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THE STUDENT VOICE

Vol. II
No. 1

THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
197 1/2 Auburn Avenue, N. E., Atlanta 3, Georgia

January
1961

SIT-INS NEAR ANNIVERSARY; "FREEDOM CITY" DRIVE ON

Salute to "Freedom Village"

The American people have long known of the severe intimidation leveled at Negroes of Fayette and Haywood Counties, Tennessee, for their continued efforts to register for voting. This issue of "The Student Voice" is dedicated to the courageous Negroes there. We are grateful for contributions from three sources: Mr. Edward B. King, Jr., of SNCC, "SNCC VISITS FAYETTE"; Miss Sandra Cason of Univ. of Texas, "KEEP FREEDOM CITY ALIVE"; and Mr. Paul Dietrich of the Nonviolent Action Group in Washington, D. C., "FREEDOM VILLAGE TENNESSEE." We ask our readers to give careful attention to their articles and to note that contributions for Fayette and Haywood Counties may be sent in the following ways: (1) To TENNESSEE CAMPAIGN, 802 Oakland Street, Ann Arbor, Mich. (2) To Mr. Shephard Towles (owner of Freedom Village property), Route 4, Box 136, Somerville, Tenn. (3) To FAYETTE-HAYWOOD COUNTY CIVIC LEAGUE, c/o John McFarren, Route 4, Box 133, Somerville, Tennessee. PLEASE NOTE: CHECKS AND MONEY ORDERS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE LAST ADDRESS—FAYETTE-HAYWOOD COUNTY CIVIC LEAGUE.

We suggest that persons living nearer the Michigan area send their goods there; persons living in the D. C. area send goods to the BUILDING AND LABOR LOCAL NO. 74, 525 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C. Persons living in the Baltimore, Maryland area send goods to Rev. Marian C. Bascum, Chairman Fayette Relief Committee, Douglas Memorial Community Church Relief Committee, or Levin B. West, Project Chairman. Philadelphia collection center is c/o Rev. James E. Kirtland. Also note that supplies to Haywood County go to Odell Sanders, 307 West May St., Brownsville, Tenn. Supplies to Fayette County to Mr. John McFarren, Route 4, Box 133, Somerville, Tennessee.

We urge you to act immediately in support of this campaign already endorsed and launched by so many groups. More information may be obtained by writing to the office of SNCC.

It's Your Voice

Mail stories, articles, newspaper clippings and photographs to:

"The Student Voice"
P. O. Box 7274, Station "C"
Atlanta 9, Georgia

NEWS FROM THE STATES

ALABAMA—The famous "Times" suit has been postponed again. In November, N.Y. Times and four Alabama ministers appealed a decision which granted Montgomery Police Commissioner Sullivan \$500,000 damages for an ad soliciting funds for trial of Dr. King. Two other suits were filed—Mayor Earl James and Commissioner Frank Parks. Defendants are Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Rev. S. S. Seay of Montgomery, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth of Birmingham and Rev. J. E. Lowery of Mobile.

Macon County, site of Tuskegee Institute and of recent gerrymandering tactics, saw 646 persons attempting to register in November. Prevented from signing the official record book, the Negroes returned in December. This report comes from the TCA Reporter, newsletter of the Tuskegee Civic Assoc., which is taking leadership in the area.

FLORIDA—A Florida legislative committee appointed to investigate Communist infiltration in NAACP ordered President Theodore Gibson to furnish data on members. Gibson refused and, on Dec. 20, the Florida Supreme Court sentenced him to 6 months in jail for contempt of court.

On Jan. 7, in Jacksonville, the KKK paraded. Leaders said they were there for a meeting; others declared they were protesting the recent order for integrated recreational facilities.

On Dec. 29, 7 variety store managers of Woolworth, Madison, and Grant announced desegregation of their lunch counters located in Clearwater, Largo, and Dunedin, Fla. This came after meetings between Negro leaders and managers.

Early in January, the city commission of Daytona Beach approved a recommendation from the city advisory board to desegregate the Municipal Golf Course. The Ministerial Association of Daytona, in strong appeals, has urged community cooperation with the bi-racial committee, immediate desegregation of the new Greyhound terminal, and immediate desegregation of the police department and station of the city.

