

SNCC Newsletter

Vol. No. 3 360 Nelson St. S.W. Atlanta, Georgia

April 6, 1967

U.S. POST OFFICE DESTROYS SNCC MAIL

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL OF OUR FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS, AND REGULAR READERS

If you did not receive the first issue of our new SNCC Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 1, then your copy was one of the over 600 letters recently chopped to pieces in the Main Post Office of Atlanta, Georgia. On Thursday, March 30th, our national office here in Atlanta received a telephone call from a black postal employee who informed us that the postmaster of Atlanta had ordered his workers to destroy a sack of SNCC's mail. Upon receiving this tip the Executive Secretary, Office Manager and Communications Director of SNCC immediately went over to the main post office and spoke with the Supervisor— Tom Jackson, who nervously attempted to explain why our mail had been destroyed. He related the following story: that in the past 2 months, at least two sacks of SNCC mail had been destroyed due to lack of sufficient postage on the envelopes, that postal employees had tried to notify us by phone to come over and pick up our mail, that our mail sacks were too heavy for them to return to us, and that it was not legally necessary for them to notify us in writing of this situation. Therefore, since no one from SNCC had personally come over to retrieve our mail, he claimed they were legally justified in destroying such mail after 10 days. He went on to say that they had held the first sack of destroyed mail for one month, and then had to chop it up since no one from SNCC claimed it. The second batch of mail had been posted on March 23, 1967 and on the morning of March 30th it was chopped to pieces before we would reach the post office. When questioned, Jackson could not describe the contents of the envelopes, but "knew for sure" that they were not checks. He claimed that this sack had been posted on March 20th but we know that it was posted on March 23rd; therefore, even if such postal regulations exist authorizing them to destroy unclaimed mail for insufficient postage, they had not waited 10 days. Also, we were never informed in writing of our mail being held for insufficient postage, and no one in our office remembers receiving any phone calls from the post office. After speaking to several black postal employees, all have informed us that they have never heard of this happening to anyone's mail before and this was the first such incident that they could recall. We requested a letter from the postmaster explaining the entire incident, and the following is his reply:

From Office of Postmaster, United States Post Office, Atlanta, Georgia 30304,
dated March 31, 1967.

Miss Freddie Greene
360 Nelson Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30313

Dear Miss Greene:

Reference is made to a mailing deposited by SNCC on March 30, 1967, which required 10 cents postage but only contained five cents postage. Your office was contacted, by telephone, on four occasions and someone was asked to please call for this mail for additional postage.

On March 30, 1967, no response had been received to our calls and this mail was classified as unclaimed and destroyed. Part 124 of the Postal Manual states "Regardless of its nature, matter may not be mailed in any form if done in violation of postal regulations for such reasons as failure to pay postage."

I am enclosing POD Form 3533 for your completion. This form will enable you to reclaim postage lost. Using this letter as evidence, please present file to the Director, Office of Administrative Services, Main Post Office, Atlanta Georgia 30304.

I regret the inconvenience caused you.

Sincerely yours,

George W. Camp, postmaster

Apparently the U.S. Post Office feels that we will be satisfied to "reclaim postage lost." And the postmaster "regrets the inconvenience" causes us. But this is one matter which SNCC will not pass over or ignore. Many of our friends and supporters have said over the past few months that they have never received any of our mail. A friend from overseas recently visiting our office said he had NEVER received any of the many letters we have mailed to him. We wonder how many of you have not been receiving our correspondence, news items etc. because such letters were chopped in the Atlanta Post Office. We wonder if you will receive this newsletter! Rest assured that we intend to investigate this matter to the fullest and follow up with appropriate action. Uncle Sam has not heard the end of this. We will keep you informed through future newsletters, press (if they pick it up) of future actions and developments.

If you were one of the hundreds who did not receive the first issue of the newsletter two weeks ago, please write and request a copy, which we will be glad to send immediately. Direct your letters to SNCC Communications Dept.

TO END THE WAR

April 15, 1967, marks the day of planned mass demonstrations against the Vietnam War by the Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. The target areas for the demonstrations will be New York and San Francisco, with people converging on these two protest centers from all over the country.

James Bevel, a leading staff member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference outlined his basic theme and strategy, in a report to a January 20th meeting of the Spring Mobilization Committee, which he believes will involve much of the black community as well as church, labor and other groups in "not just a march, but a total movement to end the war."

