

Mississippi FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

Vol. 2, No. 32 38

Jackson, Mississippi — July 20, 1963

10c Per Copy

Collins Is Candidate For Justice Of The Peace In Laurel, Miss.

Clinton C. Collins, the only Negro running for public office in Mississippi, is a candidate for Justice of the Peace, Beat 1 in Laurel, Mississippi. He has been endorsed by the Jones County Democratic Party.

Collins came in 5th in a 6 man race when a special election took place for this post in 1962. He was not allowed to use the name of the Jones County Democratic Party then.

Secede From Secession
Collins said that Jones County has a liberal tradition. It never had slaves and did not take part in the civil war. A white plantation owner there formed the Free State of Jones and tried to secede from the Confederacy.

Collins platform is based on "citizenship, values and responsibility." He said, "I am of the opinion this is an American heritage which can not be denied or abridged by an individual or state. . . . Values are the need or desire of human beings.

Right To Food
"Every individual has a right to satisfy basic needs — food, shelter and clothing. . . . Responsibility is the obligation to answer for the acts done and to repair any injuries it may have caused."

A native of Jones County, Collins was educated in the Laurel public schools. He earned a degree in economics at Wilberforce College in Ohio and a degree in law at Lincoln Law School in St. Louis, Missouri.

Laurel School Principal
Collins returned to Mississippi to get a certificate in Secondary education from Jackson State College and teach in the Jones County School System. He was principal of Mt. Olive High School.

He has been concerned with



CLINTON C. COLLINS . . . A candidate in the August 6 Democratic Primary.

Mississippi politics for the past 14 years. Collins is presently an agent for Universal Life Insurance Company. He is married and the father of three children.

Require Equal Hiring In Grain Warehouses

Echoing the President's executive order banning discrimination in federal construction, the Department of Agriculture has written a non-discrimination clause into its grain storage program.

Will Inspect Records

The Department said that warehouse owners operating under the Uniform Grain Storage Agreement must be prepared to furnish federal inspectors with records of hiring, promotion, training and pay-rates.

Continue Hearing On Injunction To Release Itta Bena Citizens

Hearings began last week on the Justice Department's demand for the release of 45 Negroes arrested in Itta Bena June 18. The Department says the group was arrested for participating in voter registration activities.

In addition to seeking their release, the Department has asked for an injunction against Leflore County officials to prevent them from interfering with voter registration activities.

Tear Gas
The group was arrested near the home of H. E. Weber, a deputy sheriff, after they had marched from a voter registration meeting to ask him for police protection. The meeting had been broken up by a tear gas bomb and leaders feared further intimidation.

Although an FBI official testified Thursday that he found no evidence of tear gas at the site of the meeting, Mrs. Cora Campbell said her daughter had been knocked out by the gas.

The Justice Department presented its case to Federal Dis-

trict Judge Claude Clayton. At one point Clayton turned down a request from federal attorneys that Leflore County voter registration records be entered as evidence in the case. Out of over 13,000 voting-age Negroes less than 200 are registered.

The Greenville courthouse was packed for Thursday's hearing and an additional 100 people stood outside. Voter registration workers have asked people from throughout the state to attend a second hearing set for July 19. They have asked people to arrive at the Federal Court Building at Main and Poplar Streets at 7 a.m.

Twenty-two of those arrested remain at the Leflore County penal farm, while 23 were sent to the state penitentiary at Parchman after they refused to do hard labor. Registration workers claim that one prisoner bitten by a snake and another suffering from severe tear gas irritation in his eyes have not been given medical care by prison authorities.

Negroes Get Vote, Or Clerk Gets Jail

U.S. Court Says Lynd Must Act

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals moved Monday to insure that Negroes will not be denied registration because of racial prejudice.

In a decision handed down in New Orleans the court gave Theron C. Lynd, voter registrar of Forrest County, 10 days to register 43 Negroes it said were qualified voters or face punishment.