(Continued)



Shown above are Mr. Edward B. King of SNCC and a member of the Trotter family in "Freedom City," Tennessee.

SNCC Visits Fayette

(The following is a report from SNCC Administrative Secretary, Edward King, on a trip into Fayette County, January 10, 1961)

Interview: Mrs. Trotter, 34 years of age, was evicted from the farm of Mr. V. Leatherwood in Nov. when her husband registered to vote. The Trotters have six children from 14 years to two months. Her father, two brothers, a sister and a brother-in-law were also evicted from this farm. The family were sharecroppers and had lived their entire lives in Fayette County. Mrs. Trotter's brother, E. B. Williams, was shot two weeks ago in Freedom City by whites passing in a car. Asked her reason for registering, Mrs. Trotter replied, "I want a better life for myself and my children. If someone gave my husband a job elsewhere, we would not move because we want to stay with the others and fight this to the finish."

Interview: Mrs. Arbrilla Anderson, 36 years old, moved to Freedom City last week from the farm of Mr. Sylvester Person, a Negro school teacher in Fayette. He told the Andersons that the farm was not his and that he was giving it up. However, Mrs. Anderson reported that it had been since occupied by another Negro family. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are registered voters and voted in August. They have six children from 16 to 2. She registered because she felt "that I had been stomped on so long until I was ready to do anything to get out of it." She said also that she would do anything now "to help my people put the program over." The Andersons, like the Trotters, will remain in Fayette County with the others.

Interview: Mr. Shepard Towles owns the land where Freedom City has been set up. He said he "has 200 acres of land and that the people living there only pay for lights." Mr. Towles has given his land "in order to help others." He reports that 11 families are living there now in tents furnished by the Congress of Racial Equality. In Somerville, the nearest town, Negroes can still buy from 3 stores. One of them is not the Chrysler-Plymouth Co. on whose door Mr. King saw "We will sell to white only."

Supreme Court Gets Sit-In Case

Sixteen students at all-Negro Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, have filed a case with the Supreme Court. This is the first counter sit-in case to be filed before this high court.

The petition involves three separate appeals pertaining to three lunch counters in Baton Rouge—Kress, Sitman's Drugs, and Greyhound Terminal. Sit-ins at these counters resulted in the arrest and conviction of the 16 students. Under Louisiana law it is a crime to commit action "in such a manner as to unreasonably disturb or alarm the public."

The Supreme Court has not yet said whether or not it will receive and hear the appeals. The case reached the court in early January, but the state of Louisiana has thirty days in which to respond. Earlier, on October 5, the Louisiana Supreme Court supported the convictions which had sentenced the students to four months in jail, three months of which could be suspended with the payment of \$100 fines and court costs.

"Freedom Village Tennessee"

(The following is our condensation of a very excellent proposed sent out by the D.C. Area Nonviolent Action Group.)

Negroes in Fayette and Haywood Counties, Tenn. have borne the brunt of evictions, mass starvation, economic reprisal and even death . . . because for the first time in 80 years, they have registered and voted. These counties are part of a 100 mile radius around Memphis on which nearly 3,000,000 Negroes live. 2/3 of these cannot vote. In Fayette County, there are 21,000 Negroes and 7,000 whites. Haywood has a 60-40 Negro white ratio.

The Dept. of Justice has secured a temporary injunction (Jan. 1 through Feb. 6, 1961) that halted the eviction of over 700 Negro sharecropper families. If in Feb. a permanent injunction against landlords is not granted, more than 700 families will again face eviction from their homes. Thus, in Feb. thousands may be compelled to join the 70 already living in "FREEDOM VILLAGE" or Tent City, Tennessee. These Negroes state that they will "not leave unless it is feet first." But they may be starved out unless help comes. Three have died already.

The major companies that do not sell to these Negroes are: 1. **Wonder Bread**—Nation Wide Food Chain, Continental Baking Co., Box 731, Rye, New York. 2. **Sealtest Milk**—Nation Wide Food Chain, National Food and Dairy Products, 270 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. 3. **Delta Oil Refinery**, Memphis, Tennessee (This company refines the major portion of all gasoline products sold in Tenn., Miss. and Ark. They service distributors for Amoco, Gulf, Esso, etc. who refuse to sell wholesale or retail to Negro voters. Delta also holds government contracts for jet and navy fuel.)

