

Door To Door Vote Drive

Seeks 20,000 Voters



Study The Map



Have You Registered To Vote?

(See Page 8)

Mississippi

FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

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Negro Shot In Liberty

Canton Policemen Beat Two Youths

Following a voter registration meeting in Canton, Mississippi, two Negro youths were beaten by the police after they had been taken to jail, COFO officials report.

One of the boys, Arthur Harris, charges that police beat him with a rubber hose, broke a nightstick over his head, started to dry-shave him, and finally shot him at close range with a gun containing blank cartridges.

Will Galloway accuses the police of beating him behind the jail.

Both boys have filed affidavits with the U. S. Department of Justice.

The Canton selective buying campaign and voter registration drive has resulted in numerous incidents of police intimidation and arrests.

To counter the selective buying campaign, city officials have urged that meat companies stop delivering goods to Negro merchants, it is claimed.

One grocery store owner when interviewed by the FREE PRESS, listed a series of tactics used to keep him from operating his store.

"The packing companies have told me that under these conditions (the selective buying campaign) they would be unable to deliver goods to my store," he declared.

"Finally, I was forced to go to the companies myself and pick up my meat orders," the grocer continued. "But the police threatened to stop my car."

because I would be carrying meat."

"I think that pretty well all the Negro stores have been pressured in this manner," he stated.

The grocer listed the methods which Canton police are reported to use to keep Negroes from attending mass meetings.

"The police are always gathered around the church where the mass meetings are being held. After the meeting, we found out that they had placed tickets on all the cars," he said.

"They also parked on church property," he went on to say, "and took pictures to make people afraid for their jobs."

"They have threatened a couple of times to bomb the church," he said.

In the period between January 21 through January 27, arrests of voter registration workers were continuous. The charges for these arrests ranged from "burning leaves on a sidewalk to littering."

The Canton City Council has
(Continued on Page 8)

Said, "Whites Out To Get Him"

The only witness of the Herbert Lee shooting was found dead in his front yard in Liberty, Mississippi, the day after the KKK renewed its terrorizing activities with a series of burning crosses in that area.

He had been shot three times in the head with a shotgun.

Louis Allen, who said he saw Mississippi State representative E. H. Hurst kill Herbert Lee almost three years ago, was found in the driveway of his home by his son with one entire side of his face blown off.

Threats On Life

Despite constant threats on his life and police harassment, Allen had been refused the police protection he had continually asked for after he had witnessed the slaying of the 52 year old Lee.

Unable to testify truthfully at the hearing on the Lee murder because he feared for his safety, Allen's testimony freed Hurst. Later, it is reported that Allen promised to change his testimony if the United States Department of Justice would protect him.

"If you'll give me protection, I'll let the hide fall with the hair," Allen is quoted to have said. But no protection came.

Whites Out To "Get Him"

Allen had been warned that local whites were out to "get him." Listing the numerous outrages which he had suffered because of the knowledge of Lee's killer, Allen filed an affidavit in 1962.

One of the many incidents described in this revealing document states that Allen received a broken jaw as a result of a dispute over a hat.

Arrested by the police because he was asked to make a telephone call for a lady who was imprisoned, Allen spent 2 days in jail with a broken jaw.

A Broken Jaw For A Hat

"When I asked for my hat," Allen's affidavit reads, "the sheriff said 'you can't get it, come on.' I (Allen) asked, 'can my son bring it to me?' He then answered, 'No,' and when I turned my head to tell my son to bring my hat, the deputy sheriff hit me one time on the jaw, then Daniel Jones threw the gun on, and said if you move I'll kill you right here in this front yard."

The affidavit goes on to say that "they (the police) have had someone out to my house 'watching' me all of the time."

Allen ended his affidavit with a plea for an investigation of the harassment directed deliberately at him. "I think this matter should be investigated at once because if not, this kind of intimidation will continue," the affidavit states.

Forced To Lie

At the Hurst hearing, Allen said that he had testified falsely that Herbert Lee had threatened Hurst with a "tire iron."

In his own words, Allen's description of the Lee shooting show that Hurst shot Lee "without provocation."

"I was approaching Lee's truck at the cotton gin," Allen's affidavit states, "I overheard Hurst telling Lee, 'You think I am playing—I am not playing with you.' By that time Lee got out of the truck and Hurst then motioned with his gun, and fired one shot, which struck Lee and he (Lee) fell to the ground."