SNCC chairman Stokely Carmichael will speak at the New York rally on April 15th. In a press release for the Spring Mobilization Committee, Mr. Carmichael stated:

"We know the real reason the American government is waging an aggressive war in Vietnam is not to guarantee freedom or democracy there, but to serve the economic interests of American businessmen who are in Vietnam solely to exploit the tungsten, tin and oil which rightfully belong to the Vietnamese people and to secure strategic bases surrounding China. We maintain that America's cry of "preserve freedom in the world" is a hypocritical mask behind which it squashes liberation movements which are not bound and refuse to be bound by United States cold war policies.

We see no reason for blackmen who are daily murdered physically and mentally in this country to go and kill yellow people abroad, who have done nothing to us, and are in fact, victims of the same oppression.

We will not support LBJ's racist war in Vietnam. As chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, I am representing our organization in the Spring Mobilization of April 15th to demonstrate our support of a strong anti-draft program and wake Americans up to the reality of the illegal war which their government is waging in Vietnam.

BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL IN OHIO

A Black Arts Festival will be held at Central State University at Wilberforce, Ohio, sponsored by an Inter-Collegiate Council of Black People. The theme of the festival will be the "Evolution of the Black Performing Arts" and it will be held March 30 - April 1.

James Forman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee will be the keynote speaker at 8:00 p.m. Friday in Galloway Hall. Playwright - author Le Roi Jones will speak on "Black American - Submission or Revolution?" at 9 p.m. Saturday at Galloway.

Highlighting the three-day celebration will be the selection of festival queen at a fashion show-beauty contest Saturday afternoon. Do-eds from Central State and Wilberforce Universities are vying for the title. Mrs Charles Tate from Dayton's Black Moje (Unity) Society will narrate the contest.

Other events scheduled for the festival week end include: excerpts from Norman Johnson's "Cadillac Dream" by the Theater Noir from Cleveland, the Jibard singers from New York, a film and tape presentation on "The Legacy of Malcolm X " by Nahaz Rogers and Otis Hyde of Chicago, gospel singing by the Brown Family of Columbus, and "The Blues in Black" by the Central State Junior Janet Edwards.

Following Sunday morning chapel service will be workshops conducted by festival guests and representatives from Dayton civil rights groups. The workshops

will deal with the "Role of the Black Artist in the Black Revolution", "What is Black Consciousness?" "Breakin' Down the Artificial Barriers Between the Campus and the Community," and "How Can Students Help Make Black Power a Reality?"

REPORT ON CHICAGO

Joyce Brown and Monroe Sharp reopened the Chicago SNCC office at a new location: Suite 1, 306 East 43rd St., Chicago, Illinois 60653.

The new SNCC office will serve 2-fold role (1) Community office for organizing in the black community and developing summer programs and (2) fund raising. The co-directors are Joyce Brown and Monroe Sharp. Staff members are: Cleo Baker, organizing university campuses in the Chicago area (holding mid-west National Congress of black student groups: Oyadea, secretary; Dorter Stuart, contacts and administration; Willie Robinson, works with high school students; Onikawa, photographer; Jimmy Reynolds, administrative assistant.

FUND RAISING EVENTS ** CHICAGO

The Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee will present an Afro-American Unity Dance at the Sunset Ball Room, from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. on April 14, 1967, Donation is \$1.50 in advance and \$2. at the door.

The music for this event will be supplied by the popular young black musician Philip Cohran and his Afro-American Heritage Ensemble. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Joyce Brown: 784-8348 or Phil Cohran: 723-7753. We urge all Chicagoans to attend this event.

WAUKEGAN TALKS

There will be a talent show in Waukegan, Illinois to benefit the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee on May 14, 1967. Guest speaker will be SNCC chairman Stokely Carmichael.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Mrs. Edith Smith, 1515 Glenflora, 244-1462. We urge all friends in the area to attend.

STOP AND FRISK

A law has been proposed in Chicago to allow city policemen there, to stop and search anyone that they consider suspicious. This move will allow city policemen to harass any and all persons in the black community, as they are moving to do in cities across the country.

If this law is passed Chicago will be in a state of "Martial Law" with citizens subject to public humiliation.

We would like to remind the Chicago white city fathers that this is the type of harassment that sparked the incidents in Watts. We would further remind them of the previous rebellions in Chicago which clearly shows that the black people of that city will move to protect themselves in the face of police intimidation and provocation.

