STATE POLICE BEAT ARK. DEMONSTRATORS

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. - Demonstrations at a segregated, "private" club in the basement of the state capitol here resulted in Alabama-style beatings and gassings from Arkansas State Troopers March 18 and 19.

During a demonstration by 40 more people on March 19, SNCC worker Howard Himmelfarb was burned with acid while former SNCC staffer Bill Whitfield now a University of Arkansas student, was hospitalized after he was thrown from the capitol through the air. He landed white and 3 Negro students hospitalized in all.

20 state troopers with billy clubs and cattle prods attacked on March 18, a group of students from Philander Smith College and SNCC workers trying to eat at the all-white club March 18, 7 white and 3 Negro students from the University of Arkansas came 220 miles to Continued on Page 4

BOYCOTT CONTINUES IN DELTA COUNTIES

ISSAQUENA COUNTY, MISS - A school boycott involving over 250 students has gone into its second month here.

SNCC CHAIRMAN JOHN LEWIS recuperates in Selma's Good Samaritan Hospital from a March 7 beating. Lewis suffering from a fractured skull, was released just before another march on March 9 which turned back because of a pre-arranged agreement between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and federal officials.

DEATHS MOUNT IN ALABAMA CAMPAIGN

SELMA, ALABAMA -- The murder of a Unitarian minister has raised the number of deaths associated with civil rights in Alabama.

The death of James Reeb of Boston brings the count to nine known murders.

Rev. Reeb, the father of four children, came here on a request from rights leaders after state troopers and sheriff's possemen brutally put down a March to Montgomery. Reeb and two other ministers were attacked by a group of Selma whites, Two days later the 38 year old minister died.

Four Dallas County white men were arrested and charged with Rev. Reeb's murder, SNCC workers here expressed doubt about any chance of getting a conviction out of an Alabama jury.

"It's a shame that it takes the murder of a northern white minister to bring attention to a common happening for Alabama Negroes," a rights worker stated.

Rev. Reeb's death makes the second in three weeks in this central Alabama died.

On Feb. 18, Jimmy Lee Jackson was shot in Marion, Eight days later he died. 

Continued on Page 2

Violence, Legal Tactics Retard Full Registration

Posse Provides Legal Terror

SELM, ALA. - Jim Clark was around when the first voter registration workers, from the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), arrived here in the fall of 1962. Then as now, the sheriff and his specially deputized posse maintain a brutal control over the community.

Private vigilante and terror groups such as the KKK have had little outward success or activity in Dallas County. SNCC workers here attribute this to the fact that Sheriff Clark provides a means for legal terror and brutality. One worker explained that "in Mississippi violence is initiated and carried out by individuals and private vigilante groups, while here the whites sit back and let the tax supported government police force do their terror."

Clark was first elected in 1955, and has won re-election since then. He faces three Justice Department suits charging him with interfering with and intimidating potential Negro voters and staff members from the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Clark's proposal for solving Selma's racial troubles is Continued on Page 4

Officials Attempt Legal Circumvention

MONTGOMERY, ALA. - Alabama and Mississippi are trying to "legalize" their voting requirements in an attempt to escape pressure from the Administration's new voting bill.

An Alabama senator who introduced a bill in the state legislature to drop the state's literacy requirement and eliminate the poll tax said, "I feel Alabama must get out from under the 50% stipulation outlined in the President's speech."

"As I understand it, once a state has registered 50% of its adult population then it no longer comes under the provisions of the proposed federal law," he said.

Fewer than 5% of the eligible Negroes in Mississippi are registered to vote; only 21% of the eligible Alabama Negro voters are registered.

In Mississippi, 67% of the eligible whites are registered. Six Mississippi election laws, enacted in 1962, and two constitutional amendments are under attack now by the Justice Department.

Officials there are considering state-wide Continued on Page 2

MARCHING IN MONTGOMERY, Student demonstrators in the Alabama state capitol sit-down on a downtown street to protest the lack of the right to peacefully assemble.
AL. REPORT

ATLANTA, GA. - For a booklet on "The General Condition Of The Alabama Negro", write to SNCC, 6 Raymond Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30314.

AL. DEATHS

Continued from Page 1

Jackson was shot after state troopers broke up a night march to the Perry County Courthouse where troopers bluntly beat women and children. Several newsmen were attacked while police turned the other way.

Jackson was sitting in a Marion cafe after the beatings occurred. State troopers rushed in looking for people who they said had been throwing rocks and bottles. A trooper grabbed Jackson; one shot him in the abdomen. The 26 year old Negro ran from the cafe with troopers beating him.

