Farm Workers Robbed

By Rich Landowners

A broken-down shack is the usual home for the Negro farm worker and his family. He can afford no better; machines are taking his job and landowners who are smart with the pencil are robbing him of what little earnings he does make. His children as a result live in poverty and hunger.

Sheriff Claims Ignorance Of Law In “Tax” Hearing

"Who gave you the idea you could pay poll taxes?"

These words were reportedly spoken by Andrew P. Smith, Sheriff of Holmes County, when Julian Lefare attempted to pay his poll taxes in 1964. Lefare testified in the Federal Court last week.

Called from Los Angeles, California, where he is now living, Lefare testified at the hearing on a Justice Department request for a federal order against intimidation of Negro voter applicants by county officials.

Refused Poll Fee

When Lefare tried to pay poll taxes, he said a check in the sheriff’s office told him, “When Mr. Smith gets ready for you to pay your poll taxes, he will tell you.” Lefare explained.

Allowed to pay his property taxes without any trouble, Lefare claims the sheriff told him, “...as long as he was sheriff, I (Lefare) would not pay poll taxes.”

Ignorant of Law

Smith testified the second day of the two day hearing that he did not know he was violating a state law by refusing to accept poll taxes from Negroes. According to Holmes, no Negroes were registered to vote in the country, so therefore none should pay a poll tax.

Of course, Smith told the court he would see to it that no discrimination was practiced in the future.

As evidence of intimidation of Negroes by county officials, Justice Department lawyers cited the arrest of five Negro voter registration workers who were charged with solicitation of arson.

Charges Dropped

Turnbow’s wife testified that she had seen two white men firing after the fire. When the sheriff asked how she knew the men were white, Mrs. Turnbow replied, “They may not have been white, but they were at white as you are.”

The charges against the five civil rights workers, brought to the attention of Attorney General Robert Kennedy, were dropped because of “insufficient evidence.”

Poll Tax Whipping

Intimidation and brutality stalk voter registration workers at any time of day or night. George Raymond, head of the Canton registration project, said he was pistol-whipped by a local policeman at about 2 a.m. Saturday morning. Raymond was then charged with intimidating an office and resisting arrest and spent the rest of the night in jailhouse.

After he was bailed out Saturday night, Raymond said the incident arose when a wrecker came to his house to tow his car away. Police arrived at the scene, and when Raymond protested the removal of his car, he said he was slapped and struck on the face with a pistol.

Raymond said there was no reason for the wrecker to tow his car away. COFO sent a telegram to the Justice Department demanding an immediate investigation.

Vote Worker Claims

POLO Whipping

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COFO Welfare Group Attempts To Aid Poor

Poverty-stricken Mississippis have few sources of aid. Public welfare programs administered by local officials are both inadequate and in several cases discriminate against Negroes.

To help meet the needs of the poor, COFO (the Council of Federated Organizations) directed its efforts to the establishment of a network of “voter registration workers” who would bring food and clothing to families who do not have enough income to buy the necessities of life.

7 Counties in State

The program is conducted by the Emergency Welfare and Relief Committee in seven counties in the state. The Committee was established over a year ago to provide for citizens who suffered economic hardships for attempting to register and vote.

Although the program was set up on a temporary basis, “We are trying now to establish a system where we can give out food and clothing on a large scale in a permanent arrangement,” stated Executive Director David Henry, who along with Mrs. Vera Pigeon, is co-chairman of the Committee.

Dozens explained the critical need for such an aid program: "In many areas people eat only one meal a day—and that may be a dinner of bread and gumbo. In the winter cold, they need a warmer coat or a bed to sleep in. We must try to meet these needs, or they will pack their bags and leave the state to find work.” (See "Mississippi Free Press," Page 1)
Editorial Page

We stand for...  
GOOD GOVERNMENT  
HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS  
TEACHER EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT  
SOCIAL JUSTICE... IN MISSISSIPPI

1963: A Year Of Tragedy And Inspiration

Many polls have registered the top ten stories of the year. The number one story, the civil rights struggle, sharing the moral stagnation of the nation was second only to the death of President Kennedy. In Mississippi, editors cast their ballots for the slaying of Medgar Evers as the story which attracted the most attention.

