

THE STUDENT VOICE

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STUDENT VOICE, INC.

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Cotton Workers Strike In Delta

SHAW, Miss. -- Over 250 members of a newly formed labor union are on strike here.

The strikers, members of the Mississippi Freedom Labor Union (MFLU), are mainly cotton choppers.

The union has organized over 1200 members in eight counties.

Earlier, over 60 members of the MFLU picketed a U.S. Department of Labor sponsored meeting here.

The meeting, also sponsored by a number of state agencies and the Mississippi Delta Council, an owners group, dealt with farm labor in the Delta.

The picketers protested the fact that no Negroes were invited to speak or participate in the conference. An organizer for the MFLU explained, "The conference dealt with the fate of thousands of Negroes and none of us were invited to participate."

Members of the Freedom Labor Union, formed April 9, 1965, have signed pledge forms calling for a \$1.25 minimum wage; an eight hour day with time and a half for overtime; children under 16 and people over 60 not having to work;

should be getting a fair price for what we were working for," he added. Shelton explained that "people down here get \$1.75 a day for chopping cotton for a ten hour day."

"Ten members of our union have gone on strike," Shelton said. "They will only work for \$1.25 an hour."

The Mississippi union has organized workers in Bolivar, Sunflower, Washington, Issaquena, Sharkey and Holmes Counties. "We have been contacted by interested parties in a number of counties in the Delta," said Robert Weil a worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

The Freedom Union has held two workshops explaining its program. The workshops, as is the union, were run and lead completely by local Mississippi Negroes. Over 150 people from six counties came to the last session.

A spokesman for the union explained,

"Local residents have set up a program to support the striking workers which also include a few tractor drivers and haulers. Many families have planted vege-

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VIOLENCE BREAKS WITH MASS NEGRO REGISTRATION



THE INDIANOLA FREEDOM SCHOOL stands smoldering after it was fire bombed a month ago. Fire bombs similar to the one that completely destroyed the school hit four homes here this week. "The bombings are an attempt to intimidate Negroes in Sunflower County the home of Senator James Eastland," a SNCC worker said.

Injunction Aids Registration

INDIANOLA, Miss. -- Over 300 people have been registered here in the last two weeks after a federal judge enjoined the county registrar "from making any distinction based on race in the process of registering voters in Sunflower (County)."

Increased registration attempts brought violence early on the morning of May 1. Four Negro homes were fire bombed, no one was injured.

The fire bombs hit a Freedom House and the homes of three other Negroes active in the local movement.

One man's home was completely destroyed as was the home of a local woman who had first opened her home to civil rights workers.

Rights workers doused the flames in the Freedom House here, preventing major damage.

The injunction, issued by U.S. District Judge Claude Clayton, ordered Registrar Cecil Cambell "not to use any qualification for registering Negroes which is more difficult or complicated than that used for whites." The order will be in effect for one year.

Workers for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) have been operating an intensified registration campaign since the injunction was issued.

Negroes are registering in large numbers for the first time in this Delta cotton county of 13,000 Negroes and 8,000 whites of voting age.

"We have been bringing 30 to 40 people to the courthouse here every-

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ARKANSAS PROGRAM TO EXPAND TO 31 COUNTIES

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. -- A summer project with over 50 volunteers has been set for the state by the Arkansas Project of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

The project will concentrate on voter registration and community organization. Freedom Schools and Community Centers are also planned.

"The summer volunteers will allow the Arkansas Project to expand into the 31 counties in the state's delta area," State Project Director James Jones explained. "We will concentrate volunteers in the 13 counties we are already working. This will allow our experienced staff to move into the rest of the

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POVERTY IN THE DELTA of Arkansas is common. The Arkansas project will work with Negroes in 31 counties trying to organize people to deal with their own problems.

STUDENTS PROTEST ALA. COLLEGE EXPULSIONS

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- Nine suspended students from Alabama State College for Teachers have filed a suit here requesting immediate reinstatement and collective damages of \$120,000.

The students, suspended for taking part in civil rights demonstrations here, are also requesting the right to protest on campus.

The suit, filed before U.S. District Judge Frank Johnson, asks for a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction against the state school board.

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SNCC Says Don't Buy Hammermill

ERIE, PENNA. -- Students from over seven schools will picket the annual stockholders meeting of the Hammermill Paper Company here May 11.

The demonstrations, under the sponsorship of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), will protest the company's plan to build a 35 million dollar plant near racially torn Selma, Ala.

At the same time protestors will picket plants in Hamilton, