Protests Cut Penalty

Jury Gives Wansley Life

(Staff Correspondent)

"After trying, for a long time, to find the right words to thank the many people of Lynchburg and throughout the United States for their tireless vigil for my life, I’ve come to the conclusion that there will never be adequate words to express my gratitude to them.

“These people have showed me that although I was and am just one of millions, and I am just another Negro, there is someone who cares. These wonderful people have shown me that my life is valuable and something to live for and to a new outlook on the world as a whole. By their acts, they have said, "We will not see this injustice done. We will not let even Mr. Judge and Mr. Commonwealth wealth take a life in vain."

“At one time, I’ll have to admit, I almost lost faith in mankind but these people have restored it. They have showed me that even though there may be evil, hatred and war in the world, it is still a beautiful world and there are a lot of good people in it who will fight for justice and fight for life."

—Thomas Wansley

Four years ago, Thomas Wansley was convicted of two rape charges and sentenced to death. A handful of people in this Southside Virginia town believed he was innocent but, by and large, he was very much alone.

Last month Wansley was retried on one of the rape charges. This time, friends and supporters crowded the courtroom and filled the street outside for the five days of the trial.

He was convicted again—but the sentence was life imprisonment, not death. A week later the local judge dismissed the second rape charge and said it was "forever barred from prosecution."

The movement which sprang up to support Wansley had made a difference—both to him and to Lynchburg.

“If they knew that when they laid him down in one of us they’d have to face all of us—they wouldn’t even try any of us. . . . You can only let Mr. Wansley go to the electric chair if you don’t like him. If he is part of you, recognize he’s black—and that’s the reason they’re picking on him. If Mr. Wansley dies, I blame you.”

—Stokely Carmichael

Why the movement developed as it did is probably the result of a number of factors.

Local people who have always believed Wansley to be innocent have been organizing public opinion here for four years. Other individuals and organizations, such as the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) have helped to arouse support for Wansley among the Negro community in the nation. A number of people who felt that something important was at stake came to Lynchburg for the trial.

The atmosphere in the South is changing. Negroes no longer feel completely powerless to influence events. And there is a growing belief, fostered by leaders such as Stokely Carmichael, that Negroes who receive the death penalty on charges of raping white women are usually being punished for their race, rather than for a crime.

Wansley—who was 17 when he was charged with raping Miss Anna Lee Carter, an elderly white woman, and Mrs. Klyde Plesman, a Japanese—has always believed this is why he was accused. In a letter to his lawyer, he once wrote:

“As I look back into the past with very little confusion and no fear I can clearly see that in December 1962 this took place at the most of the so-called high class pictures taken in Lynchburg During The Wansley Trial—See Page 5

Carlton T. Beavers, professor of Negro history at Virginia Union University, said:

“The atmosphere in Lynchburg is what lawyers mean when they talk of ‘trial by newspaper.’ When a city is inflamed, the fairness of the court proceeding is always in question. . . . In this atmosphere, the least Judge 0. Raymond Chuck could have done was transfer the trial to another city, something he refused to do.”

—The Washington Post

On March 14 Wansley’s supporters filed into the courtroom, past a large mural that shows Negroes planting the tobacco that paid the costs of Lynchburg’s prosperity. During the next five days, it became obvious their presence might influence the verdict—but it could probably never free Wansley. Because of Lynchburg is not capable of giving him a fair trial. His lawyers—Va. Williams Kunstler, New York, and Charles Mangan, Lynchburg—claim the local newspapers are responsible for this.

They spent the first two days of the trial showing how prospective jurors have been influenced by newspaper charges that Wansley is guilty and that one of his lawyers is a communist. The Washington Post said that the American press was on trial with Wansley.

Almost all the prospective jurors said they read one or both of the local papers, and some had even read the heretical stories about Wansley and references to Kunstler. But, strangely, none mentioned the Communist charge when (Continued on Page 4)

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Miami Jail is Last Stop

Florida Peace Tour

(Staff Correspondent)

MIAMI, Fla. — Three peace workers were arrested amid shouts of about 200 shocked students at Miami-Dade Junior College’s North Campus on March 29.