WHITE MILLIONS STARVE

Currently in the news is the action of American dairy farmers who last week poured out millions of dollars worth of "their" milk.

Allegedly the milk producers must buy costly equipment, work long hours, and meet rigid sanitation rules, while the price of milk continues to slide. Surprisingly the dairy farmer never knows what price his milk is getting until his check arrives.

In their warped minds this is justification for the billions of gallons of milk that was poured out. Is this justification for the milk baths taken by their healthy wives, while black children in this country suffer malnutrition from lack of it.

The newspaper's pictures of "fat" dairy farmers, gleefully pouring out milk increased with clarity, that this country has no concern for humanity. The American bombers destroy the food of Vietnamese babies, while milk farmers deprive black children of one of nature's most important nutrients. The dairy farmers called it "their" milk giving them justification for their action. But it brought to our minds, pictures of milk being jerked from black mouths.

Would the dairy farmers have gotten the same results if they had given the milk to needy children? Aren't there enough poor people in this country who would have enjoyed it?

We in SNCC feel that this action further exemplifies the sentiments of the "white power structure" in this country. How long will black people let this go on?

ED BROOKE ** BLACK MAN "THRO'IT A CAUSE

In the spirit of the "racist white power structure" for which he is a puppet, again Ed Brooke has attempted to sell his brothers down the river.

Edward M. Brooke, junior senator from Massachusetts, called for the abolishment of the draft and creation of a volunteer career army. Senator Brooke stated that a voluntary army would have in its ranks a disproportionate number of Negroes. "Its a good life and probably better life for many Negroes on the lower economic rung of the ladder."

What amount of psychosis could allow a black man to make such a statement (on the subject of Black - the term in reference to Mr. Brooke is used lightly)? If it is his desire to give black people a "better life" then we suggest that he call for better schools to be built in the black ghetto in Roxbury. He should remember the young black child who was crushed by a taxi on Quincy Street in "66" because there are not sufficient playgrounds and recreation centers. This should be done in the spirit of the Fernboro and Quincy street associations that moved to build their own playareas when the tax supported white city fathers wouldn't.

A man, who upon becoming Attorney General moved from the ghetto into a white area, erasing all knowledge or concern for those people that he left behind, calls for black people to volunteer as Killers for LBJ's war.

After a television show, "Face the Nation" on which he, like a true Tom reiterated the desires of the system, Brooke received a call from the great white father, LBJ, who stated that he "performed a great service to the country" Senator Brooke probably stated "thank ya, boss man."

Mention has been made to Brooke's betrayal of the peacemovement and its advocates who were allegedly responsible for his gaining office. It is our feeling that he has not only betrayed a peacemovement, but a race, and all of the non-white races of the world. A victim of a black body and a white mind it is our hope that he will one day be called before a world court to answer charges of "accessory to the fact" in the murder of millions of non-white people in Asia and the economic exploitation and murder of black and non-white people of the world. Let him stand before his brothers and other related ethnic groups, beside Johnson and his gestapo, and let the weight of world justice fall upon his head.

DENNIS BRUTUS ANTI APARTHEID ACTIVIST

On March 29, 1967, the Atlanta staff of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee met with Dennis Brutus, a former black teacher and journalist in South Africa.

Brutus an active member in the anti-apartheid movement, was in 1960 banned from teaching, writing and membership in organizations. He was forced to resign as president of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee and in 1963 was arrested for attending a related meeting. While on bail Brutus tried to reach an Olympic conference outside the country but was seized and brought back to Johannesburg.

Brutus was wounded by a gunshot wound during an escape attempt, hospitalized for four months and then sentenced to 18 months at hard labor on Robben Island "a political prison and concentration camp."

He was served with fresh restrictions after his release in 1965 and was placed under house arrest. The father of seven children found it impossible to find a job, thus forcing him to leave the country, which he and his family did under an exit permit which forbids their return.

Brutus and family now live in London where he is on the staff of the International Defense and Aid Fund there.

Mr. Brutus spoke about the struggle against racial persecution and brutality in the Union of South Africa and stated that it cannot be resolved by diplomacy alone, a violent confrontation between South African whites and non-whites will be required. "I believe the element of violence and military action is inseparable from the solution." Brutus also stated that anti-apartheid forces are preparing for various territories of Africa and said that the confrontation may come within five years.