Lynd was convicted of contempt of court for continuing to block Negro registration on racial grounds. The suit against him was the first which cited a registrar with a breach of the law under the civil rights act of 1957 for refusing to register qualified applicants.

As a result, Lynd's conviction sets an important legal precedent and opens the way for similar suits in other counties throughout the state.

To avoid a fine, jail sentence, or both, the court said Lynd must give Negroes and whites equal voting tests, open his books to federal agents at any reasonable time, stop rejecting Negro applicants on false grounds, and register the 43 applicants.

Sets 10 Day Limit

If Lynd does not carry out all these requirements within the 10 day limit, the court said he would be arrested and jailed until he complied with its orders.

Blocks Registration

The government's case against the registrar grew out of a Justice Department suit which stated that Lynd refused to register at least 19 Negroes, including five school teachers holding college degrees.

Lynd was among the first Mississippi registrars to become involved with the federal government over voter registration. At the time the suit was filed two years ago, Lynd said he did not want to go to jail but also did not plan to let the government bluff him. Lynd has not said whether he will choose jail rather than meet the court's demands.

DA Asks Mental Check-Up For Accused Evers Killer

District Attorney Bill Waller said Monday he would ask a court to order a mental examination of Byron de La Beckwith, accused killer of Medgar Evers.

If the request is granted, Beckwith will be sent to the state mental hospital at Whitfield for at least a month. Beckwith has been treated several times by a private psychiatrist.

ID Says Jackson Must Open Books

The Justice Department has asked a federal district court to force the reopening of the Hinds County voter registration books. The department filed suit Saturday against Circuit Clerk H. T. Ashford and the State of Mississippi.

The department said that the Registrar's "duty under Mississippi law is to keep the registration books open to register the electors of his county at any time."

Although Ashford claims he closed the books to prepare for coming elections, the Justice Department said his purpose was "to frustrate the Negro registration drive thereby perpetuating the imbalance between the percentage of Negro and white persons registered in the county."

Negroes make up 40% of the Hinds County population, but less than 10% of the registered voters are Negroes.

Informal Efforts Failed
Attorney General Robert Kennedy said the court action was taken only after informal efforts of the department failed to arrange a voluntary reopening of the books.

Ashford claimed that the shutdown "will not hurt anyone." He denied reports that registration attempts had topped 700 since early June. "We haven't had 700 Negroes in the office for the past six months," he said.

Dollar Bill Tactics Take Effect; Star Removed From List

Shoppers who go to Star Super Markets are no longer crossing boycott lines. The Star stores have been off the selective buying list since last Friday.

When asked whether Star had felt economic pressure, advertising manager T. W. Ledbetter said, "I can tell you this; I'm glad to be off the list."

Promise Upgrading

The company has promised a general upgrading of Negro employees and in keeping with this hired a Negro cashier at the Valley Street store about a month ago.

A Negro was also put on as meat market manager at Valley Street. The Mays and Farish Street stores already had Negro market managers.

Clarksdale

Indict 2 Whites For Bombing; Court Upholds Henry Conviction

Two Clarksdale men charged with tossing a bomb into the home of Aaron Henry April 12 pleaded innocent before a Coahoma County Grand Jury. However, the jury decided there was enough evidence against the pair to send their case to trial.

Aubrey Cauthen and Theodore Carr were arrested about five hours after a homemade kerosene bomb exploded in the front room of Henry's home. Police said they admitted throwing the bomb after questioning.

Following their arrest they were sent to the state mental hospital at Whitfield for examination. Doctors said they were capable of standing trial.

Henry Convicted

Two days after the pair was indicted, the State Supreme Court upheld Henry's conviction on a morals charge. The

ruling reversed a previous court decision that Henry had been convicted on evidence obtained illegally.

Henry's attorney, Jack Young, convinced the Supreme Court in the first hearing that Henry's car had been unlawfully searched without his permission. The Court said the case against Henry was based on his identity as a civil rights leader.

