocks from the Masonic Temple to the Collins Funeral Home.

### Letter From JFK

President John F. Kennedy sent a letter to Mrs. Evers in which he stated, "Although comforting thoughts are difficult at a time like this, surely there can be some solace in the realization of the justice of the cause for which your husband gave his life."

Bishop Bernard Gerow of the Natchez-Jackson Diocese said, "We need frankly to admit that the guilt for the murder of Mr. Evers and the other instances of violence in our community tragically must be shared by all of us. . . . Our conscience should compel us all to acknowledge the deep moral implications of this problem and to take some positive steps towards recognizing the legitimacy of this problem and to take some positive steps towards recognizing the legitimacy of this problem and to take some positive steps towards recognizing the legitimacy of this problem." (Continued on Page 2)



Representative Charles Diggs, Detroit (left) and Ralph Bunche, Under Secretary to the United Nations (right) attended Medgar Evers' funeral in Jackson.

### A Freedom Reminder

Don't let the fire kindled by the voter registration drive go out. Register and vote.

Go to the county clerk at your local court house and take the test. Give yourself a voice in deciding who should represent 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 whether Carpenters Local 3031 will speak for the men in collective bargaining with their employer.

Storkline has been trying to prevent its workers from organizing 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 26 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 law. Seven men who were fired for union activity were ordered rehired and given all their backpay.

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. Workers who do the same jobs in other parts in 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 ques- (Continued on Page 3)



Assistant Police Chief Ray uses bull horn in an effort to disperse protesters who attempted to march on Capitol Street last Saturday.

## Police Power Meets Protesters During Days Of Demonstrations

### Arrest Total Tops 1,000

Hundreds of people marched on Capitol Street last Saturday to protest the murder of Medgar Evers, but they were turned back by police armed with rifles and clubs just before they reached the intersection of Farish and Capitol Streets.

Police clubbed demonstrators and by-standers and a handful of people responded by throwing rocks and pop bottles at the forces lined up in formation in front of them.

Justice Dept. attorney John Doar had been watching the event from behind police lines and he stepped in to stop the bottle throwing. He told the people, "Go home, you can't win anything with bricks and bottles in the street, so please (Continued On Page 3)

### Police Brutality Charged

Each day's demonstrations and arrests brings new charges of police brutality in Jackson. Women and children have been beaten with clubs and put in "sweat boxes" or forced to stand in the hot sun, according to reports by demonstrators and by-standers here.

### Run Over

One of the youths taken to jail that day suffered a broken arm and injured legs when a paddy wagon ran over him. The paddy wagon had parked at the fairgrounds compound and the students had gotten out. According to other students, 14 year old John Clifton Young was standing in back of the paddy wagon when the driver looked back and put the car in reverse.

### Sweat Box

Miss Annie Moody and Israel Robinson, both students at Tougaloo College, told the FREE PRESS that they were locked in an improvised sweat box for nearly an hour after their arrival at the compound.

Miss Moody reported that she was among 20 marchers packed into one paddy wagon Wednesday. It made short stops and sharp turns on the route to the compound, she said. Then, at the prison grounds, the police officer parked, rolled up the glass, left the motor running and put on the heater. One girl fainted, Miss Moody said, but the policeman refused to let them out. Then they were given hot water, while the police drank ice water.

Another student, Benjamin Brown, said the police beat him (Continued on Page 3)

## 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 bi-racial 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 (Continued on Page 4)

## 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. Some of those who have attempted to register have reported being harrassed.

Intimidations have 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 office located at 313 Franklin Street in Canton has recently been opened. Voter education schools are now being conducted.

Each day 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.



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- BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- SOCIAL JUSTICE . . . IN MISSISSIPPI

# Editorial Page

## Mourners Show Unity

Last Saturday more than 4000 people attended the memorial services of the murdered civil rights leader, Medgar Evers. Following the service, 1500 people silently proceeded from the Masonic Temple on Lynch Street to the Collins Funeral Home on Farish.

Many who watched the march, including several hundred white people who had gathered to look on as the mourners crossed Capitol Street four abreast, had never before 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 publicly show their endorsement of the great ideals of Medgar Evers by walking the mile and half 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 overwhelm the police.

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 stepped in to disperse the crowd.

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 a great deal of emotion against the uncalled-for brutality of the police. However, making an attack on the police and becoming involved in a pitched battle with them is frighteningly far from the 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 would 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 unified at the ballot-box so that they could put into office reasonable and humane men on both the state and local level.