"At the coroner's jury," Allen told a SNCC worker in 1963, "they asked me about the piece of iron. I said I hadn't seen no (Continued on Page 8)

Editorial Page

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

A Question Of Orderly And Organized Protest

There are questions that remain after the roadblocks, and the bricks, and the bottles have been cleared away, after the injured have been whisked away to hospitals, doctors, strangers and friends. There are questions, and there is the need for us to assess and reassess what we have seen.

We cannot give a single easy answer. And it is not enough for us simply to describe the rioting along Lynch Street. Endless newsreels tell us that street riots change little between Algiers and Vietnam, Vietnam and Jackson, Mississippi.

In how many newsreels, from how many different countries have we watched students gather, and crowds gather while the police or the military reinforce their lines? Incident leads to incident until all tempers are inflamed. And then the destruction begins.

Once it begins, nothing can make Jackson differ from Algiers, or from anywhere else where we have seen violence collect in the streets and explode. The particular meaning of our struggle is lost in chaos, and the particular knowledge that has made our position lawful and right is equally lost. We must look now beyond the fact of violence and say, finally, that there are no answers to be found in the quick of riot.

The control is in our hands, because we have long believed that the Jackson police do not use their power simply to maintain or restore order. Whenever violence threatens, we presume that their tactics will only heighten the already high pitch of anger and outrage.

In the case of last Monday's demonstrations, this fact should have been especially clear as the unity of the demonstrators gave way to disunity, and as order gave way to disorder. From the precise and possible demand for a traffic light, the crowds gave way to an emotional intensity which blindly accepted all demands as possible.

They were met by a police department that was more than willing to use whatever excuse for force the crowds would give.

Monday night's story should have been anticipated, and prevented. Somehow, it was not, so it must now be called a frightening and futile attempt to confront the police on their own level. The result is as we have seen: the bricks, the bottles, and the picture of every riot that has ever been.

Yet so long as we are living under a specific form of oppression, and so long as we have a specific program for change, we cannot belong to a street that resembles all other streets where riots have occurred. The central question, then, may be this: How can we protest without sacrificing the particular nature of our protest? How can we act so that newsreels from Jackson will not show a violence that the world already knows, but will show instead the precise and specific needs of our people?

We have seen now that our "unity" can still break under stress. It is not yet strong enough. And we can see, too, that we have yet to reach full agreement about which demands and proposals are most urgent.

The task of our community is enormous, and the responsibility for preventing such riots in the future is entirely our own. We have been given enough reasons to believe that the power structure in Mississippi would rather see us disorderly and without real direction. We cannot make that mistake.

For this reason alone, we can never again allow Lynch Street to look like streets from other newsreels, scattered with the debris from other riots.

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A Familiar Scene



**"Move Over, Nigger,
 We're Clearing The Streets!"**

Supreme Court

Steel Strike Dispute Shows Court's Power

In last week's article we called the Supreme Court the most powerful voice in American government after the office of the President. The High Court holds this power because it is the one voice assigned to guard and to preserve the principles of the American constitution.

If the court decides that part of the constitution is being violated, its voice is even stronger than that of the President, or the Congress, or the states. A very important part of our history, therefore, is the history of this court using its power to maintain the principles originally set forth in the Constitution.

Judicial Review

The name for the right of the Court to declare a law on an act unconstitutional is called judicial review. By this power the Supreme Court can say to the President of the United States, "You cannot do that specific thing." The court can also say to a state, "You cannot have that law." And, finally, it can tell the Congress of the United States, "You were wrong in passing that law. The constitution does not allow you to make such a law."

An example will show how judicial review works. Near the end of President Truman's term, the steel companies and the steel workers could not agree on wages. After months of dispute the workers decided to strike.

At this time, however, American soldiers were fighting in Korea and President Truman felt that a strike would weaken our military position. In order to insure the continued production of war materials, President Truman ordered the government to take over the steel companies and to operate them until further settlement could be reached.

With the government operating the steel mills, the workers went back to work. Steel companies, however, objected to the government taking over their property. They argued that under the constitution no one could take private property except by proper legal procedure. The lawyers for these companies took their case to the Supreme Court.