Tom Gardner and David Nolan of the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC) and Nancy Hodes of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) were speaking on free speech, the war in Vietnam, and U.S. China policy when police dragged them away at the order of the college administration.

The incident occurred on the last leg of a Florida peace tour sponsored by SSCF and SCEF. It began when students asked the college administration to approve the Peace Tour program.

The dozen finally agreed to sponsor them if they would debate three people with opposing views. When the trio met with the dozen to discuss the procedure they were given absurd ground rules, such as a five-minute presentation from each side and "no emotional speeches, no public, no publicity, and no literature."

Program is Canned

When the peace workers asked for an hour to discuss the conditions with students and with the other debaters, the dozen told them to sign an agreement immediately or leave. After a heated debate the college representatives canceled the program.

Meanwhile the South Campus administrators, who had been giving the running order to students who wanted to sponsor the Tour there, finally agreed to have the Tour members debate two professors. The professors refused to debate on the peace travelers presented their usual panel discussion, sponsored by the South Campus Young Demo- crats.

A few days later, several North Campus students invited the Tour members to speak in front of the main building on campus. The dozen told them to leave and ordered them arrested when they continued to speak. Police dragged them off one by one.

The trio spent two days in Dade County Jail before A. Richard Fischel, a local friend of SCEF, posted bail of more than $1,000. Because they were from out of town, bondsmen had refused to get the trio out of jail. All three face charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest without violence.

Students and faculty at the college were outraged by the incident. Many of them offered to help bail the speakers out of jail. They are planning further action at the same place for next week.

(Continued on Page 2)

COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS told police to remove Tom Gardner Philip Bireskope, Alexandria, Va., and David Nolan from the college campus. The dozen offered to sponsor them if they would debate three people with opposing views. When the trio met with the dozen to discuss the procedure they were given absurd ground rules, such as a five-minute presentation from each side and "no emotional speeches, no public, no publicity, and no literature."

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(Continued on Page 2)
Peace Caravan Tours Florida

(Continued from Page 1)

quiet, sheltered campus has been stirred into action by the blundering of its administrators. The Tour members feel that constructive "stirring up" is the main purpose of their peace-education efforts. During the month of the tour, they spoke at seven college campuses and two high schools about Vietnam, China, U.S. foreign policy, and the draft. Other Obstacles

Although Miami-Dade Junior College was the first place they were arrested, they and campus groups sponsoring them had to fight other obstacles to freedom of speech at a number of other colleges.

When approached by campus groups sponsoring the Tour, administrators of many of the colleges reacted by dismissing the three as "a bunch of Communists," a charge then being made against the local Students for a Democratic Society headquarters, a Negro church sometimes used as a meeting place for civil-rights groups in Fort Lauderdale, and a white Presbyterian church in Benton. No report about the arrests has been issued. And in Liberty, Miss., a Head Start office was heavily damaged by a bomb.

A Nashville grand jury has refused to indict Patrolman Joseph W. Jackson for the shooting of Vanderbilt student Thomas Windley Hall (see February Patriot) two months ago. The District Attorney said the case was closed "exclusively something new developed."
Committee of the Absurd

a non-play

Written by R. ANALAVAGE
Directed by Jack N. Rogers (Counsel for the Committee of American Activist)

Inspired by the recent hearings in Southwest Louisiana

I SCENE: An empty auditorium in Lafayette, Louisiana. Before the Joint Committee on Un-American Activities Committee, in open hearings into "communist infiltrations" of the local poverty program. Members of the committee sit at a long table, with Bob at the lead, the following day. To the right of the committee, appropriately, is a smaller table where sits Jack N. Rogers, the committee counsel. An empty witness chair is beside open windows, unattended, unoccupied, at a long table just as they will the following day. The Joint Committee on Un-American Activities in Washington, are financiers to recruit students for a World Youth Federation. These festivals, according to the House Un-American Activities Committee in Washington, are financed by the Koreans. (Another shot, another figure, wearing Yank Festival Placard, stick figure on stage, falls, placard returns, reveal circles of: CIA, KGB, city halls such as Moscow, Prague, Algiers, Helsinki and Vienna, (Zippet and White plafon). He was once a member of Students for a Democratic Society (he produces a document), an organization which California HUAC found that 20 out of every 100 JMDs had pro-communist backgrounds (shot, figures with SDS placard falls to floor). He also has associated with members of SDP (people who drop in Sunset, black power, (man, appropriate attire) and he attended a meeting of the MFDP, which he believes, in running poverty programs they'll be able to build a professional cadre, that's why we get to stop them.