However, the court granted a second hearing when the state filed a claim of error. In the second decision the court ruled that although the search of the car was unlawful, Henry's attorneys did not object to it as evidence at the time it was entered.

Young said 60-day, \$250 sentence would probably be appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Mississippi Free Press

Published every Saturday by the Hico Publishing Company, Inc.
538½ North Farish St., Jackson 2, Miss. Phone FL 5-7345. Entered
as second-class matter at the Post Office at Jackson, Miss.

Subscription prices: \$1.00 per year for Mississippians. \$4.00 outside
of Mississippi. Ten Cents per copy.

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Why They Use Spies

The story of the company spy (see Page 3) sounds almost like a T.V. drama, but it is true. It shows the lengths to which companies will go to prevent their workers from having the benefits of unions.

Now Storkline in Jackson is appealing the victory of the Carpenters Union there. One of the Storkline workers came to the FREE PRESS office and told us he had been through three union elections there, but this year the company tried harder than ever to defeat the union.

He said that the company called meetings with the Negro workers and told them that the union would only help the whites. Then, he said, the company met with the white men and told them that the union wasn't interested in them—it would only work for the Negro workers.

Companies will use spies, race hate, intimidation and any other means to try to get workers to vote against labor unions. Why are they so afraid of unions?

The answer is that trade unions have brought higher wages and better working conditions to working people throughout the nation, and the companies in Mississippi would rather have that extra money go into their own pockets.

If you have the chance to vote for a union, do not let anyone fool you. A trade union can mean higher wages, job security and a better life for you and your family.

Dignity Ahead

Clinton C. Collins, Sr., is running for Justice of the Peace in Laurel. It should not be unusual that a man is a candidate for public office, but it is in this case because the man is Negro.

However, it does not have to be unusual for long. There is no reason why Negroes can not run for office—and win—all over the state of Mississippi—that is, if thousands more Negroes register to vote.

Negroes have taken the back seat in running their government for too long. It is time to wake up and understand that Negroes will never be free until they have a hand in deciding public policy in this state.

In many counties, particularly in the Delta, Negroes are a majority and could actually elect the entire county government—that is, if they were registered.

Some people say that they are afraid to vote and afraid to be in politics. But the truth is, although the segregationists do not want Negroes to vote, they do not treat the Uncle Toms much better than those that are trying to change the system.

Negroes that are registered and those that are not, both are kept living in poor houses. They get the worst jobs; their children are sent to second-rate schools and they get beaten when the local whites feel ornery.

The difference between the registered Negro and the one who is not registered is working to do something about the situation.

What have Negroes in Mississippi to lose? Only suffering and humiliation. There's a life of happiness and dignity ahead to win.

Skilled Workers Wanted

For years Negroes have often not bothered to learn skills for trades and business because they knew that discriminations would keep them from getting good jobs. Why learn how to be an electrician if you know you can not get the job? Why study typing and shorthand if you know that businesses will not hire you?

—Now things are beginning to change. Job discrimination is being attacked from all sides; the federal government and civil rights action groups have taken steps to open jobs to everyone on an equal basis. There is much more to be done about discrimination on the job, but when the race barriers are taken down there is still something which often stands between Negroes and better jobs: that is training.

Automation—the use of machines to do the work of

Free Job Training Increases Skills; Offers Better Jobs, Higher Wages

With this article, the FREE PRESS begins a new series on increasing your chances for getting a good job. This article deals with the job problem, and the state Board of Vocational Education. Later stories will discuss other means of getting job training.

In the United States today, it is becoming harder and harder for the unskilled worker to find a job.

New machines in factories and on the farm are doing the work that human hands and honest sweat once did, and they are doing it better.

Need Skills

In order to get a good job today, you have to keep up with the times; you have to develop a skill that employers need and are willing to pay for.

A man can no longer rely on his muscles alone to make sure he gets a job.

The Mississippi State Employment Service, for example, reports that there is a need in Mississippi right now for stenographers, secretaries, waitresses, bookkeepers, draftsmen, mechanical engineers, and machinists.

