

CAMBRIDGE :

**PRESSURE MOUNTS
IN A DYING CITY**



THE STUDENT VOICE

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Miss. Demos Face Party Challenge

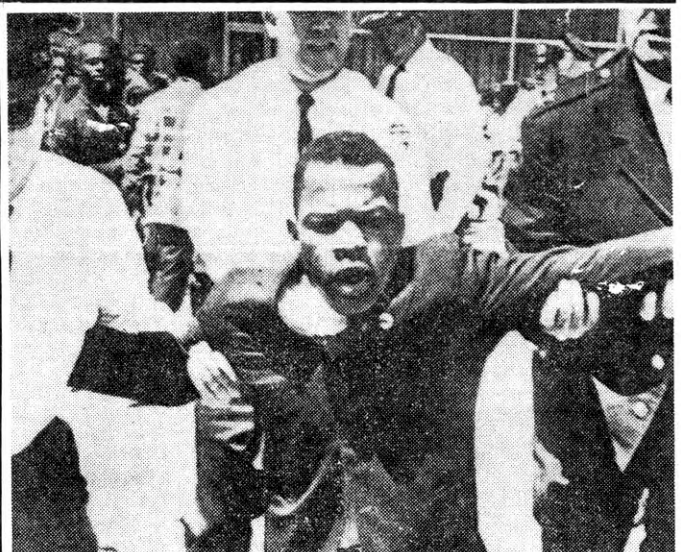
JACKSON, MISS. — A delegation from the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party will go to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City on Aug. 24 to challenge the seating of regular Mississippi Democratic party delegates.

The Freedom Democratic Party is an outgrowth of a voter registration drive begun in this state three years ago by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, now joined by the NAACP, CORE and SCLC under the Council of Federated Organizations. (COFO).

The new party also plans to challenge seating in Congress of successful Democratic candidates in this year's election for the junior U.S. Senatorship and the state's five Congressmen. Four Negroes are running for seats in the House and Senate.

A Freedom Party spokesman said the basis for the challenge was "that the regular Democratic delegation was chosen by undemocratic means and that the Democratic Party of Mississippi has been disloyal to the national Democratic Party."

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SNCC CHAIRMAN JOHN LEWIS is carried away by Nashville policeman after his arrest there April 29. Lewis, formerly chairman of the Nashville Student Nonviolent Movement, returned here to participate in protests against segregated eating places.

TERROR REIGNS IN MISSISSIPPI

NATCHEZ, MISS. — The director of SNCC's Mississippi project testified May 6 that five Negroes had been killed in southeast Mississippi in recent months, and called for investigation by the United States Department of Justice.

Robert Moses, 28, told a meeting of the State Advisory Committee to the United States Civil Rights Commission that no one had been arrested or indicted for the mysterious slaying.

Moses is program director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a coalition of

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2,000 Register After N.C. Judge Calls End To Registration Stall

ENFIELD, N.C. — More than 2,000 Negroes are now registered voters in Halifax County after two "Freedom Days" here.

The concentrated vote drive here is keyed to the campaigns of 11 Negroes for public office—the largest number of Negroes to run for office in any county in the South since Reconstruction.

SNCC workers J.V. Henry and Douglas Harris are assisting the Halifax County Voters Movement in the drive.

On May 8, Federal Judge Lar-

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NASHVILLE GROUP SUSTAINS PROTESTS

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Demonstrations will continue into their fourth week here, according to SNCC worker Bernard Lafayette.

Some form of protest demonstration has occurred every day for the last three weeks, he said.

Main targets of the recent student — initiated desegregation campaign have been Morrison's

Cafeteria, Tic Toc and Krystal's restaurants.

Close to 300 persons have been arrested since demonstrations renewed here, Lafayette said. SNCC has conducted a drive for an "open city" since 1960 through its local affiliate.

Twice arrested Lester McKin-
nie, 22, was injured by police

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WALLACE SPARKS CAMBRIDGE PROTESTS

CAMBRIDGE, MD. - The appearance of Alabama Governor George Wallace touched off new demonstrations here.

A succession of night time marches were repulsed by Maryland National Guardsmen with bayonets and tear gas.

At least 65 people were hospitalized or required medical treatment.