An associated press story told of the court's decision:

"Washington—(AP)—President Truman today ordered the return of the steel industry to private owners after the Supreme Court declared his seizure action illegal."

"Washington—(AP)—The Supreme Court today struck down President Truman's seizure of the steel industry. The vote was six to three."

Justice Black delivered the historic decision for the majority.

The court's ruling means the government will have to surrender ownership of the mills."

Law Of The Land

After the supreme court announced its decision to the President, he returned the companies to the owners. President Truman recognized that the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court is the supreme law of the land.

The above example shows us how the Supreme Court can use its authority to overrule every other office in American government. Once, when Justice Frankfurter was asked about the extent of the Court's power he replied, "The Supreme Court IS the constitution." From this remark, we can measure the enormous responsibility and authority of the office of Supreme Court Justice.

2nd SOS Sunday**Clinics Offer Second Polio Dose**

The program designed to wipe out polio completely from this area offers the second dose of the harmless Sabin Polio Vaccine tomorrow, February 16.

Sponsored by Central Medical Society, the first Sabin Oral Sunday drew over 301,500 people, 86.2% of the population, for the first dose of the oral vaccine. Doctors urge all those who got the first dose, and all those who did not, to come to the S.O.S. clinics on February 16 and March 22 to get this easy-to-take protection against polio.

The clinics will be located in the same places where they were on January 12, the first S.O.S. Sunday. People are asked to return to the same clinics they went to for the first dose. The registration form found on this page should be filled out again and presented at the clinic. The registration form should list all members of a family who want the vaccine.

The immunization cards which were given to recipients of the vaccine last month should be brought to the clinics. They will be marked to show that each person has gotten the vaccine.

"Since no make-up Sunday is planned, everybody must try to be present February 16 to get the vaccine," Central Medical officials stated. "Everyone, from babies to oldsters, should take it, whether they have had regular polio shots or not."

The entire S.O.S. program is being financed by donations from the people who give 25 cents or more if he can.

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(Please Print)

Name: _____ Age: _____

I hereby state that I am the head of the household of the above listed persons and I hereby request that Sabin Oral Vaccine be given to the above listed persons.

Signature: _____

Head of Household

Just cut this registration form out and bring it to the S.O.S. clinic nearest you. List everyone in the family who desires to take the second dose of the Sabin vaccine.

permits were faulty.

A Negro gas station owner, jailed earlier for "burning trash without a permit," reported his gas was cut off by an AMOCO representative.

Canton Policemen . . .

(Continued from Page 1) passed a new local law making it illegal to pass out literature in the city unless approved by the mayor and chief of police.

Out of the 17 vote registration workers arrested in Canton, 6 were moved to the Jackson city jail and held "incommunicado," leaders claimed.

Other tactics directed against voter registration efforts are piling up while, at the same time, tension in Madison County mounts. On January 30, police halted operations of all Negro cabs, claiming that their

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In Orderly Protest

360,000 Boycott Schools In N.Y.C.

New York City became the scene last week for the largest civil rights protest in the nation's history. With city school absences 360,000 above normal, thousands of peaceful student pickets joined the one-day school boycott in a common drive for school integration and improved race relations.

Even more important than the statistics of last week's protest, however, was the fact the Negro and Puerto Rican communities joined together to work for common purposes. There was no violence. As the pickets marched they chanted "Jim Crow must go," and sang "We Shall Overcome."

The orderly marchers were also joined by hundreds of white students in the massive demonstration of opposition to school authorities. A reported 3,537 teachers were also absent from New York City schools in defiance of the orders of school officials.

Successful Protest

The integration protest was hailed as a success by civil rights leaders throughout the city. Many educators, clergymen, and distinguished private citizens also praised the school boycott action.

At United Nations Headquarters in New York, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under Secretary for Special Political Affairs, had this to say as a private citizen:

"This sort of demonstration is effective when it serves to express the basic discontent of a substantial portion of the popu-

lation, and certainly there is a very deep discontent with regard to the school situation here."

Not A Solution

Dr. Bunche, however, was careful to point out that the school boycott could only dramatize the need for racial equality, it could not offer solutions. "I'm glad this demonstration was effective," he continued, "but I don't have any illusion about how deeply it goes in resolving the fundamental problem, of which the situation in the schools is a mere reflection—the problem of the racial ghettos."

