

"I Had No Protection"



Cleve McDowell

"In the absence of Federal protection, my life was in grave danger."

What caused Cleve McDowell to carry a gun on the Ole Miss campus? Why did he risk being expelled? In an exclusive interview with the FREE PRESS, the young law student discussed the trials of being the only Negro at Ole Miss.

"The gun was simply to protect me when I was off-campus," McDowell stated. "I had no intentions of using the gun while on the campus itself."

McDowell's fear centered around the harassment that he encountered off-campus. He claimed that he could have easily been attacked by residents at towns near Ole Miss.

"No one in his right mind would think that all Mississippians had changed to the point that I wouldn't need protection," McDowell stated.

McDowell described the incident that led directly to his carrying the .22 pistol.

Last Saturday, while making a trip home for the

week-end, students and town people recognized his car.

One car in front of him reduced speed when he tried to pass. Teenagers shouted insults as their cars passed, waving sticks or objects that resembled weapons.

"We're gonna get you, Nigger," they shouted. Another car skidded rocks in front of his car bumper, breaking the glass of both headlights. Nearly everyone who passed him either waved an object at him, or made threatening gestures.

When McDowell returned to class that week-end, he brought a two inch revolver to the campus.

McDowell was late and had to park in a restricted area. Fearful that police would search his car, he put the gun in his pocket. While getting out of the car, the gun fell. One hour later, he was arrested.

McDowell told the FREE PRESS, "It would be ridiculous if I thought that I could repel mob violence with a little gun. I only wanted assurance."

Throughout his stay at Ole Miss, McDowell was beset by continuous heckling. Wherever he went, he heard

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Mississippi

FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

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38

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Negroes Pick Candidate

Vicksburg Group Plans Vote Drive

Pointing towards twice the present number of registered voters, a voter registration drive will swing into action in Vicksburg the early part of this month.

The registration campaign will mark the first large scale attempt to register Negroes in this historic river city. The drive will be under the direction of the Warren County Improvement League, an organization designed to promote better government in the Vicksburg area.

Buddy System

In order to double the number of Negroes presently registered, the Improvement League is asking each registered voter to make sure that at least one other person goes down to the courthouse to register. If this "buddy system" is effective in the coming drive, it will be used in later registration drives until the whole area is covered.

To make sure that each registered voter is doing his job, precinct captains will provide leadership for each of the county's five precincts.

This method of organizing a registration drive can teach the

rest of the state a valuable lesson in getting out to vote. Through the buddy system large numbers of people can be reached and for the Negro registration drive to be successful on a statewide level, large numbers will have to be reached.

Also, precinct captains can provide neighborhood leadership and encouragement to greatly stimulate community response to the drive.

The democratic ideal of "One Man—One Vote," consistently denied in Mississippi, requires extensive effort to be achieved.

BAWI Will Not Attract Industry, Critics Declare

A recent study by the Mississippi Economic Council has revealed that 55,000 new industrial openings would be needed in Mississippi to balance state employment with the national labor force.

While Mississippi's economy lags woefully behind the national level, only one program has been drafted to bridge the distance between Mississippi's economic status and the nation as a whole. This program is called Balance Agriculture With Industry. It can be criticized in two ways; the first is political.

Day by day the politicians and the news media in this

state have hammered away at communism and creeping socialism. For these people it is an easy jump from the words "liberal" to "socialist" and then to "communist."

Of course it would be hard to find a single mention of the BAWI program as a socialistic program, yet in many ways it comes closer to socialism than anything to be found outside the state.

The law itself stands as the measure of proof. It provides for land to be handed over to the new industry by the state, without charge. This land can be purchased by the state, or it can be given to the state as a



Leaders in the Council of Federated Organizations from l. to rt.: Dr. Aaron Henry, Charles Evers, Rev. R. L. T. Smith, Mat Swartz, and Bob Moses.

Delegates from all over the state will converge at the Masonic Temple this Sunday to attend a crucial meeting of the Mississippi Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). Their task—to choose a candi-

date for governor to run on the Vote for Freedom ballot.

"We are looking forward to the day when we are registered voters," Freedom Vote worker Bob Moses said. "The freedom vote is a major step in getting

Convention To Set Off Mighty Freedom Vote

Negroes into the workings of democracy. The next process we have to go through, is to prepare people for the day when Negroes run for office," he stated.

