Mississippi

FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

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Bill Battle Waged

The debate has begun in the Senate on the House-passed Civil Rights bill, a debate that some predict could last for months. Southern Senators, led by Sen. Richard B. Russell of Georgia and Sen. John C. Stennis of Mississippi, claim that their interest in this unlimited debate is only in "providing adequate discussion" and "educating the voters." They are counting on 18 or 19 senators out of 100 in the total body to stand with their Southern team in this long-talking fight, and after their initial strategy meeting Senator Russell told reporters:

"I see no room for compromise on our part. We will fight to the last ditch."

Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, Democratic Whip Hubert Humphrey, and Republican Whip Thomas Kuchol provide the leadership for a coalition of Democrats and Republicans who are backing the bill. They expect to win passage of the bill in substantially the same form as it passed the House, but the battle could stretch indefinitely, depending upon how long members can last out the flow of words and whether or not a two-thirds majority will shut off debate after a reasonable time by invoking cloture.

Senator Humphrey summed up the feelings of the proponents of the bill when he said that bill "represents a consensus of reasonable men. Let us begin. We are late — mighty late. We should demonstrate to the United States that we are worthy of being stewards of the Constitution."

PRESIDENT Lyndon B. JOHNSON discusses with Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz the increased number of Negroes holding Federal jobs.

Johnson Reports More Negroes With Fed. Jobs

Opportunities for minority employees in the Federal Government are getting better every year, President Lyndon B. Johnson has revealed

The report showed impressive gains in the number of higher-paid jobs filled by Negroes and other minorities.

President Johnson said he was pleased at the remarkable progress achieved by the Government's equal employment opportunity program for the second successive year.

"This is the result of affirmative and persistent efforts by the Federal agencies to hire, train and promote solely on the basis of merit without irrelevant considerations of race or ancestry," he said. "Utilization studies at the beginning of the program disclosed skills and potential among our minority employees which had been overlooked in the past. We had some catching up to do. These changes in the minority employment picture do not reflect special privilege. They are the

(See Table On Page 3)

Stars Still Shun Biased Shows Here

A concert pianist has joined a growing list of performers and public figures who refuse to appear before segregated audiences here.

Civil rights groups here and in Atlanta, Georgia, said they had asked three other performers—opera singer Eleanor Steber, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and Jose Molina's Bailes Espanoles — have been asked to cancel segregated Mississippi dates.

The pianist, Gary Graffman, canceled a February 27 appearance at Jackson's Municipal Auditorium after he received protests from Austin Moore, chairman of the Cultural and Artistic Committee of the Non-violent Agitation Association of College Pupils, composed of students at Tougaloo Southern Christian College.

Israeli pianist David Bar Illan refused to replace Graffman at the concert, but another pianist, Hans Richter-Haaser appeared in Graffman's place.

Two Negro students and a Yale University student from England were arrested November 2, 1963 when they tried to attend a concert by the Royal Philharmonic of London at the city's auditorium. Charges against the three were dropped when a representative from the British Consul's office in New Orleans appeared at their trial.

Protests from the Tougaloo group have convinced a number of artists and public figures to bypass scheduled Mississippi performances. The stars of television's "Bonanza" and "Beverly Hillbillies" shows and the members of the touring "Hootenanny" canceled Jackson dates when informed of the city's segregation policies. So did trumpeter Al Hirt, who was slated to appear at a segregated benefit for the March of Dimes.

Baseball great Stan (the man) Musial canceled a February 24 speaking engagement before an all-white group in Jackson after SNCC Chairman John Lewis asked him to. Musial, newly named Director of the President's Committee On Physical Fitness, made no mention of Lewis' request when he notified the sponsors of his talk he would not appear.

James Webb, administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, canceled a speech before another segregated group after protests from SNCC and the Tougaloo student group.

Miss Steber, scheduled to appear in Greenwood, Mississippi on March 16, the Pittsburgh Symphony, set for Columbus, Mississippi on March 15, and the Jose Molina Bailes Espa-

(See Table On Page 3)

FREEDOM WRITER — Andy Mitchell

Only Dis An' Nothin Mo'

You know, quite often we hear these old Southern Politicians saying that "Well, everything isn't so rosy up North."

And of course, that's true. But somehow that does not seem to this particular bird that makes what they are doing down here any better or more legal or more moral.

Anyway, I recently ran across a little poem that I thought I would pass on to you. See what you think. It is supposed to be by a Southern politician.

Once upon a school day dreary
While I waited weak and weary
With a shotgun by the door
Suddenly I heard a tapping
Like some black boy gently rapping
Rapping at da school house door
Only dis an' nothing mo'

Roasting Wallace from his slumber
Crept we to da school house door
Armed with shotgun and police dogs
Only slightly used before
Said we to dat gentle rapping
Rapping at da school house door
Who's dat der? An' nothing mo'

Presently we heard a rumbleing
Tanks were coming four by four
Then a voice said we's da army
Open up dat school house door
We replied with cry of battle
Intaeration never more!
Only dis an' nothing mo'

Open up or us'll blast you
Hold it boy ah we's reconcidered
Ross go open up da door
Us'll integrate when you does
Silence from beyond the door
Will you lend us yo' police dogs?
Only dis an' nothing mo'

2625 Canton Students Stay Home From School

Over 2,625 Canton Junior and Senior high school students stayed away from school last week in protest of the conditions of their school and facilities.

The school boycott came a few days after the FREEDOM DAY demonstration in that city brought over 350 Negro citizens to the Madison County court house to attempt to register and vote.

Apparently the students were acting independently of the voter registration, however, when they rallied support amongst themselves to draw attention to their educational plight. The students sent a letter explaining the reasons for the protest to the Superintendent of the Canton Schools, Dean Allen. They also sent copies of the letter to their school principal, James Jones Jr., and Canton Mayor L. S. Matthews.