REPT. STIMSON: (incredulously) Jack, how do you fellows ever set up that co-op? And how in hell ever aggression to raise all this racket "out federal money, which little boy, illegally invaded a United States Air Base and staged a tent in acres from the White House. (BANG! PPC goes down.) Recently, Zippet spoke at an anti-war rally in New York with Herbert Aptheker—who is the chief theoretician of the Communist Party, U.S., and his daughter, Bettina, was a leader of the Berkeley Free Speech Movement (BANG, BANG, BANG)—and Zippet took basically the same position on Vietnam as Aptheker. Finally, if there could be any doubt as to what Zippet's views really are, I have here (as he dips into another folder) a copy of a rather newly published magazine called The New South Student which contains a picture of Zippet where he wrote, "one must do more than organize politically, one must do the same thing at the heart of the roots!" (The committee is shocked. Muffled sibilings are discernible."

In March, the Louisiana Un-American Activities Committee (LUAC) held hearings in Lafayette, La., to investigate "communism" in the poverty program. The Patriot's Deep South correspondent declared that the proceedings were an abridgment, that the only way to report them was to write a play. The setting is the day before the hearings at an imaginary rehearsal. Judging by what happens in the next scene, it's at least 99 per cent non-fiction.

ROGERS: Gentlemen, Bob's testimony will be probably the most important of the day. He will be the Zippert's case that bit that about the Alabama Committee to Black Power, SDS, Moscow, Vietnam. They simply compose themselves as a group. (Here he stops and turns to Arthur Emery.)

ZIPPERT: (disputing) I'm leaving, Marion, those cats got curious notions about universals; 1) that they will be Zippert's case. The right is that bit that about the Alabama Committee to Black Power, SDS, Moscow, Vietnam. They simply compose themselves as a group. (Here he stops and turns to Arthur Emery.)

ZIPPERT: (disputing) I'm leaving, Marion, those cats got curious notions about universals; 1) that they will be Zippert's case. The right is that bit that about the Alabama Committee to Black Power, SDS, Moscow, Vietnam. They simply compose themselves as a group. (Here he stops and turns to Arthur Emery.)
Community Rallies to Support Wansley

(Continued from Page 1)

Kunstler asked what they had read about him—although, after he brought it up, they all remembered it. There was a sense of shame—a half-conscious recognition that this was something which should not affect the case and should never have been brought into it.

But a number of jurors said they believed the charge, and several admitted their anti-communist feelings would prevent them from giving an unbiased decision. Others, primarily through reading the local papers, believed Wansley was guilty. By the time a jury of 13 and one alternate had been chosen from a panel of 61, Wansley's lawyers had proved this white Lynchburg cannot avoid being influenced by the local press.

Kunstler: Did you believe that you were suppressing essential information that the jury must know if it is to judge the value of your remarks?

Probation officer Lee Reed: There's a possibility that it would appear that I was.

During testimony by prosecution witnesses, the audience real-

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THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT

by the race issue or the fact that this was "the most explosive of crimes—the rape of a white woman by a black man."

The jury returned in less than three hours with two guilty verdicts and two sentences of life imprisonment. The second was for stealing a change purse containing 12 cents and two bus tokens. The sentences shocked Wansley's supporters. But they knew that their presence had probably prevented the jury from sentencing him to death again—and that the trial had created a movement whose strength could improve their own lives.

... Some people are saying they won't join in us because we're for black power, or for this, or the other thing. But all that isn't important. The important thing is for us to stand together."

—A 14-year-old student, addressing a rally around it.