Nonviolent Action Group issues a program of government aid to the voters: Granting of federal loans under

Barry Voices Protest

Marion S. Barry, Jr., ex-chairman and member of SNCC, has voiced his protest in recent discrimination controversy involving the University of Kansas (where Barry studies for his doctorate in chemistry) and 2 taverns in Lawrence, Kansas. Owners have refused to desegregate fearing harm to their business. Boycotts were called by the University Civil Rights Council. Writing to the school paper, the University Daily Kansan, Mr. Barry went on to say that "it is time for the University to take a forthright stand against housing and other forms of discrimination which exist on campus and in the city of Lawrence."

the Federal Housing Authority to Southern Negroes and granting immediate emergency farm loans for financing their spring plating; cessation of government contracts with businesses practicing such discrimination and reprisal; granting the federal government authority to, in some cases, declare an emergency in regions where local officials refuse to certify disaster conditions because of personal prejudices; and effective civil rights legislation to increase protections to Americans from all forms of discrimination.

In conclusion, the D. C. Committee presents what YOU can do:

1. Write the President and your Congressman.
2. Write to these companies which are practicing unfair business.
3. **Send food and money** to embattled Freedom Village, Tennessee.
 - A. **Food** (canned foods of all types, dry and staple groceries).
 - B. **Soap**, flat shoes, rainwear and blankets.
 - C. **Money**—checks and money orders. Make payable to: FAYETTE-HAYWOOD COUNTY CIVIC LEAGUE, c/o Mr. John McFarren, Route 4, Box 133, Somerville, Tennessee.Churches and organizations are asked to be centers for food and money collections. The D. C. group hopes to get two large shipments off before February 9. Food will be shipped by tractor trailer and money will be sent by registered special delivery mail. IF YOU ARE NOT IN THE D.C. AREA, PLEASE NOTE OTHER ADDRESSES WHERE YOU MAY SEND GOODS. THESE ARE LISTED IN THE ARTICLE "SALUTE TO FREEDOM VILLAGE."

Our thanks to the Nonviolent Action Group, their chairman Mr. Laurence G. Henry and their coordinator Mr. Paul D. Dietrich, for this information . . . and for their work in this crisis.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

Letter to the Editors

"KEEP FREEDOM CITY ALIVE"

GEORGIA—Dr. King's appeal on the traffic violation sentence has been postponed until February when it will be heard by the State Court of Appeals.

Atlanta students' requests for negotiations were met with a demand for the end of sit-ins by the Chamber of Commerce. On Dec. 15, students announced that the demonstrations would continue and that concrete plans were made through Easter. Atlanta downtown and Lenox Square lunch counters remain closed. Downtown stores reveal a drop of 13% in sales as compared with last year's Christmas buying. Atlanta Police Chief Jenkins announced that he would comply with all decisions of the Supreme Court. Mayor Hartsfield has taken a strong stand for desegregation and continues to urge negotiations. Atlanta ministers, in a special Christmas message, called for harmony and understanding. The statement was prepared by 17 white and 13 Negro ministers and endorsed by the 110 member Greater Atlanta Council of Churches. Also in Atlanta, legislators, women's groups, and citizens are speaking out for open schools. Schools are to desegregate grades 11 and 12 in September.