—THE GREENWOOD VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE, SPRING 1963—

Despite shootouts, arrests, dogs, and police harassment, four national civil rights organizations continued the crush of persons attempting to register every Negro citizen in LeFlore Counted Mississippi. The newspapers of Jackson, the Democrat, and the Democrat's Daily, the Daily News, were in the forefront of this effort.

—JACKSON DEMONSTRATIONS, LATE SPRING—

The growing tension in Greenwood touched off the fierce and unrest in Jackson. 27 people began the non-violent protest by walking 12 times ranging from the hiring of Negro police to the desegregation of all public facilities and schools. Sit-ins and picketing followed the outbreak of News that Negroes had built a house inside them reached the breaking point.

—THE MURDER OF MEDGAR W. EVERS, JUNE 12—

From the tragic loss of a militant leader will always burn deeply to the minds of Mississippi Negroes. His death jolted the nation with the inhumanity of the South.

—MEDGAR EVERS FUNERAL, JUNE 18—

From the funeral of Medgar Evers, speakers from every section of the nation and thousands from Mississippi dramatized their pain and indignation over Evers death when they marched from the Mason Temple, in support of his ideals and his cause.

—THE SHOOTING OF ERNEST JELS of CLARKSDALE—

Although many witnesses said that Jels carried no weapons, he was gunned down in front of his home. The government reported that he had been shot to death by Delta policemen, the jury ruled the murder "justifiable homicide."

—THE VOTE FOR FREEDOM, NOVEMBER 2, 3, and 4—

Clearly showing that Negro citizens have been denied the franchise, thousands of 1963 voters chose Aaron Henry and Rev. Edwin King for Governor and Lt. Governor.

—POVERTY IN MISSISSIPPI—1963—

Revealed the glaring images that politicians accused about Mississippi. Due to automation and the immoral negligence of State officials, the Negro is forced to live in poverty in Mississippi, the color of his house for immediate improvement.

—THE BIRMINGHAM DOMING, SEPTEMBER 13—

The death of four children in a Birmingham church... and the burning of the home of one of the victims.

—THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, NOVEMBER 22—

But America didn't realize soon enough. The world learned the profound loss of leadership which forced the country to turn its face toward grief and its mind to the task of responsibility for the dead.

—JOHN F. KENNEDY—1963—

The selective buying campaign which achieved a decline effect upon the attitudes and the pocketbooks of downtown businessmen during the Christmas holiday. Several downtown firms put up "going out of business" signs while others tried to stay alive despite losses to 80% of their trade.

—NO DECORATIONS—CHRISTMAS—

The Jackson Negro community united 100% in observing this Christmas in a mood of mourning for John Kennedy, Medgar Evers, and the children killed in the Birmingham bombing. All city officials tried "tricks" and played "guards" to keep the children's gifts from being broken.

Take a long look at this year's history. It is a legacy that we are not able to push to the back of our minds. Moving from a time of violence, we have, none the less gained a new stride.

In this mirror of violence and Negro protest is reflected the awakening of a sleeping nation, and the dying of the Mississippi way of life.

Take a good look at this long year of tragedy and inspiration.

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WILL CONGRESS ACT IN NEW SESSION

Let's Get Started

Civil rights and the tax cut heads the list of legislation President Kennedy will try to maneuver through Congress in the coming session. However, his program will face the same obstacles in 1964 that stalled action on President Kennedy's proposals.

The chief obstacle in the path of Congressional action has been slow-moving committees, often headed by conservative Southern Congressmen. For example, Senator James Eastland, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has not even opened discussion on the Civil Rights Bill, which was submitted to his committee last June.

The system of seniority is blamed for keeping men such as Eastland in power in Congress. Since Southerners are often elected in one-party states with little or no opposition, they are able to build up their seniority and command important committee posts.