Jackson, who was refused treatment at the Marion hospital, was taken to a hospital in Selma twenty five miles away. On February 26, he died of complications.

The state of Alabama has extended its credit to help finance the plant, access roads, inland docks, and a new bridge under a program that would employ federal as well as state funds.

Three weeks after the Hammermill announcement, Liberty National Life Insurance Company bought $400,000 worth of industrial bonds to finance the new plant. Since December 6, Liberty Life officials were hosts at a Selma bar-becue for Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark and members of his police force, orginally formed to put down labor organizing attempts in Selma.

SNCC is asking for "continued pressure" on the paper company until they "clarify their position in Alabama."

Will you help SNCC continue?

I want to keep SNCC workers in Alabama. I enclose $ toward SNCC's Alabama drive.

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

The Student Voice is published monthly by the Student Voice, Inc., 6 Raymond Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30314. Subscription rates are $3.00 per year.

Boycott

Continued from Page 1

Miss Walborn commented that the Issaquena-Sharkey Freeboard School is different from freedom schools that operated in Mississippi last summer because "students are teaching themselves."

"What is happening in this freedom school," she said, "is that students are beginning to discover that they know a great deal about what they need to know -- that is about the things that matter in their lives."

"This is a revolutionary concept in education," the SNCC coordinator said, "Students can give themselves a better education than the local schools can about what democracy is, what freedom means and how people work together to bring about changes in the society."

Miss Walborn added that "these are the most relevant things to their lives."

WILL YOU HELP?

"It's hard to refuse folks with two degrees. They got more education than me!"

... an Alabama registrar.

Most Negro "folk" in Alabama don't have any degrees. But they deserve a chance to make decisions about their own lives.

SNCC workers in Hale, Greene, Wilcox, Lowndes, Perry and Dallas Counties in Alabama's Black Belt hope to give Alabama Negroes that chance.

Their work is hard and dangerous. But Lowndes and Wilcox Counties now have their first Negro voters since Reconstruction.

Will you help SNCC continue?

I want to keep SNCC workers in Alabama. I enclose $ toward SNCC's Alabama drive.

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

(Contributors of $3.00 or more receive a 12-month subscription to the Student Voice).
THE WHITE CITIZENS' COUNCIL

Power For the Status Quo

The National Guard Armory was full of 1500 who chanted in their Sunday best eating barbecue chicken at $1.50 a person. By their looks the audience was made up of middle class business people, professionals and well to do farmers, with their wives and children. It could have been a Monday night church dinner anywhere in the United States. But this dinner wasn't just anywhere; it was in Selma, Ala., and the people were there to hear Ross Barnett.

"Thank God that I am an American, a Southerner, a Mississippian and a charter member of the Mississippi White Citizens' Council," yelled Barnett. The former Mississippi governor was the main attraction at the Dallas County White Citizens' Council annual membership dinner and rally.

Barnett told them that, "The secret purpose of our enemies is to diffuse our blood, confuse our minds and degrade our character, that we may not be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

While he was speaking an equal number of Negroes were meeting across town in two churches listening to John Lewis, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). King told the crowd, "Nothing will turn us back now."

The SNCC and SCLC voter registration drive had, on that Feb. 22, gone into its sixth week with over 3000 people seeing the jails of Selma and Marion, in nearby Perry County.

Barnett's speech called for the maintainance of racial purity and the Anglo-Saxon Protestant heritage, and continued the fight against the communist conspiracy. He seemed unaware of recent happenings in the county, Barnett talked in generalities. The people were looking for answers to their problems; they wanted specifics; Barnett talked of "Americanism."

The former governor did not once mention Negro voter registration which was in the minds of the crowd in a county where Negroes make up 57% of the population.

Dallas County, population 57,000, is located in the heart of Black Belt Alabama. Selma is its county seat. It is a county where 87% of all Negro families make less than 4,000 a year and where 67% of the Negroes have less than a high school education.

Selma TIMES-JOURNAL, June 2, 1963. It asked, "Is it worth four dollars (membership) to you to prevent sit-ins, mob marches and wholesale Negro voter registration efforts in Selma?"

In order to "prevent" Negro activity the Council must maintain control over the whole community. This means not only keeping Negroes "in line" but also whites who do not follow its program.

The white group maintains this control through two means: organization and infiltration, Rorganizes the white leadership of the community to effect its program, because in order to be effective the Council must eliminate all dissent from whites.

Most whites in the community are members, but not all by choice. "There is great social and economic pressure to join. Not to join would be socially lowering and economically damaging," a local white woman said.

The Council has many means to pressure those who do not join, in May, 1959, the Dallas Council dealt with uncooperative whites by publishing a list of all business and professional people who were not members.

