Revolt on Rio Grande

By JOHN SPRAGENS, JR. (_PROTOGRAPHY)

RIO GRANDE CITY, Texas—Instead of “Freedom now,” the cry of black workers in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, the shouts heard were “Civil rights now!”

But the strike, and in the Rio Grande Valley the cry of “Civil rights now!” is equa l opportunity, and we don’t have equal opportunity.”

That the ground work for the structure referred to was the strike. We may have speeded it up and it happened anyway. We may side help has come from many sources.

To an extent, the strike is reminiscent of the student protests of the Civil Rights movement. As early as the spring of 1960, the student protests, some of whom had already been expelled from school for their organizing efforts, gave a definite impetus to the movement.

A contributing factor to this has been the pressure of both students and college officials to keep young people in school.

As soon as the spring of 1960, the university administration, in increasing numbers, supplemented its efforts with signs welcoming students back.

Four hundred students were returned to the university. The university administration, in increasing numbers, supplemented its efforts with signs welcoming students back.

The revitalized SNCC campus program is geared to stimulate new recruits into the movement. Although large numbers of students participated in the 1960 student demonstrations, only a small percentage of the thousands of students enrolled in Negro colleges have ever become Movement workers.

If the students have not been sufficiently stimulated by the reports of the students at Alcorn College who were convicted of criminal libel for a pamphlet he wrote during a mine strike in this area in 1963, the decision was a victory for free speech and important for civil rights groups now beginning to plan organizing in the Southern mountains.

The case was that of Steve Ashon, who was a student at Oberlin College when he came to Eastern Kentucky. He had been collecting food and clothing for striking miners.

During his visit here, he wrote a report on conditions among the strikers. The report had uncompromising things to say about the local police chief, sheriff, and newspaper publisher. For this, he was convicted of criminal libel and sentenced to six months in prison and a $2,000 fine.

The Supreme Court said that the Kentucky criminal libel law, as applied in this case, was unconstitutional. The trial judge at Hazard had instructed the jury that criminal libel is “any writing calculated to create a false sense of the peace, corrupt the public morals, or lead to any act which, when done, is indictable.”

The high court said that interpretation was “too vague to be enforced.”

Ashon was represented by Ephraim London, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, and Ben Jack Coombs, Pikeville, Ky.

FOOD FOR THE STRIKERS is distributed at a warehouse owned by Margil Sanchez, a local strike leader. Food, clothing and money have been donated to the union by many groups and individuals to keep the strike going. (Photo by John Spragens.)
Free Speech Fight

UNC Tests State Speaker Ban

By CAROL STEVENS

The most publicized free speech fight on a northern campus is taking place here at the University of North Carolina.

Since 1963 when the State legislature unanimously passed a law limiting campus speakers, a university movement for change has been building up. This spring the fight went to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The law specifies that no member of the Communist Party of the United States, no person known to the chancellor to advocate overthrow of the government of the United States or North Carolina, and no person known to have pledged the Fifth Amendment in any way, any time, in connection with communism or subversive activities or associations, will be allowed to use state educational facilities for public purposes.

Many reasons are given as to why the legislature passed the bill. It has been said that a red scare got started by rumors that the Communist party was a hotbed of radicals. UNC has a long record of student protest — the militant movement for de-segregated public facilities in 1963 was started by the Student Peace Union and other campus groups.

But when the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities threatened to throw the Carolina schools on the grounds of political interference by the university, a state legislature, and UNC administration, a movement to reconsider the ban began to reconsider the ban. Last summer Governor David辉 appointed a commission to study the law. The commission recommended modifying the boards of trustees of the colleges and universities responsible for deciding who should speak on campus. In November the legislature adopted the chancellor's recommendation and the trustees of the University of North Carolina and the other schools immediately rubber-stamped it.

The 36-member student body for a Democratic Society (SDS) spoke at Chapel Hill and many moderate groups vigorously protested. However, the commission's recommendation was not treated with the same coolness.

They invited Herbert Aptheker, historian and member of the Communist Party, and Frank Wilkinson, chairman of the National Committee to Abolish HUAC, to speak in March.

SDS got tentative clearance for the speakers from Chancellor Sharp, who referred the decision to the trustees' executive committee. Faculty and students opposed for a favorable decision to the commission. Only the full board of 100 could decide. And the full arrowing has refused to decide, insisting it was up to the chancellor.

Meanwhile Sharp had resigned so the decision fell to Acting Chancellor Streifer, who denied the request.

A Poverty Worker's Fight

The Southern Patriot

The Southern Patriot is published monthly except July by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 3210 West Broadway, Louisville, Ky., 40211.

President

FRED L. SHUETTLEWORTH

Vice-President

HARRY BOYTE

Secretary

JESSIE F. GOJMAN

Treasurer

DOUGA RUTHERSON

Editor

ANNA BRADEN

Assistant Secretary

CLARK CAMERON

Assistant Editors

ROBERT WASHINGTON

Office Manager

DENNIS ESPINO

Vol. 24, No. 6

June, 1966

The Southern Patriot

Biography of an idealistic Carpergheter

Allison Tourgée (1888-1965) was a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement, incomplete freedom for white disfranchised from white disfranchised from whites. He was a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement, a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement.