Vietnam North by Wilfred G. Burchett, International Publishers, New York,

"Vietnam North" is a very interesting study. Burchett glimpses the progressive moves by the Hanoi government and the over abundant moral of the Vietnamese people. It is interesting to note that instead of U.S. bombs regressing civilization it has caused the Vietnamese people to revolutionize their ways of life and has caused them to move centuries ahead of themselves.

In reading this book, one glimpses the determination of the Vietnamese to preserve their independence in the face of U.S. aggression, and one realizes that bombs cannot destroy this. Thus the U.S. will have to move to the genocide of a people in order to end the war.

It is my feeling that the book could have had more depth. In Burchett's interviews with various factions it is my feeling that more militant viewpoints were excluded. The book fails to stress the atrocities of the War and overall leans toward moderation.

All in all the book is historically important but next time, let's hope that Burchett will really tell it like it "is".

CEB

We Have Stood All
 We Can - And We
 Won't Stand Any
 More!

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, HOUSTON TEXAS

The Texas Southern Friends of SNCC after meeting for six months in the University's Religion Center, was ousted from the campus and the administration has notified the groups advisor, Professor Mack Jones, that his contract will not be renewed in September.

The Friends of SNCC have been using campus facilities with the knowledge of the administration but recently were told to file official application, application was verbally denied. The group was told by Dean Jones that having SNCC meeting on campus might hinder financial appropriations to the school by the State Legislature.

March 28, 1967, classes were boycotted. The Dean of Students called a meeting with two members of FOSNCC and stated that at 10:30 he would openly announce that FOSNCC could meet on campus and that the contract of Mack Jones would be renewed.

At the rally of 700 students awaiting the promised action, Booker T. Varner of SOIC and Franklin Alexander of the WEB DuBois club spoke on behalf of the boycott. After the rally students marched to the auditorium for a meeting. A letter was sent out by the Dean stating that FOSNCC would definitely not be able to be a campus organization unless it took the guidelines of other campus groups. The letter was burned by students, as the Dean had broken his promise to appear. Students then continued boycotting and boarded the doors to classrooms.

The area around Texas Southern University had been blocked off by police, preventing

The announcement followed the circulation of a petition by several black student leaders to enable concerned black men to affirm their desire to become conscientious objectors and to work within this country "to regain control over their individual lives and destinies."

Over 100 black students of the Atlanta University Center witnessed the Conference which drew attention from both local and national news media. Endorsement for the petition came from SNCC, Martin Luther King of SCLC and Representative Julian Bond. Perhaps the most inspiring support came from the faculty of Morehouse College where over half of the professors had signed a petition endorsing the action taken by the students. Dr. Vincent Hardy, faculty advisor for the student group announced faculty willingness to "do all we can to see that students are not deserted in seeking to obtain their right to be Conscientious Objectors."

The black students expressed their hope that similar action would begin to take place on other black college campuses throughout the south where widespread interest in obtaining conscientious objector status had been voiced. Meanwhile plans have already begun for support action by the colleges comprising the Atlanta University Center. Thus far, over 150 signatures of Spelman women have been collected supporting the action of the Morehouse men.

REPORT FROM HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI

ANDREW GREEN

I was in Hattiesburg last week at a meeting. These are some of the things that I found out while there at a meeting.

Mrs. Edna Vickers of Hattiesburg was the first colored person to work with the City Directory in Forrest County. The meeting in Hattiesburg was great even though it was attended mainly by the people of the FDP in Hattiesburg, and the staff people. They all agreed to talk to the black people black by black.

The Negro people are being sold out to the white people. The reason I say that they are being sold, the Negro people that have a little something are all turning to the white people. They once had a SDCM program but now they let it get out of their hands into the white man's hands. Now the program is being ruined by MAP. The Negro people have to go to the white man to get their application for the jobs and they are being hired through the employment office in Hattiesburg.

Dr. Smith, who is president of the NAACP in Hattiesburg attended the meeting along with us.

There was a big mass meeting at the Negro Community Center last Friday night. The mass meeting wasn't too much. They were only interested in money. Rev. Brown was at the meeting. We closed the workshops in order to attend the mass meeting Friday night.

The only thing that I can say about Hattiesburg is it is rough down there. Peoples homes are being shot into because their children are attending white schools and the Negro people won't report those things. The people at the radio stations won't announce anything for the Negroes unless they contact the Klan first.
March 24, 1967

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ANOTHER VIETNAM IN SOUTH AMERICA?

