

# Mississippi FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

Vol. 2, No. 33

38

Jackson, Mississippi — July 27, 1963

10c Per Copy

## Deny Freedom To 45 Jailed Since June 18

A federal judge refused Monday to release 45 Itta Bena Negroes who were arrested June 18 after a voter registration meeting.

After a tear gas bomb was thrown into their meeting, the 45 went to the home of deputy sheriff H. E. Weber to ask police protection and were the target of rocks and bottles thrown by another group of Negroes. Then they were arrested for disturbing the peace and sent to Parchman Penitentiary and the Leflore County Penal Farm.

**U. S. Judge Denied Injunction**  
U. S. District Judge Claude Clayton denied a Justice Department request for an injunction to free the Itta Bena residents and stop local officials from interfering with registrations activities.

Clayton said the government attorneys, led by John Doar, failed to prove that the arrests were made to intimidate voter

registration workers.

Twenty-two people are doing hard labor at the Leflore Penal Farm, while 23 were moved to the maximum security unit of Parchman Penitentiary when they sat down and refused to work on the Farm.



Aaron Henry views the damage to his home after a gasoline bomb was exploded in his living room at 3 a.m. April 12.

## Confess—And Be Acquitted

The trial of Byron de La Beckwith, accused slayer of Medgar Evers, came to a new halt this week. The case will be put off at least another 30 days while Beckwith undergoes a mental examination at Whitfield.

The new move came at the request of Jackson District Attorney Bill Waller. If Beckwith is judged to be insane, he will not stand trial but will be committed to a mental hospital.

The order came after a hearing which revealed that Beckwith showed signs of mental imbalance. It was reported that the accused man often carried a pistol, even to Sunday School and church. A friend of Beckwith's said he saw him carrying a pistol the day before Evers was shot.

## Unregistered Negroes To Cast Protest Votes

On primary day August 6, Negroes from throughout the state of Mississippi will attempt to cast ballots even though they are not registered voters.

They will be acting under a Mississippi law which says that anyone who has been illegally

cleared Theodore Carr, M., of any connection with the bombing last April of the home of Aaron Henry, Clarksdale civil rights leader. At this point the prosecution asked that similar charges against Aubrey Cathon, 26, be dismissed. The request

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denied registration can write out the names of the candidates he supports and give it to the person in charge of the voting place.

He must also give him a statement saying that he believes he has been discriminated against and illegally denied registration.

**Mississippi Law**  
According to Mississippi law (Mississippi Annotated Code #3114), the person seeking to vote must sign the statement in front of the election manager (whoever is in charge of the polling place). Then the manager must sign it.

The election manager must put the ballot and the statement in an envelope, seal it, and write the name of the voter on it. When all the ballots are counted, the Democratic executive committee must decide whether the ballot may be legally counted.

Voter registration workers throughout Mississippi are providing copies of the statement for all Negroes who want to vote in the Democratic primary. Write the Free Press for sample copies which anyone can use.

## Laurel Women Seek School Desegregation

After a two year effort, a group of Laurel citizens finally made their demands for improved education heard by the Board of Trustees of the Laurel School District.

In a meeting July 3, six women from the Citizens Group demanded that the Board draw up a plan for voluntary desegregation of the city's schools and put at least three Negroes on the Board of Education.

The 94-member Citizens Group is headed by Mrs. Beatrice Collins, wife of a current candidate for Justice of the Peace in Laurel. She remarked, "For two years we have been trying to get a hearing before

the Board of Education to present our grievances, but until the July 3 meeting we failed to get even a reply to our letters."

### Unequal Subsidies

The group also asked the Board to make public the amount of money spent per child for Negroes and whites in school. Past reports indicate that \$38.25 in local funds is spent for whites, while only \$29.45 goes for Negroes.

Additional demands called for improved curriculum and equipment for Negro schools, qualified teachers and better medical care for children. The trustees said they would study the proposals.

throughout Mississippi are providing copies of the statement for all Negroes who want to vote in the Democratic primary. Write the Free Press for sample copies which anyone can use.

## 300 Protest City's 'Way Of Life'

## 250 Put On Marching Shoes; U.S. Presses To Open Books

While the Justice Department pressed for the reopening of Hinds County voter registration books, over 300 demonstrators assailed public and private forms of segregation in Jackson.

The climax to the five days of demonstrating came Friday when youth were joined by members of the strategy committee and other adults in a march toward downtown Jackson.

The surprise mass march, the first in more than a month, erupted out of the Friday night mass meeting at the Masonic Temple. Urged on by youth parading up and down the aisles, 250 people rose to join the singing march down Lynch Street.

The march, headed by Rev. R. L. T. Smith, halted at the fork of Terry Road and Lynch Streets where about 30 rifle-carrying policemen had gathered to face the oncoming demonstrators.