While the hearing went on, equally dramatic things were hap-

Lynching asked how she could reconcile these two statements. "Well, naturally," she said, "I've seen his picture in the newspaper and I've seen him in court since then."

This is the identification on which the prosecution rested its case, and which Wansley's lawyers argued was not sufficient to convict him.

The lawyers' final arguments symbolized the conflict between the Old and New South. Jester pounded the table and harangued the jury about the at-
tack on "this sweet little lady"—while he referred to frequently as "Miss Annie." For him, it was clear, she was the traditional figure of white Southern woman-
hood, outraged by a black man. He denounced the death penalty, both to "Spank" Wansley and to "teach other people what they can accept."

Kunstler asked the jury to de-

Newspapers. Sympathisers from Bos-
to...

Over the last four years Wans-

The case has become a rallying point for people who are fighting to end the death penalty for rape, and the disparity of the trial will help that fight.

But the most important result of the trial was what it did for Wansley himself. During the last four years he never lost hope, even when only a handful of people supported him. And at the hearings last month, after so many years, he knew that he was no longer alone.

Youth is Focus at SCEF Reception

(By Staff Correspondent)

NEW YORK — Some of the young people who have played—and continue to play—such a large part in the Southern freedom movement spoke at SCEF's annual reception here March 20. Among them were Julian Bond, now a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, Bob Zellner, who is working to or-

Lynching against white Southerners, and Mrs. Victoria Gray of the Missis-

sippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), in both of whom they were concerned with politics. Not the traditional party politics, but what has come to be known as people's politics, or new politics.

Moving a plank, Coals Bond discussed how the move-

ment's goals have changed, from the early days for the right to eat a hamburger to a time when "many people thought that the single most important things was the right to vote, and the right to vote alone."

"For the first time, I think people are beginning to realize that it does no good for Negroes in Mississippi to be able to vote if they have to choose between Eastland or Stennis."... "So, for the first time, different parts of the Movement are turn-
ing toward politics... which take a lot of different faces but rest on ideas which are generally the same."

"People must bring themselves together first, and then seek larg-
er alliances based on interest and ideas."

Mrs. Gray reported on political organizing in Sunflower County—"which has knocked a gaping hole in the Southern party's wall. We are working to widen the gap and break the Democratic Party's monopoly—for far too long—on the state electorate."

Zellner said white working peo-

ple in the South have been in-

sulted by what is happening in the black communities.

Whites Seek Leadership

"In the past, they have usually felt a sense of competition and fear of black people. But now, when they see that there is an organization in the black community, they look to it for leadership in many situa-

"I'm not saying that this is a widespread feeling throughout the country, but I think more people are feeling that way than we think. And we plan to stimulate this sort of organization and development as we go.

He and his wife, Deitle, are moving from Orlando this month to set up the Grass Roots Organizing Work (GROW) proj-

ect. It aims to organize working white man and the poor white man in the South. This project is being supported by SCEF and also under consideration by SNCC.

Julian Bond

People's politician
Many rally while
A few just watch,
as
A young man's life is juggled
in the hands
of bigotry—Lynchburg!

—— ————

—Wesley trial photos and poem by Les Jordan
The Death of Liberalism

Be: your discussion with Mr. McCrackin.

How did Joseph interpret this question about integration and the whole matter of blackwhite cooperation?

Mr. McCrackin Replies

"If you want the happiness of the people, let them speak out and tell what kind of happiness they want and what kind they don't want!"

ALBERT CAMUS

(Continued from Page 3)

Knowles fumbles)—ah, did these two men appear to be under the influence of anyone?

HERBET: Yes sir, they appeared to be under the influence of something.

REP. RICHARDSON: A Catholic priest today said that E.Z. Higgins was the brains behind the zipper's influence. Is that true?

HERBET: There was a nun involved named Sister Jane. She was a close associate of Mr. Zippert's.

REP. RICHARDSON: I didn't think their church would allow that. Seems like a conflict of interest working in poverty programs.

ROGERS: Mr. Herbert, what is your opinion of zipper's?

HERBET: He called me a racist. He said every time we wanted to do something, he'd stop us.