The candidates selected will set out to win 150-200,000 votes in the governor's election Nov. 6. Never before has such a large number of Negroes voted in Mississippi.

Since only unregistered Negroes of voting age and people who have not paid their poll tax will be allowed to vote, the Freedom ballots will not be counted in the official returns. Yet it is the very fact that so many Negroes are not registered which gives the Freedom vote its power.

Protest Discrimination

The tens of thousands who cast their Freedom Ballots will be calling out in protest against the system of discrimination which has denied them the right to register.

The Freedom candidate, then, will not be running as the official candidate—against an individual; he will be running against segregation and dis-

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MERIDIAN HIRES NEGRO POLICEMEN

The city of Meridian has hired four new Negro policemen. They will be sworn in for duty on Tuesday. This will bring the total of Negro policemen in Meridian to five.

Editorial Page

WE STAND FOR . . .

- GOOD GOVERNMENT
- HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS
- BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- SOCIAL JUSTICE . . . IN MISSISSIPPI

Survival Or Suicide

Just a week ago today Ross Barnett announced a new program for the establishment of Vocational Education Centers throughout Mississippi. The program was directed "with special emphasis" on training programs in the public junior colleges.

Already some response to the Barnett proposal has begun to filter back to us through the daily newspapers—token response to a program barely underway. But already one can predict that such a program will do nothing to erase the social blindness and governmental irresponsibility which has characterized the Barnett administration.

Even a Jackson daily has been forced to mourn the lack of adequate skilled manpower in Mississippi. One editorial admitted, indeed, that a solid industrial economy could not possibly be reached without skilled labor. But the Jackson paper, in mourning, presents a posture about as sorrowful as an ostrich with its head buried in the sand.

It has presented us with a list of the ten white schools incorporating the most modern tools and machines—a list of schools either expanding their existing facilities, or drawing plans for their new training centers, or building their new buildings—but no mention is made of Negro schools.

It is hard to believe that the eyes of any newspaper or state government could be blind to the fact that thirty-eight per cent of the Mississippi labor force is Negro. The comedy of the ostrich becomes, in short, the tragedy of our state, for their will be no changing economy until the time that this work force is trained for higher technical and trade jobs.

At the present time the only Negro junior college that can even consider Barnett's proposal is Utica Junior College—it is the only Negro junior college with vocational training programs in the state.

It is no wonder, then, that the progress made during the last twenty years in the rest of the nation has eluded Mississippi. It might be well for us to ask how long a human head can stay buried in the sand before it suffocates.

Or consider a final question in statecraft: how close can a state come to committing suicide before its people rebel in the interest of survival.

The Responsibility Of Respectability

"The people who make over \$200 a month don't support us."

These words were spoken by a member of the Warren County Improvement League, an organization designed to promote better government in the Vicksburg area. The statement reflects two tragic conditions of the Mississippi way of life. The first—that a great number of Mississippians do not have the opportunity to earn over \$200 a month. The second—that Negroes who have gained a certain degree of wealth often fall into step with the system which keeps the majority of Negroes from ever going beyond that \$200.

Perhaps the most unfortunate aspect of this situation is that Negroes who have the education and the position to provide leadership merely sit back and let things roll on as they have for decades. Those individuals that have profited from a change in their economic status fail to accept the responsibility of their advancement. After experiencing personal achievement, they fail to return this progress to their people as a whole. They do not work for a general change in the status quo and instead they become part of that status quo.

In this dilemma the question arises: Who will lead us, if not the respected members of our community?

Teenagers Speak Out

Kids Complain
"Nowhere To Go"

"Teenagers would like some decent places to go for recreation."

This comment from a Jackson teenager points out the pressing lack of recreational facilities in the city. If a Negro teenager wants to go bowling, he is out of luck. If he wants to go to a record hop, he often has to wait weeks before one may be held.

A typical response of teenagers contacted by the FREE PRESS was this observation of a senior at Lanier High School:

"Teenagers don't really have any place to go. We need a bowling alley, a skating rink, and a place to hold dances."

The majority of teenagers contacted complained of the absence of a bowling alley. Hezekiah Watkins, 1416 Brief St., said he wanted to learn how to bowl, but noted there is no place to practice.