Rev. Charles Evers, and Rev. Allan Johnson Smith, succeeded in getting the group to return to the Temple peacefully. The police made no arrests.

Direct action resumed last Wednesday when 12 young people attempted to use the facilities at Livingston and Battlefield Parks. The following day 12 more went to Riverside Park. Both groups were arrested after more than a half hour of recreation.

Four young people were arrested Friday afternoon when

they refused to move from the steps of YMCA on N. State St. They presented "Y" membership cards, but were told to go to the Farish St. YMCA.

Sit-ins continued Saturday as 3 young people sought to use facilities at the Boy's Club. They were turned away.

More than 30 people were told Sunday they did not belong at services in six Jackson churches. A policeman barred entrance to Capitol St. Methodist, while ushers turned the church-goers away from the others.

Meanwhile, in the courts, the Justice Department presented its demand for the reopening of Hinds County registration books to District Judge Harold Cox.

During the hearing the state defense attorney, William Wells, admitted that "under state law the registrar's office ought to be kept open."

But he said the Justice De-

(Continued on Page 8)

## Arrest 6 Clarksdale Youths For Littering

Six civil rights workers were arrested in Clarksdale Saturday, July 20, on charges of littering. Thomas Gaither, one of the group arrested, said the Police Chief told them: "You b----, didn't I tell you to stop passing out those leaflets. If I can't stop you one way, I will stop you another way."

Those jailed ranged from 14 to 24 years old.

## Georgia Senator To Speak At Collins Campaign Rally



HELLO —

**Clinton C. COLLINS, Sr.**

CANDIDATE FOR

**JUSTICE of PEACE**

**Beat 1**

JONES COUNTY, MISS.

YOUR VOTE & INFLUENCE APPRECIATED

38

the first Negro elected to the Georgia state legislature since Reconstruction.

Collins is running for Justice of the Peace in Beat 1, with the endorsement of the Jones County Democratic party. Citizens from all parts of the state have been invited to attend the rally.

Voters will get a chance to hear the views of Clinton C. Collins, Negro candidate for Justice of the Peace in Jones County, at a rally Saturday, July 27.

Principal speaker at the meeting will be Leroy Johnson,

**Mississippi Free Press**

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Robert L. T. Smith, Jr., Chairman of the Board

Dr. A. S. Brittan, Treasurer

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HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS  
BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
SOCIAL JUSTICE . . . IN MISSISSIPPI

**EDITORIAL PAGE****Thousands Are Not Enough**

Last Saturday two Clarksdale white men who admitted throwing a firebomb into Aaron Henry's home were found "not guilty." That same day six Clarksdale Negroes were arrested for "littering" when they handed out leaflets urging people to stand up for their civil rights.

Monday a Federal District Judge decided that there was no reason to release 45 Itta Bena people from the Leflore County Penal Farm and Parchman Penitentiary. Their crime was asking a local deputy sheriff for protection minutes after a tear gas bomb was thrown into their meeting hall.

That same day the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decided to delay the integration of Mississippi public schools a little longer. They refused to order the immediate desegregation of schools in Jackson, Biloxi and Leake County and said they would not hear the cases before school opened.

Where is there justice for Negroes? On all levels the men who are supposed to insure justice to everyone make decisions which maintain injustice for Negroes. The Clarksdale rulings are ironic, but they point out a pattern which exists throughout the state, as everyone who lives here knows.

But, unless Negroes are satisfied to live like this forever, they must make sacrifices. Sacrifices like the people in Itta Bena are making. Sacrifices like the parents who filed suits for school integration are making.

Many people aren't willing to make these sacrifices; they are afraid. But the people in jail from Itta Bena are afraid and the people who filed school desegregation suits are afraid.

They are afraid, but they can see ahead; and they are willing to sacrifice now so that they and their children can sometime soon live without fear and humiliation.

A lot of people in Mississippi are fooling themselves. Some are poor workers and sharecroppers who barely make a living; others are teachers and ministers and businessmen who earn enough to feel secure. These people know that things are not as good as they could be, but they say that time will bring improvement.

They are wrong. Time will not do anything. For one hundred years Negroes have waited for things to get better.

Well, they will not get better until Negroes in Mississippi do something about it. And the few thousand Negroes who have already taken part in demonstrations and voter registration movements are not enough.

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**SMITH'S SUPER MARKET**

Valley Street At The Railroad Crossing

Where  
You Can't Beat The Food

*Savings!*

**IN MISSISSIPPI****The Poor Are Poorer**

Things in Mississippi are stacked against poor people. While a small part of the population lives in wealth and comfort, large numbers of Mississippians suffer in terrible poverty.

The third of the state's families with the lowest earnings, take home only 5 per cent of the state's income, while the top third gets 70 per cent; the 4 per cent of the families at the very top get one-fifth of the state's income.