With the whites organized, the Council "infiltrates" the community, or as Robert Patterson, Executive Secretary of the Citizens Councils of Mississippi puts it:

"The Citizens' Councils think and plan as a group and they are able to act as individuals within their various churches, schools or any other organization to which they may belong. This has already proved effective in many, many instances."

The Council most effectively works through individual members who are in important business and government positions. It uses these people to put its program into practice.

Thus the Council's power lies not in the organization but through its individual members who wield an enormous amount of personal power by virtue of their positions in the community.

The Dallas County Council is a prime example of the group's power; its leadership reads like a who's who of the community.

The president of the Dallas Council is former mayor Chris Heinz. Heinz is a member of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce and a leading industrialist and a real estate man. He is also a good friend of Col. Richard Ault, commander of Craig Air Force Base, one of the major "industries" of Selma. Ault has, on numerous occasions, refused requests by SNCC to declare Selma off limits to air force personnel.

It was Heinz who introduced Barnett at the rally. He told the group, "We can no longer afford the luxury of the attitude of George (Wallace) do it."

"We have arrived at a point when all white people must stand up and be counted," the former mayor said. "We must lay aside personal differences and stand united as one unbreakable unit."
**Clarence L. Rankin**

Continued from Page 1 for "outside agitators" to leave "and let Alabama handle its own problems." Clark said recent demonstrations "have done more to destroy the relations between the white man and the Negro in Selma and Dallas County than any other one thing that has happened in the last 100 years."

The Sheriff always carries an electric cattle prod, which he describes as a "most humane instrument." He is usually accompanied by some members of his 300-man strong police force, organized in 1958 to break up union organizing attempts here.

During the current drive Judge Thomas finally issued a restraining order against Clark and other county officials preventing them from interfering "with the orderly process of voter registration." Thomas ordered Clark to allow at least 100 people in line at the courthouse, Clark took this to mean only a hundred and promptly arrested any excess. Later the same day, somewhat puzzled by Clark's sudden interest in the letter of the law, issued another injunction ordering the registration board to stop "refusing to receive and process expeditiously applications for voter registration." He also threw out part of Alabama's registration questionnaire.

Thomson's order failed to deter Clark. Most recently the sheriff has had, as the Atlanta CONSTITUTION editorially put it, "introduced the cattle round-up" to the field of race relations. Clark forced some 160 school children, alternately to walk and to run through the downtown streets and three miles into the country. The CONSTITUTION stated: "But the sheriff was merciful," the editorial continued; "the round-up ended in release, not branding."

Federal agents haven't scared Clark either. On October 7, 1963, Plagens took notes while the Sheriff's men beat and arrested two SNCC workers taking food and water to Negroes waiting in line to register to vote.

Nor has Clark's terror been bound by the Dallas County border line. Clark has many times traveled the state with his buddy Al Lingo, head of the Alabama State Troopers. Clark's list of appearances read like a who's who of Alabama's racial trouble spots. The University of Alabama, Birmingham and Tuskegee are just a few spots where Clark and his posse lent a hand. In Montgomery Clark pulled photographer Vernon Merrell off a bus going to a newly desegregated school, clubbed him and smashed his camera.

**Arkansas**

Continued from Page 1. participate in the protest.

The eating place became a private club after the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Two white SNCC workers ate there several days without incident or membership in the club, but when 31 whites and Negroes tried to eat there on March 11 they were forcibly dispersed by city policemen and state troopers.

During the March 18 demonstration, riot helmets troopers beat and burned the protesters. Several men were struck in their genitals, but later joined a 150-man picket line around the building.

SNCC workers have spread their organizing drive into 12 Black Belt counties in Alabama.

In Mobile, a federal judge ordered the Perry County Board of Registrars to expedite registration of Negro applicants. The order, similar to one issued against the Dallas County (Selma) Board on March 6, said the Board has continued to engage in acts and practices of discrimination, including the imposition of unreasonable and more onerous procedures and requirements.

Perry County has a federal voting registrar. referee, but he has come under fire from local Negroes and the Justice Department. Out of 65 Negroes tested by the registrar, a referee Greensboro, Alabama native, during a month-long period in early 1965, 59 failed to pass the test. The Justice Department had charged in an August, 1962 suit that there were 5,202 Negroes and 3,441 white persons of voting age in the county. They said only 257 Negroes and about 3,100 whites were registered to vote.

Despite the failure of the federal referee to increase Negro registration in that county, the Alabama House of Representatives passed a resolution com- dening federal referees, saying their presence "would lead to many serious problems."