Book Notes

Biography of an idealistic Carpergheter

Allison Tourgée (1888-1965) was a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement, incomplete freedom for white disfranchised from whites. He was a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement, a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement.

The Southern Patriot

The Southern Patriot is published monthly except July by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 3210 West Broadway, Louisville, Ky., 40211.

President

FRED L. SHUETTLEWORTH

Vice-President

HARRY BOYTE

Secretary

JESSIE F. GOJMAN

Treasurer

DOUGA RUTHERSON

Editor

ANNA BRADEN

Assistant Secretary

CLARK CAMERON

Assistant Editors

ROBERT WASHINGTON

Office Manager

DENNIS ESPINO

Vol. 24, No. 6

June, 1966

The Southern Patriot

Biography of an idealistic Carpergheter

Allison Tourgée (1888-1965) was a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement, incomplete freedom for white disfranchised from whites. He was a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement, a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement.

The Southern Patriot

The Southern Patriot is published monthly except July by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 3210 West Broadway, Louisville, Ky., 40211.

President

FRED L. SHUETTLEWORTH

Vice-President

HARRY BOYTE

Secretary

JESSIE F. GOJMAN

Treasurer

DOUGA RUTHERSON

Editor

ANNA BRADEN

Assistant Secretary

CLARK CAMERON

Assistant Editors

ROBERT WASHINGTON

Office Manager

DENNIS ESPINO

Vol. 24, No. 6

June, 1966

The Southern Patriot

Biography of an idealistic Carpergheter

Allison Tourgée (1888-1965) was a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement, incomplete freedom for white disfranchised from whites. He was a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement, a leader in America's first integrated civil rights movement.
Low Wages Spark Strike

(Continued from page 1)

The strikers expect that after growers meet their demands, life will not be quite so hard. But, more than that, they have hopes for their children. A striker who quit school after the sixth grade says proudly that he is sacrificing so that his children may have a better chance.

He is typical of the parents, whose median educational level is sixth grade. And he wants his children to complete high school even though he knows he'll have to struggle to provide their food and supplies on what he makes.

Other children will not be so fortunate, for these parents must follow the crops north. Percentage of migrants range from about 40 per cent in Rio Grande City to as many as 90 per cent in Laredo. These families live in; dirty tin shacks when they are on the road. They sleep on the floor. And if their children go to school, they go irregularly.

A Guide to Negro History

Erwin A. Salk has compiled a very useful Layman's Guide to Negro History now available in paperback (Quadrangle Books, 180 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago 6, Ill., 192 pages, clothbound, $1.95; paper back. $1.95, 1966).

It contains listings of books on Negroes in American Wars, Negro in Congress, Negro slave revolts and protests, Negro cultural history, the Negro as an inventor, books and pamphlets on race, teaching materials and guides, lists of organizations and pertinent periodicals, population census figures, selected books for children and young adults, and many other categories.

It is a convenient reference for teachers, librarians, students, and movement leaders.—C.S.

The union is working for the day when families will not have to pull their children out of school, board up their homes, and hit the road. The hope of a stable community is behind these wage demands.

The children work, too. The growers pay little attention to age, except that the young children often get only half-wage pay. Other children have been able to get jobs in the Neighborhood Youth Corps, but the power structure has their finger in the management of this program.

One of the local leaders of the strike had a signed statement from a NYC worker who was told by his foreman that he would be fired from his NYC job if he joined the union. This teen-ager is not the only one who has been threatened.

The union has given the workers a voice, and it has aroused their spirit and political instincts. Both are evident in the march and in the slow but effective area organizing meetings.

The union is growing because people hear the call of the organizers on the car driving past their houses and they come to the meetings. They hear speechers from areas which are already part of the union and the strike and they hear news of California where the strike has worked. It is slow, but they join, they picket, they convince others.

The economic effects of the strike are hard to assess. The winter was too cold and the growing season too rainy for a good melon crop. Melons are rotting in the fields, but it is difficult to tell if this is the result of the strike or the bad season. Truckloads of melons continue to roll out of the fields, picked by Mexicans and some U.S. workers who have not joined the union.

Even if the strike has done no economic damage, its political impact is evident. The workers have organized to do something for themselves.

Because this has never happened before, and because they did not see it coming this time, the growers are surprised. Some inside reports indicate that they are even frightened by this unexpected turn of events. As a local union leader put it, "The sleeping giant has awakened!"

The union depends, and will depend more as the strike grows, on outside help for money, food, and clothes. And they especially need trained legal help; their one lawyer cannot possibly do much work as the lawyers the big farms can hire in quantity.

But they have the spirit, the drive. They have a plan, a program. The children waiting in the car while their parents sign up after a meeting practice the new word: "Huelga!"

(Readers who wish to help the Texas strikers may send contributions to National Farm Workers Association, Box 34, Rio Grande City, Tex.)