In National Magazine

Aaron Henry Called "Freest Man In State"

Finally, it's out. Aaron Henry, candidate for governor in the recent VOTE for FREE DOM election, has been called "The Freest Man in Mississippi." The December issue of The Progressive, a liberal nationally circulated monthly, revealed a table from an article in the December issue of the Southern Mississippi Bulletin. Describing Henry as "an engaging politician of high-minded promise," the article predicted that "importance for Negroes and for savage white liberals," in the future of Mississippi politics.

Freest Man

Pointing out the peculiarities of Henry's freedom, Margaret Long, editor of New South, who wrote the article states, "after we had talked for an hour, I figured he [Henry] was the freest man in Mississippi, not withstanding his rigid segregation, house and store bombings and shootings, threats, law suits, jail sentences, and other white persecutions..."

And is there freedom for the white community? Henry explains, "We haven't got one white friend in Clarksdale... That is, no white man who can come out publicly..."

The recent shooting of Ernest Gels by a Clarksdale policeman over an argument about a banana was cited as a tragic example of the silent white community. "We killed fifteen or twenty affidavits from witnesses on what happened and sent copies to 200 local business men. We don't have a word to say of them," Henry stated.

COFO Important

The article emphasized that the struggle for the right to vote in Mississippi could be shortened won with the building up of COFO, (Council of Federated Organizations). Three weeks of campaigning also "gave us an organization, so we got our hands on every registered voter and nearly every Negro who wants to vote, Henry stated.

"We can turn this state upside down, and really have us a place to live in and be proud of," he continued, "I think we'll be through this thing soon—I give it as four or five years.

How? The "Freest Man in Mississippi" outlines the attitude that Mississippi Negroes must have in order to change the "Mississippi way of Life."

I. "Keep on standing up to 'em, they aren't as tough on us. I feel like things have never been a little for me. But if you take a stand and let 'em cow you down, you get it."

In Time Magazine

Martin King Hailed "The Man Of The Year"

"After 1963, with the help of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Negro will not be asked whether he is black or white, but what he is," said the Time magazine in its "Man of the Year" issue for 1963. "He will not be asked whether he is Negro or white, but what he is."

"Dr. King first became famous for his successful Montgomery bus boycott, and for his action in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which has included demonstrations all over the South and has brought attention to the plight of Negroes in the South."

In addition to the NAACP, Time devoted several pages to Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. One of the first articles of the issue was a revealing interview with Dr. King, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who is expected to be one of the most active figures in Mississippi in 1964.

The issue also includes a picture of Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who is expected to be one of the most active figures in Mississippi in 1964.

Prairie New President

"I have had a good deal of contact with him (Fred. John- son) in the past several years. He means business. I think we need people who will be willing to work together. We will continue to work."

In 1961 Mississippi may well be seeing a good deal of 1963's "Man of the Year.""
FREEDOM WRITER

No...No... Reason At All

I just happened to be looking out of my window here at the office the other week, when the big black ambulance drove up to the Dotty Cab stand and who should get out but Doc Britt and his secretary. And who should get out but Doc Britt and his secretary.

I recently talked to the good doctor and asked him what the driver thought of chauffeuring him around, and Doc Britt was glad to haul anybody, anytime, "said Doc Britt.

He related the experience of getting his ticket from the airline office after he had passed or failed a security test. He said the doorman came over and asked him his business. After the Doc told him that he thought his business was his own affair, "Doc" asked, "What reason have you got for stopping me?" The doorman stared at him around and finally asked the manager. Britting again asked the reason for not permitting him to go through the hotel. When the manager learned that he was going to the airline ticket office he gave a sigh of relief, "Why didn't you park on Capital Street so that you wouldn't have to go through the hotel," Of course, Britting asked him if there was any reason why he—anybody couldn't go through the lobby.

The manager said, "Oh, no, of course."