Most of these jobs cannot be had without some sort of training and experience.

Getting training takes time

and patience, but when you have it, it is bound to be worth your while.

Federal and State governments, in an attempt to train as many workers as possible, have set up various agencies to help workers learn new skills for free.

Sets Up Classes

One of these is the State Board for Vocational Education. Through this agency, training classes are set up to give new training to young people just starting out in the world of work, and to give helpful information to workers who have some training and are already working at a skilled job.

It also offers courses which will train workers who are trying to find a new job in a new line of work.

Schools Cooperate

All the courses which the agency supports are carried out through the Public School systems in communities where these desiring the training live.

At Lanier High School in Jackson, for example, a program for High School students is in progress, where the students are learning skills in the building trades and automobile mechanics.

The Lanier program is a co-

operative program; the students spend half their time in school taking regular high school courses as well as job training courses, and half their time on the job, learning their trade first-hand.

Adult job training courses are available in both agricultural and industrial trades.

These, too, are set up through public school systems, and they usually meet at night.

10 May Start Class

If a school system is not offering a course in a particular area, a group of ten people who want training in the same field may get together and ask that a course be set up for them through their public school system and the Board of Vocational Education.

A typical course for adults in automobile mechanics includes 20 hours of instruction in 2 hour classes once a week for 10 weeks.

During the classes, the students hear lectures on how to fix cars, and they spend time working with auto parts and equipment provided by the school.

If you are interested in enrolling in a vocational education course, contact your superintendent of schools.

In Case Of Arrest—

Know Your Legal Rights

In case of arrest every citizen should know what his rights are. This is the best protection against a violation of these rights.

The law protects you against unreasonable arrest, and against unreasonable invasions of your privacy which are made to find evidence against you.

In general, a lawful arrest can be made only:

- 1) by an officer with a warrant for your arrest,
- 2) by an officer or a private person in whose presence you have committed or attempted to commit any crime, or
- 3) by an officer or private person who knows or reasonably believes that you have committed a felony.

In general, a lawful search for and seizure of evidence and instruments of the crime which are either on your person or in your home (or place of business) can be made only:

- 1) by an officer with a search warrant, or
- 2) connected with a lawful arrest (in this case the search is limited to the place of arrest, and no one can force entry into your home if you were not arrested there).

If you are subjected to an

illegal arrest, you may assert your rights, but do not resist or disobey the officer. Even if you are innocent, the officer may have made a reasonable mistake. The arrest would then be lawful, and resistance a crime. If the arrest turns out to have been illegal, you have the right to sue the officer for damages.

If subjected to illegal search and seizure, protest so that you won't be found to have agreed to the illegal acts and lose your chance to complain of them later.

Again, do not resist the officer: not only may you sue him for damages later, but the illegally seized evidence cannot be used in trial to convict you—(this rule of evidence does not apply to illegal seizures by private persons).

Once arrested you have certain rights which it is very important to know and to assert.

Right To Be Silent

- 1) You have the right to remain silent—to refuse to give any information which might incriminate you. Remember that any confession made voluntarily can be used in your

trial to convict you. If, however, you are forced to confess by promises, threats or physical violence, the confession cannot even be admitted as evidence in trial.

2) You have the right to notify immediately, by telephone, your family, friends, and, if possible, lawyer. A recent U. S. Supreme Court decision requires that the court appoint a lawyer for you if you request it and if you cannot afford your own. Mississippi courts used to appoint lawyers for capital crimes (murder, rape, arson) only—now they must appoint them for less serious crimes as well, if you demand it. However, you would be better off with a lawyer of your own, or one provided for you by one of the civil rights organizations.

3) You have the right to a preliminary hearing of the facts of your case before a magistrate. This right can be waived and often is but it is usually best to have such a hearing and so you should assert your right to it.

Speedy Trial

You have the right to be given this hearing "without unnecessary delay." In some cases the police may be barred from using any confessions obtained during a period of unnecessary delay against you. You also have the right to be brought to trial within a reasonable length of time. (For minor offenses there is no preliminary hearing, but you should be tried immediately.)

