A Pulpit For Freedom

The final thrust in our struggle for equality will not be waged in the field of civil rights but in the minds of individual men. In this light the COFO campaign offers much more than the first political opportunity for a vote against segregationist candidates, it offers a chance to break down the rigid racial classifications that have petrified thought in Mississippi for years.

The joint COFO ticket of Aaron Henry and Reverend Edwin King shows that these barriers can be broken, that candidates for office are personalities, not simply representatives of a race.

The COFO platform takes no racial stand, instead, it exposes the real issues of public welfare and human liberty in Mississippi. The COFO ticket was integrated by a unanimous vote last week when Reverend Edwin King was made candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

Reverend King has served as Chaplain of Tougaloo College since 1961. He is a native Mississippian, born in Vicksburg in 1936.

Though seemingly isolated from his own community, Reverend King argues that many white Mississippans are more frightened than prejudiced. His present position, as a leader in the struggle for human liberty, cost him many old friends, King said, but he has also made many new ones.

Rev. King’s resolution to return to Mississippi after joining the ministry was made while he was still in high school. King recalled that at the time he attended high school teachers were reluctant to speak out against the crippling system of segregation. And within the Methodist Church Youth Groups that he attended, there was far greater freedom than there is today.

Mississippi FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

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With Political Organization
Negroes Wield Ballot Power

An Editorial

They Can’t Even Spell

High School graduate ... cannot spell the name of the school from which they graduated."

Herbert Worley
Chairman, Industrial Education Committee
Mississippi Manufacturers Association

The Jackson industrialist quoted above represents the reaction of industry to Mississippi’s educational laxity. Mr. Worley pointed out that industry today is receiving applications from high school graduates who “cannot spell well enough to fill out the application form.”

Basic education is essential not only for industries already located in Mississippi, but also for new industry. It is unlikely that firms will be attracted to this state unless the state can provide trained personnel.

Despite this pressing need, only seven Negro High Schools in the entire state of Mississippi have been accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. This incredible fact means, very simply, that enormous numbers of our high school graduates will not have the necessary education to find jobs in Mississippi, even when openings occur. Mr. Worley stated that already “a backlog of industrial workers” is badly needed in Mississippi. But no industry can be expected to make up for the lack of basic training in our public schools. Training is an expensive and time-consuming occupation, and, most often, it is easier for a firm to remain understaffed than to assume the job that should have been done in grade school.

But it is not enough to say that an inadequate educational system is stifling economic progress, for there is an immense human loss here, too. It is the loss that every student must feel when he learns he has been betrayed by the institutions he has been taught to respect. It is the enormous number of school dropouts. It is our young people without jobs, and without futures.

There is a story about a mean old man who didn’t like animals and would beat them every chance he got. Then one day he came to a hornet’s nest. But he didn’t beat the hornets; instead he shrunk back from their nest. The man was afraid because, as he said, “They’re organized.”

There is another story about organization, a new kind of organization in Mississippi. During the present VOTE FOR FREEDOM campaign Negroes are getting together to create a state-wide political organization.

For the present, this organization is devoted to getting out the vote for Freedom candidate Aaron Henry. But the organizing efforts are designed to create a permanent force in Mississippi politics, to ensure that the VOTE FOR FREEDOM.

As the organization develops, white politicians will be able to base their campaigns and their careers on keeping the Negro down. There will always be the threat of stirring up a hornets nest of Negro voters.

As Negroes gain the vote, they will need unity and direction to make their votes effective. This direction is provided by community leadership from the local to the state level.

In conjunction with the VOTE FOR FREEDOM campaign, the Mississippi Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) has already appointed state and district political leaders, who in turn work with County & Town Leaders.

Town Leaders
The Town Leader occupies a crucial position in the state setup. A Town Leader arranges mass meetings and keeps his community posted on the campaign. He also supervises the work of Section Leaders, who are responsible for neighborhood participation in elections.

Section Leaders
Section Leaders will have a chance to play a key part in moving the Negro community closer to voting. He will stand at the head of his neighborhood and direct the local organization, such as arranging for VOTE FOR FREEDOM polling places in churches, stores, or homes.

Block Captains
Finally, Block Captains will have direct personal contact with the object of the entire network of organization—the voter. The Block Captain is responsible for getting his neighbors to participate in the VOTE FOR FREEDOM and other elections. This includes telephoning or going from house to house on election day and reminding people to vote.

The political organization plan laid down by COFO will aid greatly in making the VOTE FOR FREEDOM a success. At the same time it will foster new community leadership to carry on after the November election.
Editorial Page

WE STAND FOR...
GOOD GOVERNMENT
HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS
BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
SOCIAL JUSTICE... IN MISSISSIPPI

What's Not Said

Last week was National Newspaper Week: an event re-
garded by our local newspapers, apparently, as a time for
self-promotion. None of the papers did this. The "chronicle"
was, apparently, the only one who felt they had anything
to say. They claim to be as objective as any other newspaper.
And the invitation to prove them otherwise is mostly decep-
tive.

The real issue here is what IS printed in any of the
local papers, but what IS NOT.

The daily here in Jackson have no competition. They
are responsible to the same ownership. They are both sub-
ject to the same controls.

Because this is so, the whole function of a newspaper as
a watchdog for the community has been lost. You can scan
back through these papers for political criticism on a state
and local level, and not find a single story.

Omission, in this case, is certainly a form of dishonesty.
In a way, it is the worst kind of dishonesty, for if a news-
paper fails to provide access to the public figures who
control so much of civic life, then it plainly neglected its first
duty to inform.