That's standing in there Doc, You might have noticed that the sign that has the big SO sign spinning around outside the store, no longer is a danger for Firestone. And you might have also noticed that just down the street, there is a firestone place with a new name, And if you really look closely, you might even notice that some of the same folks are working at the new place. Somebody isn't trying to fool us are they? . . .

The folks down at the new place (with the new name) say that they moved because they haven't had a decent customer in a month.

Wonder why that is? Couldn't have anything to do with competitive buying could it?

Certainly nobody is getting foolish are they? . . .

Painting can get you into a lot of trouble these days. Rather than simply being ignored, a local editor, because of some of his recent activities, is being painted. "He is not taking it lightly. Matter of fact, some say that he threatend to kick those people, kids, and giggling girls who seem to get a "kick" out of painting him out. One thing is certain: we have more fingers than he has feet, so he can't get us all.

Recipe for poverty, or "the stupid way to be poor." (From a report by the National Policy [Committee on Pockets of Poverty]."

1. ... be non-white; live in a rural area; be a female head of a household over 65 years of age.

This description could fit about 40% of Mississippi's population. And our pockets have holes in them.

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3:30 and 7:30
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Ride The High Country
Joel McCrea
Ralph Scott

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FL 205-8661

Conic's Beauty and Barber Supply
615 Hwy. Pearl Street
FL 3-3526

Jenkins Gulf Service
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352-9416

Peaches Cafe
FINE HOME GROCERIES
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Jackson, Mississippi
FL 3-9401

M L S Drug Store
Prescriptions — Free Delivery
102 Market St.
School Supplies — Baby Needs — Jewelry
FL 5-9105 1304 Lynch, Jackson

"Fishing Tims — Please Do"
D & L SHOE REPAIR
For All Your Shoe Needs
1403 Lynch St. — FL 7-9460

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COCA COLA
Case 79c
With this coupon & $1 purchase

SHORTENING
Case 79¢
With this coupon & 50¢ purchase

Frida's Dough Fraise
TV DINNER
$100
GROUND BEEF

Make It a "C" at The Supermarkets with These Coupons... Millions Saved... Why Save? With This Offer... It's Free... Send the Coupons in with the Purchase... Ask for A New Selection of Savings... Find out How Much You Can Save... Department Stores, Drug Stores, Supermarkets, Discount Stores, Small Grocery Stores... Ask for These Coupons... Ask for More Savings... Send More Coupons... Get More Savings... The "C" is Free... Send In These Coupons... Today... In The Mail... Send In These Coupons... Today... In The Mail... Send In These Coupons... Today... In The Mail... Send In These Coupons... Today... In The Mail...
Meredith Picks Africa
To Continue Education

James H. Meredith, the determined graduate of the University of Mississippi, has decided to go to Africa to continue his studies. Invited to study at Ibadan University in Ibadan, Nigeria, Meredith hesitated to make a decision after applying to the University of Mississippi Law School. But at the present time he doesn't think that I or any other Negro will be accepted there. "I do not wish to go to the university of Mississippi Law School. Planning to study in Nigeria for about three years, Meredith expressed interest in law, politics, and the humanities. "Three years of Africans have come here to study," he stated. "I think it is sound to study there and get to know all that I can about the Africans."

Meredith's courage at the time of registration at Ole Miss was praised and commented upon by many African newspapers. One paper which appeared in the Ghanaian Times of Ghana is an example of the.

Civil Service Offers Jobs

Jobs are open for employment with the office of the Federal Housing Administration (F.H.A.) U.S. Civil Service Examination announced last week. All individuals desiring to apply for jobs associated with designating and construction in fact, or those who are free of discrimination. To find out what jobs are being offered, call the Federal Housing Administration in Jackson, Mississippi.

SOS

CUT-UP PEN READY

FRYERS
4 lbs $1

Meaty NECK BONES
lb. 10¢

White Buffalo FISH
4 lbs $1

Tender Chuck STEAK
3 lbs $1.19

Magnolia PURE LARD
4 lbs $1.19

With Purchase of 3-lb. Pure Ground Beef
49¢ lb.