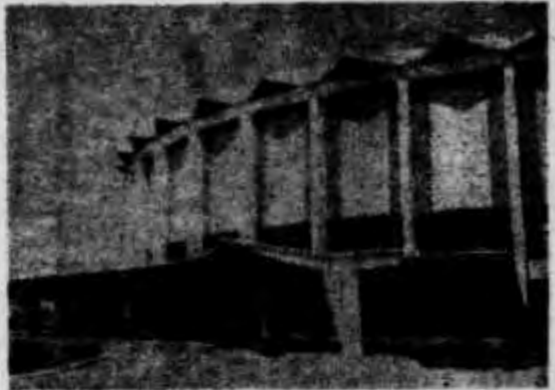
Other students singled out the need for a community recreation center as most pressing. Francine Johnson, 1430 Pillar St., suggested that such a recreation center might include an indoor swimming pool, a game room with ping-pong tables, and a skating rink.

Record Hop

With a recreation center many possibilities would open up to Jackson teenagers. Space would be available for a weekly record hop, which many teenagers are looking for.

Also, a recreation center could be a place to go on Saturday night, or after a Friday night football game. As Minola Wilson, 1814 Ridgeway, explained, "We are tired of sitting home and tired of standing around street corners."

A recreation center could satisfy other community needs. It could become the home of educational and artistic programs, amateur theater productions and children's art shows.



THE COLISEUM—Built with money from taxation, the Coliseum and its skating rink are nonetheless closed to Negroes. Thus Negro teenagers in Jackson can not ice skate indoors just as they have no drive-in movie and no bowling alley for their recreation.

Hattie Palmer, a sophomore at Brinkley High School, said she would like to see "more educational events, such as ballet and different types of singing," available to local teenagers.

Segregation Limits Recreation

Complaints such as these are common to teenagers across the country, but in Mississippi the problem becomes particularly acute. Segregation takes away from Negro teenagers many opportunities for recreation.

Segregation in private Jackson businesses deprive Negro teenagers of such facilities as bowling alleys and drive-ins.

Public segregation is even more glaring. Nearly everyone contacted by the FREE PRESS mentioned the tax-built Coliseum and its "for whites only" ice skating rink.

THE FREEDOM WRITER—
Changing Things

By Andy Mitchell

I was gone last week, did you miss me? Don't answer that. I was visiting some of my folks up in the Delta. Man, conditions sure are something up there in Deltaland.

But there is a heap of folks fighting back at the situation that weren't fighting just a few years ago.

On my way back, I looked out of the bus window at all that cotton. They say that it is really a good year. And yet, I know all of the miserable poverty that I stopped off to see a friend just came from. I know that no matter how much cotton is picked, that it still is not going to be a good year for my folks.

And I got to thinking, just how wrong things are up there. But it sure is heartening to see that now some people have said that they are not going to take it anymore without trying for something better. I'm going to do all I can.

On my way back to Jackson, I came by way of Vicksburg. I

A Teenager Asks—
Why Don't Adults Register To Vote?

Ed. Note

The following article was written by Hester Henderson, a student at Jim Hill High School. The FREE PRESS welcomes articles such as this one, expressing opinions about the situation in Mississippi. Anyone wishing to discuss current issues as a guest writer is invited to send an article to the FREE PRESS.

It seems that adults are actually afraid of facing the reality of our changing world, and they are afraid of facing their responsibilities in it. I wish all Negro adults would try to realize that we as teenagers can not fight by ourselves. We need your help.

We can not march and demonstrate every day while you sit back, stamp your feet, clap your hands, and say "Amen" at mass meetings. Don't you realize how much voting would help the situation that we are now facing?

Those of you who are not registered voters—why don't you register? Don't you see how much it would change things? In the near future, if all Negro adults were registered voters, some of our well-qualified Negro leaders would be sitting in some of the chairs now occupied by unqualified white men. We are capable, you know. One thing that we must get out of our minds is that we are not Mr. Charlie's girl or Mr. Phil's boy.

We teenagers await our 21st birthday so we can register to vote at the age that you should have. But before that time, while we are still in school, we need your help. If you are sincere in your belief in Freedom, you will register to vote and get others to register too.

Or do you attend mass meetings just to say Amen? You can do that at home.

there. He told me that as a result of the Negroes using their heads and their votes they were able to have quite an effect the last election.

That's really something. They are very pleased and they should be. They may not be able to elect a governor, yet—but they sure were able to have an effect in Vicksburg.