Last Tuesday night, the people who jammed the Mass Meeting at the College Hill Church voted to turn their full efforts 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)

mate grievance of the Negro population."

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

#### We Pulled Trigger

Dave Dennis, CORE field secretary, said, the night after Evers' death, "We pulled that trigger too, we let him stand alone; we said we stood behind him, but we were too far behind him."

Rev. A. L. Johnson vowed, "For 30 days we shall wear black; for 30 days we shall refrain from buying except in our own little stores."

When Evers' body arrived in Washington, 500 people silently marched behind the hearse as it proceeded to the funeral home. Several people from Jackson left last Tuesday to attend the burial.



Mrs. Myrlie Evers and two of her three children, Rena Denise, 8, and Darrel Kenyatta, 10. The night after her husband's death, she told the people of Jackson: "No one knows like I know how my husband gave his life for this cause. . . . It was his wish that this movement would be one of the most successful that this nation has ever known. . . ."

"I am left with the strong determination to try to take up where he left off. . . . I hope by his death that all of you here—and those that are not here—will be able to draw some of his strength, some of his courage and some of his determination to finish this fight here. . . . Nothing can bring Medgar back, but the cause can live on."



Nelson Jack Edwards, a member of the Executive Council of the United Auto Workers Union, marched in the funeral procession 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 Clarksdale leader Aaron Henry and ordered a new trial for him.

It said that the "testimony of the state's witness, Sterling Lee Eilert, 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 Bolivar County. Police searched the car and then declared that Eilert had told them about the lighter and ash tray before. However, there is no record or affidavit of such a statement by him.

Witnesses have stated that Henry was at his Clarksdale drug store all during the day of 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 left his car at the Delta Burial wash rack for washing and servicing and did not pick it up until he returned home in the evening, Henry said.

The County Court had sentenced Henry to 60 days in jail and a \$250 fine, overruling a \$500 fine and six months sentence imposed by the Justice of the Peace Court.

## Report Of Intimidations

(Continued from Page 1)

on the head with a club and threatened to put him in the sweat box. Robinson added that the police took the mattresses away from the male prisoners and forced them to sit on the concrete floor. The bathroom was filthy and had no paper, he said.

Thursday, June 13, police ran onto the porch of a private home and beat and arrested two children who lived there, according to a witness. The youths had been standing with others on the porch watching the arrest of 84 demonstrators by about 100 police.

#### Clubbed Salter

Dozens of people stood on near-by porches chanting, "We want freedom." The police rushed one porch swinging billy clubs. Two officers grabbed Tougaloo Professor John Salter and shouted, "He he is; here he is." Another policeman clubbed Salter on the head

blood spurted from the wound; Salter fell to the ground.

When they told the people on the porch to leave, Tommie Earl Myles, 17, protested, "I live here." Police came on the porch, clubbed him on the back and dragged him off. His sister, Carolyn Ann Myles, 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, protested about her children's arrest, police threatened, "If you don't shut up, we'll take yop," it was claimed.

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.

## White Applicant Gets Aid From Registrar

A report in the June 11 issue of the McComb Enterprise Journal revealed an example of illegal help being given to whites registering to vote.

The story quoted a man from Central Mississippi who declared "A lady in the courthouse handed my daughter an application blank, filled out completely with all of the answers, even to the point of interpreting the meaning of the Constitution."

"She told my daughter to fill out her application according to the dummy one that had been prepared in advance."

## City Asks \$500,000 To Build New Jail

Jackson voters will decide July 9 whether they want to spend \$500,000 to build a new jail compound to hold civil rights demonstrators. The money would also be used for a 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 need the federal money after the government said that the city would have to sign a non-discrimination clause.

### MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

Published every Saturday by the HiCo Publishing Company, Inc., 538½ North Farish Street, Jackson, Mississippi, Phone FL 5-7345.

Published weekly in Jackson, Mississippi. Entered as second-class matter at the Post office at Jackson, Mississippi.

Subscription price: \$1.00 per year for Mississippians. \$4.00 for Non-Mississippians. Ten Cents per copy.

Editor . . . . . Lucille Komisar  
Associate Editor . . . . . Alan Dawley  
Managing Editor . . . . . David Anderson

**REGISTER TO VOTE**  
July 5 Is The Deadline  
Only 2 Weeks Left



# Demonstrations Protest Murder; Court Action Seeks Integration

(Continued from Page 1)

give us a break and disperse." They answered agrily, "No. What are we going to do? Go home and cry for Mr. Evers . . . Those kids have just been arrested. Give them a break." Someone announced, "He's from the Justice Dept." and the protestors 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 Masonic Temple. Some students began singing freedom songs; one verse in "This Little 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 June 12, 13, 14 and 16.