STICKS, STONES, MUD AND TIN are the primary building materials in this house, which is home to one of the farm workers leading the Starr strike. Octavio de la Cruz, his father, and other kin live in this and several small wooden shacks on a plot of ground at the edge of a farm. Some families live in the relative coolness of mud-brick houses, but others make their homes from scrap metal which traps all the heat of the Texas sun. De la Cruz is one of the workers who is temporarily in California, where NFWA strikers have secured a major contract. (Photos by John Spragens.)

Small Growers Help

RIO GRANDE CITY, Texas—Field workers and small growers are working together in the Rio Grande valley to try to improve conditions of both.

The workers want better pay, and the small growers want a better way to sell their crops. At present they have to depend on packing sheds owned by large growers, which take the crops on consignment, then pay the small growers. Sales receipts are never shown, and small growers doubt that they are getting the proper amount for their crops.

Several small growers have agreed to meet demands by the National Farm Workers' Association (NFWA) for $1.25 an hour wages to field workers, even though most of them can ill afford it. They think it is the right thing to do.

One of the small growers was reported willing to take other jobs himself in order to make enough money to pay the union wage. In return, the NFWA is helping these small growers find ways to organize and finance co-op packing sheds. In this way the growers will be able to get proper return on their crops and so be able to afford the higher wages to workers.

THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT

Subscription Blank

The Patriot is sent to all persons who give $2 or more annually to the Southern Conference Educational Fund. I enclose ... of which $2 is for Patriot subscription.

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City _________________________________

If you want to send The Patriot to friends, enclose their names. Return form to:

SCEF

2210 W. Broadway

Louisville, Ky. 40211
Students Leaflet At Draft Exams

(Off Staff Correspondent)

Students taking the national draft deferment examination at 85 Southern centers were urged to take an alternative Vietnam Exam instead during May and June.

According to the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC) in Nashville, the protest went smoothly with few incidents on any of the four testing dates — two in May, two in June.

Some of the questions concern identification of statements by "leading figures" in the conflict, military operations in Vietnam, estimating the number of South Vietnamese army desertions, how much money America spends on the war, the legal basis for the war, and so forth.

Sample question: "Chemical agents destruction will have the following predictable effects on enemy-held territories: (A) Enemy operations will be severely hampered; (B) Death from starvation will occur; first of all in young children and the elderly; (C) Adult men are the least likely and last to suffer disease and death. (pick two)."

SSOC received reports from the University of South Carolina at Columbia and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville that the students were stopped when they tried to be leafleted. But at the June 3 exam in Knoxville students were allowed to. In Columbia the committee of scholars, is designed to inform students of the legal questions and answers concerning our involvement in the Vietnam war.

Some of the questions concern: identification of statements by "leading figures" in the conflict, military operations in Vietnam, estimating the number of South Vietnamese army desertions, how much money America spends on the war, the legal basis for the war, and so forth.

Sample question: "Chemical agents destruction will have the following predictable effects on enemy-held territories: (A) Enemy operations will be severely hampered; (B) Death from starvation will occur; first of all in young children and the elderly; (C) Adult men are the least likely and last to suffer disease and death. (pick two)."

SSOC received reports from the University of South Carolina at Columbia and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville that the students were stopped when they tried to be leafleted. But at the June 3 exam in Knoxville students were allowed to. In Columbia the committee of scholars, is designed to inform students of the legal questions and answers concerning our involvement in the Vietnam war.

Some of the questions concern: identification of statements by "leading figures" in the conflict, military operations in Vietnam, estimating the number of South Vietnamese army desertions, how much money America spends on the war, the legal basis for the war, and so forth.

Sample question: "Chemical agents destruction will have the following predictable effects on enemy-held territories: (A) Enemy operations will be severely hampered; (B) Death from starvation will occur; first of all in young children and the elderly; (C) Adult men are the least likely and last to suffer disease and death. (pick two)."

SSOC received reports from the University of South Carolina at Columbia and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville that the students were stopped when they tried to be leafleted. But at the June 3 exam in Knoxville students were allowed to. In Columbia the committee of scholars, is designed to inform students of the legal questions and answers concerning our involvement in the Vietnam war.

Some of the questions concern: identification of statements by "leading figures" in the conflict, military operations in Vietnam, estimating the number of South Vietnamese army desertions, how much money America spends on the war, the legal basis for the war, and so forth.

Sample question: "Chemical agents destruction will have the following predictable effects on enemy-held territories: (A) Enemy operations will be severely hampered; (B) Death from starvation will occur; first of all in young children and the elderly; (C) Adult men are the least likely and last to suffer disease and death. (pick two)."

SSOC received reports from the University of South Carolina at Columbia and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville that the students were stopped when they tried to be leafleted. But at the June 3 exam in Knoxville students were allowed to. In Columbia the committee of scholars, is designed to inform students of the legal questions and answers concerning our involvement in the Vietnam war.

Some of the questions concern: identification of statements by "leading figures" in the conflict, military operations in Vietnam, estimating the number of South Vietnamese army desertions, how much money America spends on the war, the legal basis for the war, and so forth.

Sample question: "Chemical agents destruction will have the following predictable effects on enemy-held territories: (A) Enemy operations will be severely hampered; (B) Death from starvation will occur; first of all in young children and the elderly; (C) Adult men are the least likely and last to suffer disease and death. (pick two).

(Signed)