Georgia's big issue has been desegregation of the State University in Athens. 1½ years ago, Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes, both of Atlanta, applied for admission to the all-white university. After hearings this December and January, U. S. District Judge W. A. Bootle ordered the immediate admission of the students, charged that the University had practiced discrimination in admissions, and laid court costs upon the school. On Jan. 6, mobs of students began riots and effigy burnings. On Jan. 7, Holmes went to Athens for enrollment. On Jan. 8, Georgia asked for a stay. Judge Bootle granted the stay in order that the 1956 Georgia appropriations law might be changed. The law states that state funds shall be cut off from a school which is desegregated by court order. On Jan. 9, Judge Tuttle of the U. S. Court of Appeals in Atlanta, overruled the stay and ordered immediate admission. Governor Vandiver, saying that he had no alternative, closed the University until repeal of the 1956 law. This was Monday night, Jan. 9. On Tues., Jan. 10, the Governor and State Auditor were served with injunctions forbidding them to cut off funds. On the same day, the U. S. Supreme Court refused to delay desegregation of the University in a statement to Georgia Attorney General Cook. The two Negro students completed enrollment, and attended Wednesday classes. On Wed. night, Jan. 11, a mob led by a few students and several outsiders attacked Center Myers dorm where Charlayne had been housed. Only the two University deans stood between the rock-throwing mob until local police dispersed them hours later, with tear gas. Shortly after midnight the Negro students were returned to Atlanta for their own safety. Technically, they were suspended until order could be restored. On Jan. 13, both the state committee and the FBI were in Athens investigating the riot. 8 members of the Ku Klux Klan were arrested; two were special deputy sheriffs from Fulton County; all were from Atlanta. On the scene of the riot, these men carried a "small arsenal of firearms." Meanwhile 405 members of the faculty issued a strong statement deploring the riot and asking for return of the Negro students; also student leaders circulated a petition signed by 4,000 students asking for open schools and compliance with the law. Late Friday, Judge Bootle ruled out the suspension and ordered readmission of the Negro students by Monday, Jan. 16. The University pledged to prevent the rioting, expelled two students involved, and began investigation of others. Governor Vandiver declared that the law would be obeyed and that he personally would see to it. This is what remains to be done since the 1956 cut-off bill was declared unconstitutional and immediate readmission ordered. The Klan is rather silent.

Also, in Georgia, four Negro high school seniors have requested and received admission applications for the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. On Jan. 13, two Negroes received applications from Emory University in Atlanta.

LOUISIANA—As December ended, the legislature continued to pass segregation laws most of which were identical with ones already struck down by federal courts. One would provide for a state appointed school board; another for a system of selling abandoned school property.

On Dec. 22, federal courts ordered banks to release funds and charged 3 state officials with contempt for refusing to pay teachers' salaries. At the same hearing, the court restrained Governor Davis from appointing a school board. On Dec. 24, teachers at integrated Frantz and McDonough were paid for the first time since Oct. After the holidays, children returned to these schools watched by a small and silent opposition. Meanwhile, the governor plugs away to raise support of his tax bill which would provide \$28 million in the next 8 months—to sponsor private schools and segregated grant-in-aid schools.

MISSISSIPPI—On Jan. 11, the FBI filed suit in federal district court for the opening of voter registration books

in Bolivar County (Clarksdale), Mississippi.

The Sovereignty Commission, headed by Gov. Ross Barnett, donates \$350,000 biennially to the Miss. White Citizens Council to continue its program of preserving "segregation and constitutional government." Last week, this use of public taxes was challenged in Jackson federal court. Suit is brought by a local attorney, a Negro grocer, and two Union members. Defendants are Gov. Barnett and W. J. Simmons, official of the WCC. The suit, resting on Amendment XIV, will be taken to the Supreme Court, if the U. S. Court of Appeals denies the three-judge federal court.

NORTH CAROLINA—Governor Terry Sanford answers criticism for sending his children to an integrated school there. The Governor replied that it was the nearest school and the one to which his children should go, further that he, as governor, felt it time to take this step. **TENNESSEE**—Meeting the deadline set by U. S. District Court, Chattanooga school officials proposed to begin desegregation in the first three grades in 1962.

On Jan. 5, in Jackson, college students returned to the demonstrations. 35 sat at Woolworth's and 12 at McClellan's. The counters had been reopened after two weeks of shut down during the holidays. The trial for Lane College students involved in October sit-ins and bus desegregation was held on Jan. 9. Edward B. King, Jr. of SNCC attended the trial. Two students were fined \$15.00 on disorderly conduct for the bus riding incident (see November SV) and appealed. A white boy who attacked a student picketer was fined \$15, the Negro was not fined or charged. All sit-inners were fined \$25 on disorderly conduct charges.