SNCC field secretary Clifford Vaughns received stitches for a bayonet wound.

The guard under the command of General George Gelston and Col. Tawes has been in Cambridge since June 14, 1963.

The Guard was called into the city by Gov. J. Millard Tawes after a march downtown had erupted into a near riot.

The marches downtown were a shift in tactics from earlier picketing and sit-ins. The new tactic allowed hundreds of unemployed Negroes to participate in the movement.

CNAC FORMED

The movement began in Dec. 1961 when two SNCC field secretaries, Reginald Robinson and Bill Hansen arrived in Cambridge. In Jan. 1962 demonstrations broke out at lunch counters and restaurants.

A formal organization was started and throughout the spring the new Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee (CNAC) de-



MILITARY F
Mrs. Gloria Richardson leader of the Cambridge movement confers with Guard General George Gelston.

monstrated at local accommodations.

Local whites in the face of rising protests agreed to Negro demands and for the first of many times the whites renege on their promises.



Demonstrators sit down in protest against Gov. Wallace's appearance last week in Cambridge, Md.

The summer brought a shift to voter registration which slowly put the movement in hibernation for the fall and winter.

In the spring of 1963 a stiffening of the jim crow arrangement in the movie theater brought renewed protests in public accommodations.

The protests took the form of sit-ins and picketing at local accommodations. In early June the tactics shifted and with this shift came a new involvement for hundreds of unemployed Negroes.

AGREEMENT SIGNED

In mid-July, 1964 Mrs. Gloria Richardson, chairman of CNAC, along with other rights leaders, signed an agreement with the white leaders of Cambridge. The pact was signed in Washington at the office of Attorney General Robert Kennedy. The agreement was signed, with the hope that the backing of the Federal Government would make the local white leaders keep their promises.

PACT NOT IMPLEMENTED

The provisions of the agreement and their current implementation are:

1. A City charter amendment banning discrimination in public accommodations. The amendment was petitioned to referendum and on Oct. 1, 1963 lost in an election in which over half the Negro community stayed away from the polls, upon the urging of Mrs. Richardson. Much of the community felt that they should not have to vote for their constitutional rights.

2. Desegregation of the schools from grades 1 - 12 with open

transfer. All transfers were accepted and 28 Negro students are now going to previously all white schools. Most county schools remain completely segregated, with the burden of desegregation left to the Negro parents and students.

3. Appointment of a bi-racial committee. The bi-racial committee has not functioned since Dec. 1963.

4. Initiation of a public housing project. The project is still in the planning stage with white leaders holding up building.

5. Hiring of a Negro in the Cambridge office of the State Employment Office. With no indications to the contrary, this seems to have been implemented.

JOBLESS JOIN PROTESTS

Since the summer of 1963 the Cambridge movement has, as one SNCC worker put it, "shifted from hamburgers to bread." That is it has moved from the ham-

burger stand and public accommodations to the more basic issue of employment or "how to put bread in people's stomachs."

The Cambridge movement, is one of the first protest groups to receive substantial support from a group other than students. Here large masses of unemployed have also taken to the streets. With their addition the emphasis of the movement has shifted from a simple issue of public accommodations where protests can be directed at specific targets and where solutions are simple, to the manifold issue of unemployment where targets are invisible and solutions complex.

The people in Cambridge are demonstrating against unemployment, poor housing and segregated and substandard schools. Yet it is in these areas that they least know what to do or where to turn.

The renewed protests in Cambridge were inevitable for this city where 30% of the Negroes are unemployed compared to a national average of 5.4% and where 60% of all Negroes in the community make \$3000 or less compared to a Maryland average of 15%.

The city of Cambridge is dying. It cannot attract industry and its most skilled young are going to the western shore of Maryland. The people in the community are desperate.

Those who now participate in the movement are the most desperate of all.

MANDATE FOR CHANGE

Governor Wallace, was the catalyst for demonstrations, which were on one level a protest a-

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General George Gelston addresses demonstrators in Cambridge.

Gas masked and helmeted Guardsmen with bayonets fixed face demonstrators

SNCC WORKER RELEASED IN LA.

BATON ROUGE, LA.- A former worker was released from jail here May 6 after serving 60 days behind bars.