Hunt's Catsup 14-oz. bottle 15¢

Blue Plate Mayonnaise qt. 19¢

With $5.00 or More In Other Purchase

Red Potatoes 10-lb. bag 39¢

OLEO 3 lbs. 39¢

Retraining--The Only Ultimate Solution

(Continued from Page 1)
who have no shoes wrap their feet in old sheets and often stay home from school because they have no shoes to walk to the schoolhouse.

The impoverished condition of Negro families in Mississippi is reflected in the infant mortality rate for Negro babies. In 1950 50 out of every 1,000 Negro babies died before they were one year old. This is twice the mortality rate of white babies in the state.

Dennis observed that poverty reproduces itself from generation to generation. "With little money available for food and clothes parents keep their kids out of school to earn what they can in order for the family to survive," Dennis stated. Deprived of an education, they face the same prospects of low paying employment that is the lot of their parents.

Automation—No Relief

For farmers worse. "This reason was even worse than last year," Dennis remarked. "We had a dry season picking season, which meant that machines did more of the work and the day-haul workers took home less pay."

Dennis emphasized that job training is the only ultimate hope for the children of poverty. "Yet the state refuses to conduct any retraining program for Negro citizens. It even won't take federal money knowing that fears that programs would be integrated," he said.

Dennis foresees the possibility of COFO job training classes to be held at planned community centers in Negro communities throughout the state, but he can't get help. We have to cope with the problem ourselves," he declared.

What Can You Do?

But to meet the immediate problems of cold and hunger the Emergency Welfare and Relief Committee needs the help of all concerned persons. "We appeal to everyone to seed us warm clothing, canned goods, vegetables, meat, and staples so that we can continue our free distribution relief program," Packages should be sent to 1907 Lynch St., Jackson, Miss.

SABIN ORAL SUNDAYS JAN 12 FEB 16 MAR 20

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Prison Conditions Reflect Society

Trusties Not To Be Trusted

When I got to jail, my lips were bleeding because the policeman had hit me with a stick in my mouth. I asked for and was refused permission to call a lawyer. I refused to talk police anything about myself. I was locked up. A trusty approached me and asked me to make a long distance phone call collect. Since neither one of us had a pencil, I used my finger as a pen, and blood from my lips as ink in order to write down the name and number of the person to be called. The trusty said he had called the number. I learned later from a friend that he had not when jailed, they are required to brush their teeth with a telephone call.

Fright To Shower

For 2 days I was not allowed to take a bath, wash my hands or brush my teeth. When the chief finally asked whether I wanted to take a bath, I refused because I expected to get out the following day. The chief then told me to take a shower, which I did. I never washed myself after that. The trusty made a telephone call.

Letter To The Editor

Reader Complains To President About Army Base Segregation

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a photostat of an article from the MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS, headed “Army’s Segregation.”

In it there is a report of alleged segregated eating facilities, maintained by the Army for persons undergoing induction and pre-induction phases from Army reserves.

If the facts are true, there is nothing for our representatives to do but demand the immediate termination of such discrimination by the Federal Government.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Forbes
Dayton, Ohio

With a news source that is not elsewhere available, I thought that you would be interested in the enclosed three letters that I sent to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, with a copy of your article. I have not gotten replies as yet, but if they are interesting, I will send copies of the replies to you.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Forbes
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neck Bones</td>
<td>4 lbs. 59¢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pig Tails</td>
<td>4 lbs. 59¢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Backs</td>
<td>5 lbs. 59¢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pork Liver</td>
<td>3 lbs. 59¢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacon</td>
<td>lb. 39¢</td>
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<td>Smoked</td>
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<td>Ham Hocks</td>
<td>5 lbs. $1.00</td>
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<td>Pure Valley Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoked Sausage</td>
<td>lb. 49¢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roll Sausage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pork Chops</td>
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<td>Sardines</td>
<td>5 cans $1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortening</td>
<td>3 lbs. 59¢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tissue</td>
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<td>Plantation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potted Meat</td>
<td>2 cans 15¢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peaches</td>
<td>4 large cans $1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carnation or Pet Milk</td>
<td>7 large cans $1.00</td>
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<td>Rutabagas</td>
<td>lb. 7¢</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>2 loaves 39¢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bananas</td>
<td>lb. 10¢</td>
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<td>Blue Plate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayonnaise</td>
<td>pint 29¢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>3 doz. $1.19</td>
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Volunteer workers helping to wipe out polio by taking part in the Sabin Oral Sundays practice clinic at Isabel School are, from left, Nurse Vivian Jacobs, Mrs. Junnita L. Jackson, teacher at Lanie School; Mr. A. N. Jackson, principal of Heway School; and (back to camera) Dr. Robert Smith. Tomorrow clinics will be open in Jackson for everyone to come and receive vaccine on a sugar cube.