"We haven't really attacked that yet," Dr. Bunche said, "and the first necessity is a determination on the part of the city government that it is going to be attacked."

Similar feelings were expressed elsewhere. At Union Theological Seminary, Dr. John C. Bennett, the seminary's newly appointed president said:

Whites Removed

"I think the white people of New York are so far removed from the real dynamics of the problem that Negroes have to apply more and more pressure. Without pressure, the white people will always postpone. They

never do enough."

The Rev. Canon William S. Van Meter, director of Christian Social Relations for the Protestant Council said he thought the demonstrations for racial justice were "a new form that democracy is taking—the application of the old principle of petition—and a healthy thing for people to participate in."

Mrs. Adele B. Tunick, president of the United Parents Association, added: "We hope now that all groups will unite in a sort of biracial coalition in which all parents will address themselves to the places where they can get appropriate action—City Hall, the State Legislature, and the Board of Education."

Democracy By Pressure

A few public school teachers in New York added their opinions to the many comments about the school boycott. One white teacher of high school geography said: "I think it is one of the essential things in de-

mocracy to learn that we have democracy by pressure. It's all pressure. You lean on the door and it opens. That's why I'm picketing."

Another teacher explained, "I used to teach in Harlem. I know the conditions there—the water flowing from the toilets into the halls, the doors hanging by one hinge, the children crowded in classrooms. I feel that the only way to improve things there, and everywhere in the system, is to integrate and improve all schools."

Enthusiastic comments also came from the offices of the integrationist leaders who rejoiced at the success of the protest. At the Citywide Commit-

tee for Integrated Schools, leaders declared that the development of a New York movement seemed near realization. Bayard Rustin, the man who directed the boycott, expressed his feelings this way: "I think we are on the threshold of a new political movement—and I do not mean it in the party sense—that is going to change the face of New York in housing, in jobs, and in schools."

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In Beckwith Trial

White Jury Cornered

The juryman waited wearily down the steps of the Hinds county courthouse, to be greeted by the flashing bulbs of photographers and by questions from reporters.

Shifting his heavy suitcase from one hand to the other as he was interviewed, the juryman said, "We must have balled about 20 times. And at no time were we near a verdict."

After 11 days of listening to the testimonies of 56 witnesses, and after almost 24 hours of discussion, the 12 man white jury hearing the murder trial of Byron De La Beckwith was "hopelessly deadlocked."

The cynicism of Mississippi Negroes changed little during the 11 day court hearings. Opinion was not altered even in the face of the detailed and painstaking efforts on the part of the state, the prosecution, to convict Beckwith of the ambush shooting of Medgar Evers.

Ask For The Moon

Although District Attorney William L. Waller stated before the trial that he would be asking the jury to do what no other panel is believed to have done in the state's history—order the execution of a white for the murder of a Negro—the climate of opinion refused to admit conviction as a possible outcome of the trial.

Outside reporters, accustomed to the due process of the law, watched Waller as he called numerous surprise witnesses to the stand and as these witnesses decisively pinpointed Beckwith as the slayer.

Packing the balcony of the courtroom, they watched as the lawyers for Beckwith's defense, Sanders and Lott, stumbled through the barrage of evidence against Beckwith.

Although almost uncontested evidence was presented, it became apparent that the Beckwith trial was no ordinary trial, but a drawn out procedure that complied with the pressures upon Mississippi justice.

Waller—The Image Maker

From the first, the selection of the jury outlined sharply that race and a 12 man jury were on trial. The evidence piled up against Beckwith only set the stage for the real drama: the fact that neither

acquittal nor conviction was possible.

Acquittal was impossible because of the sudden concern for "Mississippi's image" in the eyes of the nation. The Wash-

ington Post reported on Feb-

ruary 2, the 5th day of the trial, that there was, perhaps, another spur for the vigorous prosecution other than "jus-

"With the concern for that (Jackson's image) now present, a conviction of Beckwith might not be political death. On the other hand, a good try for conviction, even though an acquittal resulted, might help Jackson's image.

It is interesting to note that Waller was concerned enough by mid-week of the trial to stop saying, "nigger," as he interviewed witnesses.

A Showcase For Fairness
The showcase for the sincerity of the State to convict Beckwith began with the small-like pace selection of the jury.