Mississippi also has the lowest per capita income in the United States. The average income per person is \$1173 a year; the average for the nation as a whole is nearly twice as much.

Since the average is found by

taking the total income and dividing it by the number of people in the state, if some people are earning a lot more than \$1173 each year, that means that many people earn a lot less.

**Lowest Wages**

And wages, as usual, are worse for Negroes. The last census reported that the average yearly earnings of Negro farm workers is \$908; the yearly average for white workers is \$2,438.

The average income for rural Negroes who don't work on farms is \$974, while the same figure for whites is \$3,206. Negroes who live in cities earn an average of \$1,168 a year; whites in cities make \$3,565.

When the distribution of

wealth is so unequal, taxes could help to equalize the situation. The rich are taxed more than the poor, and some of the money goes to pay for public programs to benefit the poor.

Thus, even though rich people might be able to pay to send their children to private schools, they must pay taxes to help pay for the education of all children.

**Regressive Sales Tax**

But in Mississippi, 48 per cent of the state's income from the sales tax. This is a "regressive tax" because it falls hardest on the poor people. Everyone has to buy food, no matter how poor he is.

Even if one man earns 20 times as much as another (\$20,000 a year versus \$1,000), he doesn't spend 20 times as much for food. Therefore, a state sales tax on food and other necessary items take away a higher percentage of the earnings of poor people than rich people.

The way the tax system works here, homemakers and middle and upper income families are taxed less in Mississippi than in other states. And the present policy of shifting from income tax to sales tax increases the inequality in income.

Since most of the people in Mississippi fall in the low income category (60 per cent of the families have incomes of less than \$3,000) it seems incredible that they would vote for legislators that don't care about their interests.

However, the truth is that the proportion of rich people registered to vote is much greater than the proportion of poor people. And those poor whites that vote are fooled by the men that preach race hate into voting against their own good.

**COLUMN**

I've been around Mississippi for a long time now but I've sort of kept to myself. I had a lot of things to say but I just didn't stand up and say them. That's gone. I've got a fire now and I want to turn it on some of the deadwood in this state—see if I can burn out some of the cobwebs in the capitol building or some of the dust in city hall.

I hope to have some fun doing it too. A lot of things in Mississippi are pretty funny if you just look at them in the right way. Take Ole Ross for example . . .

On his recent trip to Washington to testify before the Senate committee holding hearings on the Civil Rights bill, the Governor said he thought the whole issue was the result of communists trying to take the country's mind off Cuba. They certainly had me fooled. I thought it was the result of Northern agitators. Poor Governor Barnett, he's got so many explanations he just can't keep them all straight.

The Governor went to Atlanta

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Aeras Heavy — Chiles Smith  
Pharmacist — Pharmacist

the other day to speak at a dinner, and he was picketed by the NAACP. Perhaps they wanted the hotel management to put Barnett under a big white box, just like they did those figurines in Chicago.

Up in Greenwood recently they passed a law making it unlawful to "sit, kneel, recline, or engage in public speaking, group shouting or group singing, or to assemble to organize in groups carrying signs on the sidewalks or streets" without the permission of the Chief of Police.

The chief must be pretty busy man, what with passing out all those permits to people who want to sit in the parks or lean up against a wall for a friendly talk. Might be easier for him and the citizens to just close the whole town, wrap it up in wax paper, and forget it.

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## A Letter From Kennard's Family

To The Editor:

The family of Clyde Kennard wishes to thank the Mississippi Free Press for its article concerning the Clyde Kennard case.

The family also wishes to thank the many friends who were so thoughtful through their prayers, telegrams, cards and other expressions during their recent bereavement.

The address of the Clyde Kennard Fund is Box 4820, Chicago 80, Illinois.

The Family of Clyde Kennard Route 1, Box 70 Hattiesburg, Miss.

(Ed. Note: The Clyde Kennard Fund was set up to provide money for cancer research at the University of Chicago.)

## 300 Protest . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

partment case should be thrown out since the Federal government can not enforce the state law unless discrimination is proved. He claimed that testimony gave no evidence of discrimination.

However, witnesses called by the Justice Department said that a slow-down of Negro registration was in effect even before the closing of the books. Rev. R. L. T. Smith pointed out that separate lines were formed for whites and Negroes.

He said white applicants could skip ahead of Negroes waiting to take the test. Circuit Clerk H. T. Ashford confirmed this set-up.

Ashford claims he closed the books because he did not have enough time to register voters and prepare for the coming primary at the same time. Justice Department Attorney John Doar showed, however, that books had not been closed dur-

# Manpower: Free Training

At Jackson State College recently, 18 men completed a course in operating woodworking machines. Today, several of them already have jobs, and according to the employment service, the rest will get jobs soon.