Dion T. Diamond, 23, was arrested and convicted on "disorderly conduct" charges in 1961.

He served 59 days then on a charge of "criminal anarchy" and was held under a \$7,000 bail. The U. S. Supreme Court refused to overturn his conviction and he was forced to interrupt his schooling at the University of Wisconsin to serve his time.

Diamond plans to return to South this coming summer, and will work for SNCC in Mississippi.

CAMBRIDGE

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against his branch of the Democratic party, both locally and throughout the South.

Leaders in Cambridge feel that the demonstrations are a mandate to the national Democratic Party to seat the Freedom delegation

PARTY CHALLENGE

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In 1960, the regular Democrats in Mississippi did not support the late President Kennedy and the then vice presidential candidate, Lyndon B. Johnson. The state organization also repudiated the national platform of the party.

"Freedom Democratic Party workers will hold precinct, county, district and state conventions that exactly parallel the regular Democratic procedure," a vote worker said.

The Freedom Democratic Party is conducting a statewide Freedom Registration with a goal of registering 400,000 disenfranchised Negroes. Freedom Registration books are being set up in the state's 82 counties and will be used for unofficial Freedom Elections at the same time as the official June 2 Democratic primary and the November general election.



TOUGALOO COLLEGE STUDENT AUSTIN MOORE carries a charred cross past 1,000 demonstrators at the Methodist General Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on May 2. The demonstrators were protesting a plan initiated to eliminate, over a four year period, the church's all-Negro, non-geographic Central Jurisdiction. Moore, who heads the Artistic and Cultural Committee of the SNCC affiliate at Tougaloo College near Jackson, has worked with other Tougaloo students and Methodist ministers to integrate all-white churches in Jackson. The Tougaloo SNCC affiliate also initiated a boycott of Mississippi events by musical, government and other public figures.

MISS. TERROR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rights groups working in the state. COFO is planning a summer project which includes voter registration and Freedom Schools.

Mississippi newspapers have reported the formation of anti-Negro, anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic groups in southwest Mississippi. The groups, the Society for the Preservation of the White Race (SPWR) and Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR), draw their membership from whites dissatisfied with the Ku Klux Klan and white Citizens Councils. A spokesman for one group said many members of the new sup-

remacist organizations had left the White Citizens Councils because dues were too high, and because the Councils were not "doing a grassroots job." Spokesman for one group estimated membership at 30,000, with chapters in 15 counties.

The Mississippi Ku Klux Klan claim a membership of 91,003 throughout the state. Klan literature urges "Christian, American, Anglo-Saxons" to join the organization "because it is a very secret organization, and no one will know you are a member," among other reasons. A publication called "The Freedom Fighter," published by the Klan, scores the "Kennedy brats, the black Warren court, and the Nationally Associated American Communist Party, "and the too

CANDIDATE CRITICIZES RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT

CANTON, MISS. - The civil rights bill before the U.S. Senate is "unsatisfactory and extremely vague," according to Mississippi's first Negro woman candidate for the Senate.

Mrs. Victoria Jackson Gray, 37, of Hattiesburg, seeks the Democratic primary nomination for the seat held by Sen. John C. Stennis.

"How can we expect new legislation will bring needed change when, despite laws on the books since 1866, 1870 and 1948, there were only 55 Negroes registered to vote in Forrest County as of Jan. 1964, and 7,400 are eligible," she asked a campaign audience here May 9.

"Since Aug. 1961, a Justice Department-initiated suit against registrar Theron Lynd has been in litigation. And although 850 Negroes have sought to register since the intensified vote drive began in Hattiesburg on Jan. 22, 1964, only 145 more Negroes have been registered," she said.

She stated that 43 of the 55 registered prior to Jan. 22 were ordered registered by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals after several delays.

Mrs. Gray charged the good moral character provision of Mississippi's voting requirements that names of prospective voters be published in local newspapers for two weeks often resulted in "suddenly-raised rent, eviction, bills for nonexistent repairs on rented property, reassessed property taxes, or newly discovered violations of building codes," she stated.

Mrs. Gray's husband, a plumber, was fired from his job with the city of Hattiesburg last week. He had been employed by the Water Works Division of the city, and was relieved of his job when he took a week off to attend a citizenship school sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in McIntosh, Ga.

dumb to learn, filthy, diseased evil minded Negro."