ROGERS: Why did he do that?

HERBET: He called me by my first name. (Grin) They'd come into my office and say, "How's it going, Smiley?"

ROGERS: How did you like that?

HERBET: Well, I think it could be run better.

ROGERS: OK. Roland, I mean, Mr. Herbert. Your testimony has tied in Zipper's with what Mr. Logan said he was doing. He was administering for a division of the Lee County Welfare Board. He was discharged from his job at a Sears Roebuck store following the ticket presented by the Lowndes Federation. It was turned over to the Logan incident.

HERBET: Grand Marve was able to get $4,000 in OEO funds and this funds were used to establish a division of Father McNutt's group which was called the Southern Consumers' Educational Foundation.

SEN. DANNY BOY MOORE: (leans out window shaking his stocky Negro about 25. White)

HERBET: Grand Marve is the head of the group that business is run out except Rogers. The office but the Logan incident appears to hold un-American views, with the local poverty program. You have also linked him to Grand Marve. Mr. Logan received $4,000 in federal funds—plug it in. I'm not going to have him around. We're免費的 that office is a farce. We don't want the funds cut off. We'll get the locals to set up and get more responsible Negroes that we can deal with. Any questions?

KNOWLES: I was just thinking. These hearings, they resemble pretty much the h zarings we always have. The same methods are used, the same results are found. Only the names of the people were different.

ROGERS: (exasperatingly) What are you driving at, Jess?

KNOWLES: I don't know, but if there is any possibility of avoiding white-black violence, it rests on the slender thread that we need to come up with un-American actions.

HERBET: If I have read everything good that can be said about un-American activities, I have listened to them on TV, I have talked with many of them personally.

"In fact, just the opposite. What have I heard about OEO saying that it lost community organizing in 1961 and continuing in recent months—is that a lot of people of this country must organize themselves from the bottom up and take control of their own destiny.

"This is political organization. These people are the ones that have the best knowledge of the impossible. Where there is any possibility of avoiding white-black violence, it rests on the slender thread that we need to come up with un-American actions."

(Arne Broden)
Open Housing Struggle Moves into the South

BY JUSTIN MCCARTHY

LOUISVILLE: The housing struggle against discrimination in housing moved across the Mason and Dixon Line to Louisville, Kentucky, earlier this month with a demonstration aimed at an open housing law for the city and the South. Intensive efforts for the law began last August. When verbal attacks failed, demonstrations started early in March and a month later were continuing almost non-stop. It was the first such campaign in the South.

More than 300,000 Negroes in this country have been able to climb out of segregation in public places here in 1961. But for those who believe that race violence and hatred only boil to the surface because they exist at the core of a community, there was hope for the Negroes of Louisville, Kentucky. This was the case when a newspaper ad in support of the city's chance of getting its civil rights groups included the civil rights groups and the city's urban renewal program. Several hundred whites signed a newspaper ad in support; scores marched. More than 30 organizations, many of them predominantely white, voted support.

A split in the forces came when some of the Negro leaders in Louisville demand that the federal government not grant money to Louisville under the model-cities program when it enacted an open housing law.

Litigation First

Those who took the position that open housing must come first included the civil rights groups and the urban renewal agencies operating in the outer suburban area, the West End. They said: "Louisville is a city that has been under strife. The American cities have a basic problem that underlies all our other problems. For too long..." Because this is a city that has been under strife, there may be a determination to eradicate this problem, and it will not be a Louisville that will produce a negative result. This is a city where we can see the same result. This is a city where we can see the same result. This is a city where we can see the same result.

The first such campaign in the South, following the recent campaign, has had profound effects. For one, it opened up the possibility of campaigns for open housing in other Southern cities. Some of these campaigns have, however, had little effect. It may or may not be, but it is not as completely effective.

Effects of the Campaign

The second such campaign has been aimed at an open housing law in other Southern cities. In some of these campaigns, the housing process has been stopped. With intensive effort, it may still be— but not as completely.