Before they took the course, all of these men were either out of a job or else they had jobs which didn't fit their abilities.

The course was set up as a part of the Manpower Development and Training program, a

ing other pre-election periods.

Charles Evers testified he offered to provide Ashford with extra office help to handle the heavy stream of applicants. He said Ashford refused the offer and told him there would not be any Negroes employed in the office as long as he was circuit clerk.

federal project. It was given to the men without charge.

Besides the Jackson State course, there are manpower training projects going on now in Raymond, Perkinston, and Decatur.

Unfortunately, since these courses are already under way, there is no way to get into them. However, if you are a member of a labor union, trade association, or other organization there is a chance that you can get the Department of Labor to help you set up on-the-job training programs.

In order to qualify for Federal help in getting training under the Manpower program, you have to be unemployed or only working part time.

### For Underemployed Too

You can also qualify if you are working at a job that does not tax all your abilities, or if you will shortly be unemployed because your employer no longer has a use for your skills since new machines are doing the work men used to do.

Young people between the ages of 16 and 22 are also able to benefit from the Manpower program if they are in need of job training.

Before a man can participate in a Manpower project, he must show that he cannot get a job without the training, and he must line up a good possibility of getting a job where he can use the training after the course is over.

## Confess And . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Carr and Cahon were acquitted even though Clarkdale police had announced last spring that the two had admitted throwing three bombs into Henry's house.

The explosion caused about \$1,000 damage to the home and its contents. Henry, his wife Noelle, and Congressman Charles Diggs (D., Mich.) who was staying with the Henry's at the time, put out the fire which followed the blast.

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Jackson, Mississippi**



**Statement of Condition  
after the close of business June 30, 1963**

### Assets

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| First Mortgage Loans                              | \$537,903.24        |
| Loans on Savings Accounts                         | 21,474.06           |
| FHA Title I Improvement Loans                     | 40,608.32           |
| Investments and Securities                        | 4,300.00            |
| Cash on Hand and in Banks                         | 184,711.83          |
| Accrued Interest Receivable                       | 2,000.00            |
| Office Furniture and Equipment, less Depreciation | 3,427.37            |
| Prepaid Insurance Premium—FSLIC                   | 4,074.32            |
| Other Assets                                      | 60.00               |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                               | <b>\$798,559.14</b> |

### Liabilities

|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Savings Capital                 | \$783,848.36        |
| Christmas Savings Club Accounts | 6,138.50            |
| Distributed Earnings Payable    | 1,621.99            |
| Deferred Credits                | 5,915.51            |
| Other Liabilities               | 271.98              |
| General Reserves and Surplus    | 816.80              |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>        | <b>\$798,559.14</b> |

Contact This Federal Association For Loans  
**FHA Title I**  
All Types of Conventional Mortgage Loans

Young people between the ages of 16 and 22 are also able to benefit from the Manpower program if they are in need of job training.

Besides the Jackson State course, there are manpower training projects going on now in Raymond, Perkinston, and Decatur.

Unfortunately, since these courses are already under way, there is no way to get into them. However, if you are a member of a labor union, trade association, or other organization there is a chance that you can get the Department of Labor to help you set up on-the-job training programs.

In order to qualify for Federal help in getting training under the Manpower program, you have to be unemployed or only working part time.

### For Underemployed Too

You can also qualify if you are working at a job that does not tax all your abilities, or if you will shortly be unemployed because your employer no longer has a use for your skills since new machines are doing the work men used to do.

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## Court Delays School Desegregation In Jackson, Biloxi And Leake County

As a result of a federal court ruling, the legal battle for the desegregation of Mississippi public schools will be postponed until after the opening of school in September.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals refused Monday to order immediate desegregation of public schools in Jackson, Biloxi, and Leake County.

### Appealed Mize's Rulings

The request for action went to the appeals court after District Judge Sidney Mize dismissed cases from the three areas.

The appeals court also turned down a request for hearings before September when the court begins its fall session.

Earlier this month the court ordered school boards in Birmingham and Mobile to have desegregation plans ready for this

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| Fresh-Killed<br><b>BACON</b>       | 5 lbs. for \$1    | Tasty Good<br><b>EGGS</b>  | 4 doz. \$1 |
| <b>FRYERS</b>                      | 16. 24½¢          | Sweet<br><b>OLEO</b>       | 2 lbs. 29¢ |
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## \$5 Quiz Winner

The winner of last week's \$5 Quiz is Mrs. Beanie Catchings of Jackson. The answers to the quiz are:

- 1) a. They claim Mayor Allen Thompson went back on his word
  - 2) b. getting higher pay
  - 3) a. when a white man is accused of murdering a Negro, Mississippi courts do not show equal justice for all
  - 4) b. loan you money to help you build or repair a farmhouse
- The winner of the last \$5 quiz will appear next week.

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