Both the newly formed groups have put pressure on "moderate" whites, rather than Negroes.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

GRENADA, MISS. — An open air rally for two of Mississippi's Negro Congressional candidates was held at a Federal park Grenada Lake, near here Saturday May 8.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, 47, of Ruleville is campaigning against Rep. Jamie Whitten of the 2nd Congressional District who is running for his 13th term. Mrs. Victoria Jackson Gray competes against outspoken segregationist Sen. John C. Stennis who is seeking his fourth term. Mrs. Gray is 37, from Hattiesburg, and the mother of three children.

The two women were the featured speakers at the Grenada Lake outing in central Mississippi.

VICKSBURG, MISS. — Over 900 students suspended from Alcorn College in Lorman, Miss., may be readmitted at the intervention of the school's alumni Association. The students were shipped to their homes two weeks ago after an all-night sit-in protesting rigid administration rules.

GREENVILLE, MISS. — Three Negroes were "cordially admitted" to a meeting here May 6 of Republican Party precinct meeting. Members of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party plan a challenge of the all-white Mississippi regular Democratic Party at Atlantic City in August, charging Negroes are excluded from participation in the party.

JACKSON, MISS. — Three COFO workers were jailed here May 6 at the city's train station after

they took Mrs. Victoria Gray and Mr. James Houston, candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, to the station. The three were held overnight.

HATTIESBURG, MISS. — Two COFO workers, Lawrence Guyot and Willie Mae Smith, were released on \$500 property bonds May 13 and a third, Billy McDonald, remained in jail. Guyot who heads the 5th Congressional District vote drive, and the others were charged with interfering with an officer.

CAMDEN, ALA. — Two white ministers from the United Presbyterian Church were attacked and beaten in a hotel room here May 12. The two were in Wilcox County to survey Negro districts of the church. One suffered a broken arm when an unidentified white man "broke his shotgun over me." Tires on their car slashed and they were forced to hitchhike 30 miles to Selma.

PRINCESS ANNE, MD. — Two Somerset County judges found 29 Maryland State College students guilty on May 8 on charges rising from a Feb. 26 anti-segregation demonstration. All were fined \$25 on disorderly conduct charges and were released on \$50 bail each pending appeal.

HALIFAX COUNTY - N.C. — SNCC worker J.V. Henry was released from jail here May 8 on \$2400 bail. Henry had been jailed in connection with anti-segregation protests in Chapel Hill last winter.



Nashville SNCC leader Lester McKinnie addresses a mass rally. McKinnie was brutally beaten by police.

NASHVILLE

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in both instances. McKinnie heads the local SNCC group.

"Beside police brutality, in this city, local courts have played havoc with justice," Lafayette stated. Two Negro lawyers, Z. Alexander Looby and Avon Williams, were arrested for contempt of court May 9. At the time they were pleading cases arising from the demonstrations before metropolitan court Judge Andrew Doyle. They were released from jail when Nashville Mayor Beverly Briley paid their \$10 fine several hours later.

A new anti-segregation tactic was used when 200 white students

from predominantly white colleges here "sipped-in" at Morrison's Cafeteria May 3.

Business was tied up for two hours when they ordered coffee and then refused to leave.

Other white residents have joined the protests, including several ministers and rabbis.

SNCC Chairman, John Lewis, 24, first became active in civil rights while a student at Fisk University in Nashville. He was also injured by police in recent demonstrations here when he was arrested for his 32nd time.

NORTH CAROLINA

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kin of the Eastern Circuit of North Carolina issued a temporary injunction ordering registrars to:

- * spend as much time registering Negroes as whites;
- * register three people at a time when a line forms;
- * spend no more than five minutes registering anyone;
- * give immediate public notice of registration dates and places;
- * and to immediately hire additional registrars if a line forms and registering applicants three at a time does not speed the process.

Two county registrars resigned on May 10, and the Halifax County Voters Movement asked that Negroes be hired to replace them.

Negroes outnumber white 32,000 to 26,000 in the county.

Negro registration attempts here are kept at a minimum by harassment. Those Negroes who do try to register face a stringent literacy test, though median education for Negroes in the county is six years.

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