To secure an "untainted" jury, Waller probed the 109 people called with a few questions like: "Would you be influenced agree?"

Again, "Even if Evers' work

was obnoxious to you, can you put it out of your mind in this case?"

And again, "Do you have any of these things in common with



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him (Beckwith) that would cause you to be in sympathy with him?"

Beckwith — Unique

And the trial began with Waller's promise of showing the court 10 ways to prove Beckwith shot Evers. After 30 pieces of evidence brought before the court, the only gap in the State's prosecution was proof that Beckwith fired the rifle.

The most revealing testimony was offered by Captain Hargrove of the Jackson police department. Hargrove, a fingerprint expert, testified that he was certain the fingerprint found on the telescopic sight of the rifle belonged to Beckwith. The fingerprint was found to be "heavy with perspiration," and only 12 hours old when Hargrove examined it.

Lott, himself heavy with perspiration, attempted to prove that Hargrove could not be sure that the fingerprint was Beckwith's. He asked, "You mean, no other person in the United States has a portion of a fingerprint like that?"

Hargrove answered, "Yes, sir. That's what I mean."

Finally, as the jury deliberated, the real issue of the trial became immediately clear, but at the same time, wearisome. A headline from the Memphis Press-Scimitar underlined the harshness of an ancient issue that could not be overlooked: Can a Mississippi jury provide equal justice for a dead Negro integrationist and an accused white supremacist?

By Mississippi Law, the hung jury, the mis-trial, might be regarded as a step forward in the progress of Mississippi justice—a justice which begins to operate fairly only by the pressure of public opinion and concern for the "Mississippi image."

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Door To Door Vote Drive



A door to door voter registration drive pushes onward at a slow but determined pace in the Jackson area, COFO officials announced.

"We expect it to be slow, but our goal is 20,000 registered voters," Charles Evers, Mississippi Field Secretary for the NAACP, stated.

Designed to hit the outskirts of Jackson, vote registration workers are canvassing all the areas in which there are no regular registration classes.

"The vote worker goes door to door with a questionnaire," explained SNCC member Willy Blue, "and asks the occupant whether he has registered to vote or whether he would be willing to come down to the courthouse and register."

"We plan to set up regular mass meetings in the Jackson outskirts," he continued. "And we will begin 4 hour vote registration classes."

CR Bill Passes House, Senate Debates Next

A strong Civil Rights Bill, with all major provisions still intact, passed the House last week with a 230-130 roll-call vote. Supporters of the rights measure are now arranging for the bill to be met "at the door" of the Senate—a parliamentary move which could aid speeding the bill through the Senate.

According to Washington reports, administration leaders are "cautiously confident" that the bill will clear the Senate before the Easter recess. Although Southern Senators are not expected to sit quietly and forego the customary filibuster, supporters of the legislation are nevertheless confident that

Southern opposition will run out of steam in a matter of weeks.

President Lyndon Johnson called the House action last week "an historic step forward for the cause of human dignity in America." Despite Dixie opposition aimed at watering down the provisions of the legislation, the bill that will now pass to the Senate floor is even stronger than the one proposed by the late President Kennedy.

Dixiecrat opposition in the House was concentrated, unsuccessfully, against the public accommodations measures and against the right of the federal government to withhold funds for public works.

Senate debates are expected to bring much of the same, ap-

parently because the Southerners' only real claim to opposition is the infringement of states rights by the federal government. On questions of "human dignity" the Southern lobbyists have been notoriously silent.

Despite their campaign against the bill, reports indicate that Southern lawmakers still cannot count on a single ally outside their region.

With only 17 or 18 Senators ready to filibuster in the coming Senate debate, predictions in Washington are that the Southern block can continue to oppose the bill only so long. As a result, Senate civil rights leaders there are determined to push the rights bill by holding continuous day and night sessions.

Negro Shot

(Continued from Page 1)

iron. "Is this the piece of iron?" I said, "yes." Allen stated he had been forced to lie at the grand jury investigation also.

Mrs. Allen reports that she heard shooting around 7:30 Friday, January 31, the

evening Allen was found dead, but was afraid to investigate. Allen's son found his father's lifeless body beneath the Allen car later that night around 11:00.

Adding an ironic note to his brother's death, Morris Allen of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, said Louis Allen had planned to leave Mississippi less than 12 hours after he was murdered.

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