We Shall Overcome! Our Hatred Should Be The Chant Of Whites

...What we are faced with now is the fact that the struggle must be and actually is at this point a struggle for genuine equality. The struggle over the last ten or twelve years has been a struggle for democracy, a struggle to get rid of extraneous behavior toward Negroes... The problem is now that in order to end the long night of poverty and economic insecurity it would mean millions of dollars... There will be more resistance because I think the privileged group will have to give up some of their billions, and I think the so-called white backlash is expressed right here.

Of interest is that I have reached is that the great need in the Negro community and the civic struggle is not to organize the Negro community for the amassing of real political and economic power... This means the hard job of organizing tenant unions, welfare organizations, and so on... The unemployed and underemployed... I am recommending to SCLC that we begin to train more field organizers so that we can really go out and organize these people and thereby move into the area of political action. I think we can start with this anti-black backlash and get on to organize the area of political action. I think we can improve our economic resources much more if these resources are pooled and I intend to do much more in this area so we can make economic strides...

People talk about divisions in the civil rights movement. They talk about the white backlash and so on to say that it is because of blacks and Black Power and riots in our cities and they say that California voted an open housing bill into existence, a Black Power bill before there was a major riot in our cities.

I see the white backlash as a new name for an old phenomenon. It is just a part of the long and tragic... The new thing is that we recognize where Negro rights are concerned. I see the political action as a new name for the answer to this is commitment... The dilemma of Negro America is the result of the failure of white civilization to understand the segmented pattern of commitment to civil rights.
"Souls of Black Folks"

Views, Hopes of Sunflower Candidates

By ROBERT ALANAVAGE

SUNFLOWER, Miss. — The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) recently held a primary election here, the first in which Negroes have taken part since Reconstruction.

The people selected candidates to oppose Democratic Party nominees in a special city election on May 2. A similar election will be held in the nearby city of Meridian on the same day. (See March Patriot, page 5, for background on the candidates’ views and hopes, in many ways, represent the thinking and feelings of the black South. So do the candidates’ lives.

The youngest, Otis Brown, 21-year-old candidate for mayor, has been arrested so many times for civil-rights activities he can’t recall the number. He stopped counting at eleven. Married and the father of three, he has been out of work for two and a half years.

John and Justice

If elected, he says, “rep- resent Negro people, not others. The main things we need are justice and jobs. People need a decent income. This white town in the poor part of town. Our policies will benefit all the people.”

Brown is aggressive and does not hesitate to say, “to change things in Sunflower, we’ve got to have the whole system apart.”

In addition to John and justice, the most things people talk about are patently simple. Lonnie Koels, 33, a farmer who is run- ning for alderman (the only can- didate with an income) says, “We need paved roads and street signs. We need a sewage system. We want the police to enforce the laws. In the colored community, whites speed through at 50 miles an hour and there’s kids playing in the streets. That’s got to stop.”

Elvin Gibson, 69, candidate for alderman, wants to bring light industry to the town. “There’s never been a factory here, ‘cause there’s never been anyone to speak up for one. The whites don’t want no factory ‘cause they want us to stay hand labor and domestics. They work a man and then turn him loose to die. Worked me hard all my life, and that’s the way they did me.”

Taxation

Gibson gets angry when he talks about tax increases. “I’m paying taxes and I don’t know what happens to them. Yes, I do —it’s all been going over there.” He pointed to the white side of town. “If you let me see some good come of this..."

Mrs. Annie Mae King, can- didate for alderman, is a kind of folk hero in the eyes of all of her life and “raised up fifteen kids right here. And ain’t a one of them white.” She finished high school and went to college and was in the army —one in World War II, an- other one over there in Korea.” Where are her children now? She paused and said sadly, “all in the North.”

Her son was born in 1944 (“They never found the ones that did it. Course, I didn’t expect them to”) and on another occa- sion a SNCC staff car was fire- bombed and it was parked in her front yard.

“She works as a volunteer at a Had Start Center which has not been founded by the O.V. (Pov- erty Taxation Committee). Mr. Otis Brown

CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

LONNIE KOELS, who is running for alderman in Sunflower County, is the only candidate with an income (photo by Bob Alanavage).