Fundamental of the successful operation of our Dem-
ocracy is information. The most important means of re-
cinding information is the newspaper, newspaper for orde
for a newspaper to truly inform, it must tell about the good
as well as the bad. It must criticize as well as praise.

To be sure, the local press finds a good deal about activ-
ities in the Negro community to criticize and it has a lot
to say about what is wrong with our government in Wash-
ington, but where is the story that comes as a result of in-
vestigating government right here at home at the local,
county and state level? The only thing to find is that Missis-
sippi is a great place.

It is not what is said is always so wrong. It is what
is not said.

Much of the lack of Democracy that exists in Mississippi
comes from the lack of information.

The way our system of government is set up, there is
supposed to be a system of checks and balances. There are
many who believe this, especially when they are not in
power. But it is wrong with our government in Wash-
ington, yet there is less chance for "crooked dealings" and more chance for what is wrong to be exposed.

Mississippi, however, exists with very few checks and
balances. It operates with a virtually one party system
(Though that is now being challenged). Further, not only are
there no daily papers competing with each other, but their
interest is one and the same with those of the one political
party that governs. Because it agrees with those who are in
office it does not wish to expose anything that might not be
wrong.

An evaluation of a newspaper, then, must consider not
only what IS printed, but what IS NOT. The greatest fault of
the Mississippi daily press is what it FAILS to say about
what is wrong and what needs to be changed.

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SMITH'S SUPER MARKET
Valley Street At The Railroad Crossing
Where You Can't Beat The Food

Henry Feels 'Freedom Spirit Is Uplifting'

"I am uplifted in the feeling of Freedom."

Waging war on fear and indifference, Aaron Henry has
opened a campaign to VOTE FOR FREEDOM campaig-
with speeches throughout the state. Henry said he has been in-
spired so much the enthusiasm people have shown for his cam-
paign.

"The spirit of Freedom is abundant."

Greenwood was one of the crucial stops in his cam-
paign route, which also includes Jackson, Vicksburg,
Holmes County, and Clarksdale. He spoke Tuesday night in
Greenwood, and any which to him is "symbolic of the
present struggle in the Delta. Greenwood officials have put
up tremendous resistance to voter registration, but still
the feeling is high, he said.

"Greenwood has gone from a community of almost no
activity a year ago to one of the most progressive in the
state. The spirit of Freedom is abundant."

Henry said he hoped the VOTE FOR FREEDOM cam-
paign would intensify the spirit of Freedom throughout the
state, so that after the campaign Negroes would be in-
spired to register to vote in official elections.

In his campaign speeches, Henry has continually em-
phasized that Negroes must continue to try to register. He
has pointed out that in the past four years over 60,000 Ne-
groes have attempted to register, while only about 6,000
 Negroes are actually eligible. He is asking that each who
try again, and that the 200,000 eligible Negroes who haven’t
yet tried make an attempt.

"We are aiming at a tremendous increase in Negro
democracy."

Henry’s campaign takes him to Greenville on Thurs-
day, where he will speak outside the courthouse. This is the
first time Negroes have been permitted to use the court-
house facilities for such a purpose. Friday night he appears in
Yazoo City and on each succeeding night in Meridian,
Lauder, Brookhaven, and Clarksdale, and did exactly the
same thing.

The campaign will wind up with a mass rally at the
Memorial Temple in Jackson, Friday, Nov. 1. The following
three days voters will cast their VOTE FOR FREEDOM
ballots.

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insurance program

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1001 Lynch Street
352-5566
Church Activities

"There shall we all sit down around what a dear secretary we have found, and pray to his redeeming blood and cry, Be held the way to God!" Rev. J. C. Matthews.

FIRST BLOOD:

The Jaguars drew first blood with a 3 yd. touchdown plunge late in the first quarter, and connecting on the extra point, they jumped to a 7-0 lead.

The second quarter saw a scoring on both sides. Southern connected on a 15 yd. pass play, kicked the extra point and went ahead 14-0. But with only 1:28 min. to go in the half, the Jaguars struck back as Duncan ran 6 yd. for the tally. Duncan also ran for two extra points making the halftime score 14-0, Southern over Jackson.

In the third quarter Southern came back with its final bid on a field goal by Clayton. The Jaguars returned the threat with a 4 yd. T-D, plunge by Duncan. Quarterback Bobby Thompson tossed a pass to end Glaster Richardson for the extra two points.

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Rev. H. M. Huits, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00

Sunday Evening Service 7:00

TRUE VINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Rev. J. C. Matthews, Pastor

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10:00 Sunday Morning Worship

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7:00 Sunday Evening Worship

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"Family Shoe Store"
"Water" Argument Ends In Tragedy

The thoughtless play of blind reactions often results in tragedy. An argument between a Negro and a white over a drink of water ended in death last week.

Clifford Zachary, a 50-year-old Negro printer, is being held in jail on the charges of shooting a white service station attendant.

Segregated Fountains
Zachary told the police that he stopped to drink from the water fountain in the station after he had bought a pack of crackers. The attendant demanded that Zachary use another fountain outside the station.

When Zachary objected that the inside fountain was more convenient, the station attendant showed Zachary with water from the hose he was using to wash the front of the station. Zachary told police.

Zachary said that he shot the attendant when he ran inside the station toward the cash register.

Arrested six blocks away from the station, Zachary admitted the shooting, and surrendered his pistol and ammunition.

Zachary, an employee of the Mississippi Teachers Association, waived the preliminary

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Eating, and will be brought before the grand jury on Nov. 4.

"The Dual of the Titans" Steve Reeves Gordon Scott
"Something Wild" Carroll Baker