4) You have the right to get out of jail on bail in any non-capital crime during the period in which you are awaiting trial. To obtain your release, you must offer cash or property as security—if your friends or relatives cannot provide this, a bonding company will, if paid a fee amounting to about 10% of the total bond demanded. If your right to release on bail is violated, you may sue for false imprisonment.

men—is taking away millions of jobs. Unskilled workers, black and white, are finding it harder and harder to get jobs.

This means that unless Negroes get the training needed for better jobs, they will be kept out even when race barriers fall.

How is it possible to get this training? First, for these in school, stay there until you graduate. It is a fact that Negroes who graduate from high school earn over \$1,000 more each year than those who drop out. Those who go to college earn nearly \$2,500 more each year. Failing to finish school makes the chances of getting any job much slimmer.

Men and women who are no longer in school can get job training in several ways. On this page the FREE PRESS begins a series on how to get the kind of training that will help you get a better job. Read the series, and then take steps to make sure a better job will be in your future. Also, make sure that your child takes every opportunity to make himself eligible to hold the best job he is capable of holding.

If you need help, ask for it. No one will know that you are not satisfied—like ole Ross says—unless you try and do something about your own situation.

Free Press \$5 Quiz

This week's \$5 Quiz is a special chance for everyone to get into the act. The questions this week are aimed at finding out how you feel about certain subjects rather than what you know about them.

There are no right or wrong answers to the quiz. Just give your honest answers to the questions below, and send your entry in to the FREE PRESS.

All the entries will be placed in a hat, and one \$5 winner will be drawn out. Everyone who answers the questions has a chance to win the \$5.

- The most important thing Negroes can do to gain their equal rights is:
 - To make sure they don't irritate white authorities.
 - To register and vote.
 - To demonstrate in the streets.
 - To practice selective buying.
- Labor Unions
 - Can help the Negro gain freedom.
 - Can keep the Negro from gaining freedom.
 - Have no effect on the Negro's fight for freedom.
 - Are not worth joining.
- Freedom will come to Negroes in Mississippi:
 - next year.
 - in about 5 to 10 years.
 - in about 25 years.
 - Never.
- The best candidate for governor in the coming election is:
 - Johnson
 - Coleman
 - Sullivan
 - Phillips

The winner of the second \$5 Quiz is a Clarksdale man, Mr. Collins Coburn. The answers to that quiz are: A)2 Byron de La Beckwith B)5, Claude Ramsay C)6, Rev. R. L. T. Smith D)8, Aaron Henry.

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Jackson Man Says Companies Hired Him To Spy On Unions

A 24 year old Jackson man has revealed that he was hired to spy on union organizing efforts and report the names of pro-union workers. The man signed an affidavit telling of his work for the Durant Sportswear Company in Holmes County and the Owen Brothers Packing House in Meridian.

The man gave the affidavit to the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union after he had a dispute with the Durant firm about his pay. The union asked the Free Press not to make the man's name public.

The National Labor Relations Board ordered the company to stop interfering with its employees right to join the union. The company had to post a notice in the plant promising to stop spying on its workers.

Secret Service

The spy said that he was employed by J. D. Pittman, owner of the Crawford Secret Service in Jackson. He went to work at the Durant Sportswear Company in September, 1962, when the Amalgamated Clothing Workers were trying to organize the plant.

He said a plant official "instructed me to find out the names of the employees who were in favor of the union, and to learn who the leaders of the union movement were."

Anti-Union Campaigns

He said that his daily reports

went to the law firm of Kullman and Lang in New Orleans, a firm known for directing anti-union campaigns. He also met with Larry Shuster, owner of the Shuster Manufacturing Company in Lawrence, Massachusetts, which owns the Durant plant.