Clinics Offer Polio Vaccine

YOU ARE NEEDED

January 12 marks the first Sabin Oral Sunday, a program designed to "wipe out polio completely from this area," sponsored by the Central Medical Society.

Planned to make Sabin Vaccines easily available to everyone, "clinics" are set up in neighborhood schools.

Contributions are voluntary—25 cents or more is suggested. The vaccine will be given free to anyone who wants it. Everyone is urged to cut out the registration form printed at the left and go to the S.O.S. clinic nearest his home.


L. C. Carr Auto Parts
and General Repair

One Day Service

Taylor's Cleaners

841 Lynch Street

What would you do if you lost your keys?

BE SURE

GET EXTRA KEY TUESDAY

Ensured to fit your home both

Mitchell's Grocery Mkt.

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Mitchell's Grocery Mkt.

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Jackson, Miss.

W. P. Lewis, Manager

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Mitchell's Grocery Mkt.

"Your Friendly Corner Store"

2249 Whitfield Hill Rd.

One Day Service

Taylor's Cleaners

841 Lynch Street

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Life Insurance

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DISTRICT OFFICE

125½ No. Farish St.

Jackson, Miss.

W. P. Lewis, Manager

Call 355-3577
SNCC Protests Army Jim Crow

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has asked Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara to "set immediately to halt discrimination in the processing of infantry" in Jackson, Mississippi.

The protest telegram was issued after A.C. Norwood, a SNCC worker, was refused service at the Air Base Grill here in Jackson, while he was taking a physical examination. "When Col. Senn threatened the segregation of government facilities he offered to try to stop it, but now he hasn't done it," the telegram said.

The telegram asked, "Will the Army act to halt Jim Crow to those who are fighting to bring democracy to this country?"

---

No Money, No Food; No School, No Job

(Continued from Page 11) count. He kept me waiting for 30 minutes.

And The Neemis M_epsilon: Bailey is further kept in the dark by the owner's refusal to show him how he determines what he owes. "At the end of each season when its time to settle up, he takes off the expenses for planting, fertilizer, and so forth, and then he says, 'I'll give you ...'"

"That's why he's got the rope around my neck. He won't tell me how he figures the bill." Bailey said.

"For Bailey and his family of seven children, the unhappiness of this is an impoverished way of life. 'We wouldn't get by if I didn't raise some vegetables and chickens on my farm,' he declared. But what little food he can raise is never enough.

Cold and Poor

Bailey's home also shows the marks of poverty. "It leaks when it rains, and its cold in the winter. I wondered the owner for a long time about fixing it. I offered to do the work myself for free if he would supply the materials, but he wouldn't do it," Bailey said.

Poor But Determined

Yet despite Bailey's economic woes he is not afraid to participate in civil rights activities. He was among the hundreds of Leflore County citizens who attended the registration to vote during the drive last spring. He presented his situation to the Advisory Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Citing his low income despite good crops, he requested an investigation to find out where his earnings of the past six years have gone.

Church Activities

"Regardless of the many adverse factors which beset the nation, regardless of the many problems which face the Christian Church, regardless of the moments of darkness and despair which all of us realize from time to time, keep saying 'I'll get you ...'

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