While in Jackson, Mr. King talked with Dean Preston Stewart of Lane College who was fined \$15 as a result of his photographing a coca-cola machine in the Hamm House in Jackson. The machine bears two professionally painted signs on the front—"For White Customers Only." The store manager had Stewart arrested after the photo was taken. Dean Stewart was fined because, according to Judge Holt of City Court, "There is tension in Jackson and it must be stopped. . . ." In his conversation with Mr. King, Dean Stewart said that "he would like for the entire nation to know just how far some people will go to extend their prejudice."

For news of Fayette and Haywood Counties, see special coverage.

TEXAS—In a letter from the Students for Direct Action (SDA) of the Univ. of Texas, we are informed of the progress of their efforts to desegregate restaurants and theatres in Austin. Several restaurants have desegregated as a result of SDA's passing cards to patrons "I will continue to patronize this establishment if it is integrated." After the campaign and some violence by campus racists, 2000 students signed a petition supporting SDA's ideas. Recently, SDA has engaged in theatre "stand-ins" at theatres across from the University. Participating are hundreds of students, professors, Austin citizens, high school students. Data concerning the work and methods at the Univ. of Texas may be obtained by writing V. Franklin, Secretary, Students for Direct Action, Scottish-Rite, Dorm-64, Univ. of Texas, Austin, Texas.

VIRGINIA—A few days before Christmas, 6 students sat in at a downtown drugstore in Lynchburg. They were arrested until bail of \$1,000 each was provided. The trial, on Jan. 5, resulted in sentences of 30 days for violation of Va.'s trespass law. They appealed and were released on \$1,000 again. The white students are from Lynchburg College and Randolph-Macon Woman's College; the Negro students attend Lynchburg Seminary.

D.C.—The very strong Nonviolent Action Group, composed of students, clergy and community leaders, has initiated a wide campaign in support of Negroes in Fayette and Haywood Counties, Tennessee. (See front page story "Freedom Village Tennessee.")

SNCC Speaks to Congress

In an open letter to Congress, SNCC challenged leaders to see the signs of the times which say "that our country must purge itself of the rabies of racism." This must be done immediately, wrote SNCC, for "on the time-table of the world, tomorrow is today; and only forthright action can square America's racial practices with the coveted role of world's champion advocate of democratic human rights."

The letter sent to Congress named the goal of the student protest movement as that of "ridding America of second class citizenship." This must be done since "our destinies as individuals, as Americans, and as citizens of the world will inevitably be determined by whether we conquer racial prejudice or race prejudice conquers us."

SNCC called for two immediate steps "without which all campaign promises become hollow mockery."

1. Action to control filibuster. Urge a change in Rule XXII of the Senate.
2. Enactment of the provisions of Part III of the 1957 Civil Rights Act.

Favorable comments from various Congressmen have been received by the Coordinating Committee in response to this open letter of Dec. 30, 1960.

student, James Stephens, was dived from a knife brand when a fellow student, William Dickey, stuck out his arm to intercept the knife. Dickey suffered a sliced tendon. At this point, a student ran to the police station to bring back help. There was none. Another jumped into a police car and spoke to the officer who replied that he could do nothing until the manager called.

On Dec. 14, the Steering Committee went again to the mayor — this time to report the failure of the police. The mayor refused to intervene until the students had proved that the police chief was not carrying out his official duty. Paine students have no intention of halting their protests. This is indicated in the statement of James Stephens after he was treated for injuries: "I am glad that I had the opportunity to be tested in the face of such violence. As I went away, I felt good inside because I knew we were in a struggle for what is right. I know that God is on our side. I do not feel bitter toward any one. I feel that I could take a hundred more beatings as long as I can be taking a step in the right direction for the advancement of all people."

The Paine College Committee was formed on March 3, 1960. The group is now working with Augusta citizens in efforts to begin negotiations with city store managers and officials. Members of the Committee are: Silas Norman, Lula Riley, Thomas Snowden, Patsy Hill, William Dickey, Alyce Earl, Charles Pryor, John Lewis, Jim Dukes, Henry Taylor, and Sylvia Ryce. Letters of encouragement of letters requesting information may be sent to these students.