In fact, one of the guys who had been in the same office for 28 years was defeated. A board of supervisor I thing it was. He was so shocked by being beaten that he fainted and had to be taken to a hospital.

He thought that he could not lose. But a good voter registration campaign on the part of the Negroes showed him to be wrong.

My friends said that he is beginning to learn about this politics business. He said that he is supposed to take at least one 'buddy' down to get registered. He is responsible for seeing that his 'buddy' votes on the next election day.

Back here in Jackson, I was surprised to see that some people have apparently forgotten about what's going on. As the bus came through town, I thought that I saw some Negroes down on Capitol Street.

As soon as I got off the bus, I went and checked. Sure enough. There were some folks just a-buying away. I guess maybe they think that the way things are is all right enough for their children.

Well, I don't. And I am glad to know that there are a lot of people here in Jackson that agree with me. I guess that there always will be a few who will want to go down town on Capitol St. to shop.

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BAWI Will Not . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

it simply hasn't worked. By providing free sights and tax exemptions for the first ten years, the program naturally attracted some concerns. But all too often these concerns were only looking for a hand-out.

"As soon as (new industries) get what they want, they move out." This was the judgement of BAWI by Walter Koch, executive vice-president of the Longview, Texas Chamber of Commerce, as he spoke to a group of 40 Mississippi businessmen. Koch also pointed out a trend away from all handout programs because they are not fair to existing industry."

Appropriately enough, Mississippi realized its greatest growth in per capita income just prior to the year in which the law went into effect. During World War II the per capita income in this state rose from \$484 in 1940 to \$1008 in 1944.

Since that time per capita income in Mississippi has remained rather constant. A peak was reached in 1959, it came to about one-half of the national average, 53.4 per cent to be exact.

Baptist Center Marks Opening With Ceremony

The public is invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary's Training Program to be held in the Seminary chapel October 7 at 7:30 p.m. The program marks the beginning of the week-long registration period for first semester class work.

The Seminary offers a full program of theological and Christian training for students with educational backgrounds from the elementary to the college levels.

The Seminary also offers private piano lessons each Monday from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. for those who do not plan to enroll in full time courses.

For more information concerning the courses given call the Dean.

Correction

In the last issue of the FREE PRESS we included Guarantee Shoe Store, Farish St., among stores on the boycott list. However, further information reveals that Guarantee is not on the list.

Church Activities

"We believe that the Lord's Table is prepared for all of God's children, regardless of nationality, creed, or color . . ."
Rev. G. R. Houghton.

ANDERSON CHAPEL 812 Page St.
Rev. S. L. Webb, Pastor
School Rally Day is the theme of Sunday School at 9:30
11:00 Sunday Morning Worship
Topic: "The Christian and His Gospel"
John: 3, 16
Special program: Friday night sponsored by The Commission on Christian Education.
Special guest moderator: Rev. George E. Covington, associate professor of religion and philosophy at Jackson State College.

BLAIR STREET A M E ZION CHURCH
Blair St.
Rev. R. M. Richmond, Pastor
11:00 The Fourth and Final Quarterly Conference for the Year.
Dr. D. S. Williams will preside.
3:00 Special Service for Leadership Day
Speaker: Rev. R. L. T. Smith
Topic: "Leadership"

CENTRAL METHODIST A M E
111 E. Church St.
Rev. W. P. Taylor, Pastor
Church School Worker's Dedication at 10:30
World Wide Communion Service at 11:00
Sunday Evening Service at 7:30

FARISH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
619 N. Farish St.
Rev. S. L. Whitney, Pastor

11:00 Sunday Morning Worship Service
6:00 Sunday Evening Service
The Lord's Supper.

MOUNT HELM BAPTIST CHURCH
310 E. Church St.
Rev. T. B. Brown, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:45
Topic: "The Table of the Lord"
6:45 Sunday Evening Worship
Topic: "Love in Four Dimensions"

NEW MOUNT ZION 158 Maple St.
Rev. B. D. Rushing, Pastor
11:00 Sunday Service
Topic: "Sin and Mercy Situation"
Chron. 1-18

PEARL STREET A M E 925 Pearl St.
Rev. G. R. Houghton, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00
Topics: "The Lord's Table"

PRATT MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
1057 Pascagoula
Rev. Allen L. Johnson, Pastor
Sunday School will be held at 9:30 instead of 8:30
Regular Sunday Morning Service will be held at 11:00 instead of 10:00
Topic: "Make Ready For Communion"
7:30 Communion Meditation.