The letter outlining the students grievances read as follows:

Canton, Mississippi
March 1, 1964

Dear Sirs:

We, the students of Rogers High, are highly dissatisfied with the conditions at our school.

(1) Books in poor repair and not enough of them.

(2) No enough chemicals and equipment for the chemistry laboratory.

(3) Typewriters in poor condition and not enough of them.

(4) Home economics laboratory poorly equipped.

(5) No physical education for high school students.

(6) No foreign languages taught.

(7) Insufficient first aid equipment.

(8) Insufficient library.

(9) Inadequate shop facilities.

(10) Overcrowded classes — too large.

(11) Overcrowded and broken buses.

(12) Building in poor repair.

(13) No lockers for students.

This is the main reason why we, the students at Rogers High, decided to stay at home today, Monday, March 2, to ask for improvement in the conditions at our school.

We would like a representative from the Board of Education to come to Rogers High Friday, March 6, to tell the students what the board is going to do about these conditions.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

The Students at Rogers High

Tougaloo Presents 'Inherit The Wind'

The Tougaloo Players will present "Inherit The Wind" at Tougaloo College on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 19, 20 and 21 in the Ballard Hall Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

"Inherit The Wind" is based on some of the events which surrounded the "Scopes Monkey Trial" in 1925 in Dayton, Tennessee. Scopes, a young biology teacher, was arrested and tried for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution in the local high school. The case gained national attention because of the lawyers who became involved in it. The prosecution included William Jennings Bryan, the "silver-tongued orator," and the defense lawyer was Clarence Darrow, one of the nation's most brilliant lawyers of the twentieth century.

The authors have taken this historical background and created a drama which raised two important questions: 1. What should be the relationship between religion and science? 2. What should be the relationship between the state and the individual's right to express unorthodox ideas?

Heading a large supporting cast are Stephen Rudledge, the prosecutor; Robert Honeysucker, the defense lawyer; James Armstrong, the defendant, and Melinda Willis, his sweetheart.

For ticket reservations call the Public Relations Office at Tougaloo College — Telephone 366-3425.

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New Members On YW Committee

The following persons were elected to serve on the Branch Y.W.C.A. Committee on Administration for 1964-65. Mrs. Ollie Bailey, Mrs. Doris Greene, Mrs. Esther Howard, Mrs. E. E. Lovelace, Miss Vergy Porter, and Mrs. Lee E. Williams. Miss O'Byrne Price was elected to fill the unexpired term of Dr. C. D. Thompson who is now in Africa.

Have you been here long? Are you brand-new? Here's an invitation cordial and true: Wherever you are whatever you do, the Y.W.C.A. — A United Givers Agency will welcome you:

Persons joining this week are: Miss Bergie Jones, Miss Martha Applewhite, Mrs. Theresa Pearl Castilla, Mrs. Mattie W. Wilson, Mrs. Hattie Ammons, Mrs. Ethel Harrison, Mrs. Mable Stewart, Mrs. Minnie Lee Pender, Mrs. W. O. Gill, Mrs. Doris Chambers, Mrs. Trilby Darry, and Mrs. Susie Walker.

Johnson Reports . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

result of insistence by President Kennedy, the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, which I headed as Vice President, and the agencies themselves that employees be hired, promoted and upgraded on the basis of merit alone."

Stars Shun

(Continued from Page 1)

noles, booked for a March 9 appearance in Clarksdale, have all been asked to cancel by SNCC.

Negroes were admitted to a speech made February 20 by Howard K. Smith, CBS news commentator at Ole Miss.

Congressman Robert McClory (R-Ill.) had canceled a February 20 speech before an all-white group of Mississippi Republican women.

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Natchez Man Might Be KKK Lynch Victim

Recently the FREE PRESS received a letter from a subscriber which told of an apparent lynching in Natchez. The letter said that when the brief news article which reported the death of Clifton Walker, 34, of Wilkinson County, it made no suggestion that there might have been foul play.

The FREE PRESS subscriber says that the car in which the victim was found was full of bullet holes.

It only appears that the cross burners in that area were "having another night of it."

The letter read as follows:

Dear Sirs,

I already subscribe to your paper and I enjoy reading it very much, and I would like for you to reprint this article because the Natchez paper did not tell the whole story about this particular incident. We all understand that Clifton Walker works at the International Paper Company in Natchez. He was working on the 3 until 11 o'clock shift at night, but he lived somewhere between Woodville and Centerville, Mississippi and a gang ambushed him. He was found in his car the next day riddled with buck shots.

A Respectful Reader

He ended with a P.S. "A large number of School students have been shot at by white men here in Natchez."

The article which the subscriber enclosed read as follows. "The body of a 34 year old Wilkinson County man, identified as Clifton Walker was brought to the Williams and Williams Funeral Home yesterday and an autopsy was held by Dr. Leo Scanlon.

The body of the man was found in his automobile near his home about six miles north of Woodville, according to attendants at the funeral home.

Official report of the autopsy has not been made."

Charles Evers, Field Secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People issued a news release in regard to another shooting. The release said:

"Negroes in Mississippi need Federal protection from Mississippi's blood thirsty law officers. The number of cases of legalized exterminators and shooting of unarmed Negroes by trigger happy gunmen with badges is staggering.

"Any Negro wanted by Mississippi badge wearing cops is subject to extermination at any time and the excuse is always the same, "I though he was reaching for a gun."

"On Saturday, February 29, a Hinds County deputy sheriff shot and killed an unarmed Negro youth. The officer who had chased the youth into a restaurant said he thought the unarmed youth was going to attack."

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