### Hundreds March

Last Wednesday 200 people were arrested when they marched to protest the killing of Medgar Evers the night before. Charges 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 37 people were arrested when they attempted to walk on Capitol Street holding



**Justice Dept. Attorney John Doar tells protesters to go home after angry youths began throwing bottles at police.**

flags. Some were seized the minute they got out of their cars. June 14 is Flag Day.

Sunday students were admitted to St. Andrews Episcopal Church and turned away from the Central Presbyterian, the First Christian and the First Baptist Churches.

### Court Action

In court action, the NAACP has filed a suit against the six

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 injunction against demonstrators. Attorney Robert 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 26 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 at hand."

## Storkline Workers . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

tioned about their feelings on unions and had to promise that they would cross a picket line in case of a strike. The company did this to break down the workers' unity.

Stockline is the largest plant in Jackson and a union victory here would be a victory for working people all over the city. 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.

# Greenwood Classes To Train Statewide Political Leaders

A special politics workshop to train Mississippi Negro leaders will be held in Greenwood June 24 through 29 and at other times throughout the summer. Free room, board and transportation will be provided for all who attend.

The workshop will train people in political action, voter registration and methods of

mobilizing their communities to become active in politics. Participants will come from all parts of the state.

People who wish to attend this workshop or future sessions should fill out this blank and send it to Voter Registration Workshop, 708 N. Street, Greenwood, Miss.:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Why do you want to attend this workshop?  
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(use other paper if needed)  
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 Give the names of any voter registration workers you know  
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## 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 remarked on the inequity shown by cases of white men raping Negro women and girls as young as 5 years old who "without exception have been shown either judicial 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 county and told that he would be turned over to a mob unless he confessed, the ACLU said.

Smith was denied a lawyer for 53 days and then "represented ineffectively at 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 6% 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 wheth-

er infinitesimal or heinous; although, 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 understanding and trust, and as we try to work from beneath tons of unkind criticism, we beg you to show clemency in this case as has been shown in others.

We make this appeal prayerfully, and believing it will help our overall situation at present to show that here in Mississippi justice is sometimes tempered with mercy.

Very respectfully yours,  
Jackson Baptist Ministers Union  
510 North Farish Street  
Jackson, Miss.

## Project In Ruleville Receives Assistance

Ten sewing machines were presented to Project Home Industry in Ruleville last week by representatives of Operation Freedom, a group set up to aid sharecroppers who face reprisals for voting efforts.

Local 23 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union in New York has sent a truckload of material to the project.

### 18 Women

The sewing machines will aid the 18 women who are making patchwork quilts, throw pillows and rugs to support their families and other victims of reprisals.

A Cincinnati Rabbi obtained the sewing machines from the Salvation Army in that city. Operation Freedom also gave the women 3 boxes of material which it obtained from Cincinnati dressmakers.

Project Home Industry is still in need of sewing machines,

## Post Office Gives Tests For Carriers

Examinations for substitute clerk-carrier in the Jackson Post Office are being given now in order to compile a list of workers for future needs. The beginning rate of pay is \$2.26 an hour.

Applicants must live in the delivery area of the Jackson post office and must be at least 18 years old or high school graduates.

Anyone who is interested in taking the test can obtain application forms and information from the Executive Secretary, Post Office Dept. Establishment Board, Room 240, U. S. Post Office Building, Jackson.

cloth and other sewing materials and funds to ship the finished products. Orders and contributions can be sent to Dave Dennie, c/o Amzie Moore, 614 Chrisman Street, Cleveland, Miss.

## Clarksdale Pickets . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Heaven" and "Fathers on Earth" to "Grant unto us Freedom." Eight marchers who picketed at two white churches were arrested.

### Picketed Newspaper

On Monday several people picketed in front of the Clarksdale Press-Register. The demonstration lasted about two minutes until the group disbanded on orders from the police.

Tuesday the demonstration was directed against discrimination 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 Bi-racial Committee is the Answer." The group was arrested on grounds of parading without a permit.

However, Aaron Henry, state president of the NAACP, indicated that the series of small demonstrations would continue at least until the formation of a bi-racial committee.

### In Jackson LOTS FOR SALE

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