TRUE LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH
224 E. Bell St.
Rev. R. H. Walls, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30
11:00 Sunday Morning Service
Topic: "Immediate Help"
B.T.U. at 5:30
Sunday Evening Service 6:30

TRUE VINE BAPTIST CHURCH
1133 Pleasant St.
Rev. J. C. Matthews, Pastor
Sunday Morning Service 11:00
Topic: "The Work of Faith"
Sunday Evening Service
Topic: "Thy Will Be Done"

A Building Fund Tea will be held at the home of Mrs. Eleanor Benton from 5:30 to 6:30.

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Adults Respond To Program At Night Classes At Jim Hill

The program for adult education at Jim Hill High School has been gaining ground throughout the week. According to Richard Bacon, director of adult education in Jackson City Schools, 162 persons have enrolled thus far.

Classes are scheduled to begin next week although enrollment will still be possible anytime throughout the semester.

At this time it is known that courses in office machinery, record keeping, and typing will definitely be taught. A far larger range of courses will be considered if enough requests are made.

Of the 162 people, 38 have requested a high school equivalency program — a program whereby the student receives a diploma stating that he has completed work on a level equal to Mississippi state high schools.

Applications for admission may be made in person by going to the Directors' office, Board of Education Building, 662 South President, or by calling 352-0805, or by writing Richard Bacon, P. O. Box 918, Jackson.

Negroes Pick . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

crimination.

The Freedom candidate will be selected the way that real candidates are chosen at political party conventions. At the COFO meeting, names will be placed in nomination and the delegates will vote on who they want as their candidate. Like political conventions a platform for the Freedom campaign will be drawn up.

"This convention is a trial run," Moses said. But he emphasized, "We are looking forward to the day when we have real registered voters."

In the August Vote for Freedom, where over 27,000 unregistered Negroes voted, it is possible to see what could happen if Negroes did run.

In Clarksdale, Freedom candidate Aaron Henry received 5,047 votes. This was 650 more votes than the total cast in the official Democratic Party primary. If those 5,047 people who voted for Henry had been registered, he could have been the official winning candidate for sheriff, police chief, or any other office in a local Coahoma county election.

The meeting will also discuss COFO's Food and Welfare program with representatives from the National Council of Churches.

Finally, the meeting will select areas of concentration for the state-wide voter registration drive.

McDowell: "Wants To Return"

(Continued from Page 1)

cries of "Here comes the Nigger." Insults were shouted from passing cars or from open windows. Although there were no organized demonstrations, these catcalls were always present.

McDowell began to worry when he discovered that the Federal Marshalls had withdrawn from the campus at the end of the summer quarter. "I was shocked when I learned that the Justice Department did not have any observers of any kind in case some violence did occur."

Although the Marshalls withdrew after the school had pledged to protect the student, McDowell was still disturbed by the possibility of violence from individual persons.

At the time of Meredith's graduation, the marshalls, armed with loaded shot-guns had assured the protection of both of the Negro students. When McDowell returned for the fall semester, only a month after Meredith's graduation, the Marshalls had disappeared. "I looked around and I found that none was there, and I became concerned," he admitted.

"I was constantly afraid off-campus, but not desperate. At the same time, I'm sensible and practical. The gun was not for a hostile action," McDowell said.

Commenting on the situation of campus, the twenty-one year old said that he felt very lonely on campus. Although he felt that significant progress had been made by Meredith's presence, the white students remained extremely conservative.

McDowell commented that the students simply tried to ignore that he was there. "That's pretty funny," he said and laughed, "I could ignore them because they all looked alike, but they couldn't ignore me."

When asked whether he would like to return to Ole Miss, McDowell stated that he was waiting for the school council to review his case. "I don't consider myself special. I'm a normal student trying to get a law degree. I want to practice in Mississippi.

McDowell's first arrest did not stop the harassment from the police. Picked up after a football game on the charges of driving 60 miles an hour, without lights, McDowell found himself in jail again. The police claimed that they had arrested McDowell a half mile out of town, and that they had trailed him for ten minutes.

McDowell chuckled, "If they had trailed me for ten minutes at 60 miles an hour, they would have picked me up six miles out of town."

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