Dear Friends:

The civil rights movement which erupted with the sit-ins in Greensboro is now on the threshold of its second year; behind is the desegregation of lunch counters in over 100 Southern cities; behind also is the establishment of various organizations, both northern and southern, dedicated to the preservation of the movement through concentrated collective action.

The gains of 1960, in other words, were impressive both in their political and social effectiveness and in the development of an encouraging new student orientation to ideals and to the translation of those ideals into action. We are persuaded that those gains must be rapidly built upon, and that the task of building demands not only sustained action at the local level, but also periodic attempts at nationally-coordinated programs. This letter asks your commitment to such a national attempt—a clothing, food, utilities, and fund raising drive for Negroes currently living under severe social and economic restrictions in Fayette and Haywood counties, Tennessee.

In recent weeks this issue has received national attention, but a solution has by no means been effected. . . . We therefore ask that you immediately begin supply drives in your localities. The need is for clothing, food (nonperishable), money for expenses, and utilities. These are the immediate needs of the Negro community.

Depending on the political complexion of your locality, it might be wise to work through a student government, political party or club, church groups or any interested civic organization. In any case, it would be helpful to issue publicity statements, stressing both the moral implications of this drive and also the fact that it is national in character. If at all possible, the supplies should be delivered to the Fayette-Haywood areas by truck. If the possibilities of utilizing such transportation seem remote, the supplies may be sent to TENNESSEE CAMPAIGN, 802 OAKLAND STREET, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, and they will be forwarded via truck to Tennessee. Whatever your methods, please send along a note to the same address, informing us of your purpose.

While this letter is tactical in nature, we believe it is motivated by a sense of value for life and desire to translate such values into achievable social programs — the same attitude of responsibility for others which has been continually effected in this year-old, sporadic, but seemingly durable movement. We ask you as individuals and as organizations to give once again. We are hopeful, even assured, that you will.

Sincerely yours,

Sandra Cason, University of Texas; Thomas Hayden, University of Michigan; Endorsed by: Voice Political Party, University of Michigan; Ann Arbor Direct Action Committee, Univ. of Michigan; Progressive Student League, Oberlin College; State Party, University of California; Students for Direct Action, University of Texas; Student for a Democratic Society, New York.

EDITORS NOTE: We assure the composers and endorsers of this letter that the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee pledges full support and urges readers of "The Student Voice," on this anniversary of the sit-ins, to give so that "Freedom City," Tennessee may live.

HELP PUBLISH "THE STUDENT VOICE"

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Featuring Paine College

A report from the Paine College Steering Committee did not reach us in time for the Dec. issue. In appreciation of their reporting and their continued efforts, we tell their story.

Protesting the lack of bi-racial committee meetings, students of Paine College in Augusta, Ga. visited Mayor M. A. Beckum. The mayor argued that the demonstrations hindered his efforts but promised to call the committee into session on Dec. 16. To support their demands, the students launched a series of demonstrations on Dec. 11—Woolworth's, Kress's, Green's and McClellan's. In Woolworth's a gang member struck a sit-inner on the neck; another gang member pushed a student into a glass display.

On the 12th, the students picketed downtown. On this day also, they sent word to President Eisenhower, golfing in Augusta, that they would like to speak with him. After delay with the Secret Service, Press Secretary Hagerty informed the students that Ike was seeing no one but "Army buddies." Students then picketed on both sides of the golf course gate, protesting the fact that the President chose to play golf on the day that he had set aside as the beginning of Human Rights Week.

Dec. 13th saw another protest. Paine students reported that "it nearly resulted in a tragedy because of the shirking of responsibility on the part of the Augusta Police Department." The gang which had accosted the students earlier reappeared at Green's and Woolworth's—carrying knives. The Negro students, wishing no violence, began their efforts to solicit police protection. First, a patrolman near the scene was asked to report the potential violence. He referred the students to the lieutenant on duty. This was 2 PM. The lieutenant promised to send help. It did not come. At 3:10, 35 to 40 white men gathered in Woolworth's. 8 of them jumped a Negro student who walked through the crowd. The

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