The spy said, "according to the arrangements, I was to be placed on the plant pay roll at \$1.15 an hour just as any other employee. I was to match coats with liners. In addition to the \$1.15 per hour, I was to be paid an additional 85c per hour and all expenses for investigative work, making a total of \$2.00 per hour."

Dispute Over Pay

However, when it came time for the man to get paid, Shuster refused to give him all the money that was due. The spy went to a Jackson attorney who advised him that the union might be interested in his activities. The union gave him \$200 for the affidavit.

There are 270 employees in the Durant firm which makes men's jackets and raincoats. Most workers get the minimum wage of \$1.15, while unionized workers in Mississippi get 30 to 40c more an hour. There are about 6,000 members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union in the state.

A union election at Durant Sportswear is set to occur before August 15.

The labor spy also admitted doing work for the Owen Brothers Packing House in Meridian when a meat cutters union was seeking to organize the plant.



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Accounts	21,474.06	Accounts	6,138.50
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Loans	40,608.32	Payable	1,621.99
Investments and Securities	4,300.00	Deferred Credits	5,915.51
Cash on Hand and		Other Liabilities	271.98
in Banks	184,711.83	General Reserves and	
Accrued Interest Receivable	2,000.00	Surplus	816.80
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Equipment, less			
Depreciation	3,427.37		
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Suit Seeks Release Of 6 Vote Workers

The Justice Department has filed a suit to release six voter registration workers arrested outside the Winona bus station.

Attorney General Robert Kennedy charged that the arrest of the six had no legal basis and was merely a means of discouraging Negroes from using the terminal facilities freely.

The six were arrested June

9 by Earl Patridge, county sheriff, while they stood peacefully outside the terminal restaurant waiting for a bus to take them to Greenwood. Five had entered the restaurant shortly before but left when Thomas Herrod, police chief, ordered them out.

The Justice Department filed suit against the City of Winona, its mayor, police chief, and the county sheriff asking that they be prevented from interfering with the right of Negroes to use the terminal facilities.

Court Rules Clerk Acts Without Bias

Panola County's Circuit Court Clerk, Leonard Duke, proved to the satisfaction of District Judge Claude Clayton that he had not intimidated or discriminated against Negroes attempting to register to vote.

Judge Clayton struck down a suit brought by the Justice Department which charged Duke with discrimination.

Duke has been Circuit Clerk for 31 years. In that time one Negro was registered by his office, while 20 applied.

Only .1% Registered

This registration brings the total number of Negroes registered in Panola County to 10, or .1% of the total number of Negroes of voting age.

Although Judge Clayton dropped the discrimination charge, he found that several unqualified white persons have been registered by Duke's office. Duke claimed he didn't know about these instances.

U.S. Court Dismisses Suit Seeking Arrest Of Lawless Lawmen

A U. S. district judge in Washington, D. C., has dismissed a suit filed by eight Mississippians seeking the arrest of local police and officials who violate Negro's civil rights.

The suit asked that the Justice Department and the FBI tell their agents to enforce the federal law against anyone who prevents people from exercising their constitutional rights.

Let J. D. Decide

Judge Luther Youngdahl said that the courts must let the Justice Department decide whether to act in civil rights cases by prosecution, injunction, persuasion or other action.

The suit was filed in January by Bob Moses, Charles Cobb, Hollis Watkins, Lafayette Surney, Charles McLaurin, Sam Block, Jesse Harris, all Delta voter registration workers, and William Higgs.

Federal Judge Bars Jackson, Leake Cty. Desegregation Suits

Federal Judge Sidney Mize placed a legal block before attempts of Jackson and Leake County citizens to desegregate their schools when he threw two integration suits out of court.

Judge Mize said that citizens should seek legal remedies in state law before bringing a case to the federal court.

Said No Requests Made

Judge Mize claimed that the parents had never asked to have their children attend any particular schools and had never had such a request denied.

The parents stated they had never looked to Mississippi law for legal support of school integration, because they knew any such attempt would be futile.

While the names of three children were removed from the Jackson suit, the case of the remaining seven was carried to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans Tuesday.

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