Not only is Napalm manufactured by wealthy businessmen in America to be used against the Vietnamese, but according to recent reports in the press, it is now being used in Bolivia against freedom fighters who actively oppose the U.S. puppet government of President Barrientos there. One wonders when will the United States government begin to douse napalm on people of all countries where there exists freedom struggles against American neo-colonialism. And what of the present struggle of Afro-Americans here in the United States and the increasingly barbaric methods being used to crush our struggle. A few years ago it may have seemed shocking and unbelievable that napalm would actually be used in the American hemisphere, but now it is used to burn and kill Bolivian freedom fighters, thereby burning and killing all other civilians who happen to live in the same area. Brothers and sisters, it is getting close to home. We had better wake up and take note, before it is too late.

* Chemical substance which sticks to the skin, burns and roasts skin slowly,

impossible to pick or scratch off.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Once again the white man's tricks of divide and conquer came to light last week in the French colony and occupied territory known as French Somaliland. This strategic area in East Africa was the scene of violent clashes between the Somali people who want independence and the French occupation troops who are there to impose and guarantee French control. The Somali tribesmen, a proud people who were demanding their freedom and independence through passive demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience throughout the country, are being isolated from the Afar tribesman (the other tribe living in that area of Somaliland) who are being used by the French to further French designs and control there. Because there existed a traditional hostility between the Somali and Afar groups, the French government has created and perpetuated further divisions and hostilities between the two groups. After allowing far more Afars to register to vote than Somalis the French then held a rigged "plebiscite" supposedly to determine whether the people wanted to remain a French colony or obtain their independence. The Afars after being courted by the French and promised special privileges over their Somali brothers, dutifully voted to remain a French colony, while the Somalis voted for independence. Because the registered Afar voters so greatly outnumbered the Somali voters, then naturally the plebiscite won just as the French had planned. Not being satisfied with "election results" the Somalis began mass demonstrations to show their disgust with what was "going down". Their peaceful protest was met with violent retaliation by the French, large groups of Somalis were jailed and thousands were rounded up in Nazi-like fashion and shipped off to "camps" in the desert. The French claim they are "trouble makers" who must be effectively isolated and prevented from "causing anymore trouble". Meanwhile the Afars have been promised by the French governor "special privileges," "increased educational facilities" and "more and better jobs" for serving their French masters so faithfully. It appears that the French may have another Algeria on their hands, that the Afars are fast on their way to becoming the next class of privileged "black bourgeoisie Toms" in Africa, and the Somali brothers have a long hard struggle ahead.

CUBA UNDER CASTRO

There are no American Tourists in Havana, they have all gone home, and with their departure- the death of the gambling and prostitution.

Castro has been pouring most of Cuba's money into the farms, eliminating the usual rush from the rural into the urban. And Havana has taken on a new look. Many of the stores that once flourished are closed now, and restaurants, now operated by the state are frequented by Russians, revolutionaries and the old-time, once rich Cubans.

Castro has revolutionized the education of Cuba, with elementary education being conducted in the mountains where Che Guevara first organized his guerrilla school. After nine months students head for another mountain school in Escambray and then to Havana for their last two years at the Maharenko Institute. The five year experiment is expected to produce all of the country's grade school educators.

The concentration of money, techniques, technicians and time have been put into Cuban farming. 70% of the farm output is produced by state-owned lands and the other 30% by farms owned by the country's 200,000 private landowners. Farm workers today are earning more than ever and more is saved since the government supplies most of its peoples needs.

The products of the country are varied, with a concentration being put on sugar cane; bananas, rice and vine vegetables are also being grown. Half of Cauto's (one of the big state owned farms) acreage is used for pasture to graze some 60,000 cattle, a quarter of the nations total. The essence of the scene on the farm is that the country is leaving no stone unturned in its move to utilize all of its resources.

Did white Americans and American businessmen stifle the growth and the economic welfare of the Cuban people? Were American businessmen draining Cuba of its resources? Did vice flourish in Cuba while tourists swarmed the streets of its cities? When the Americans were told to "Go Home", did Cuba then begin to use Cuba for the Cubans? I think the records make it clear that Cuba now belongs to the Cubans.

Even the white press has been forced to acknowledge the progress in Cuba today, as reported by the Washington Post in a series of articles on Cuba.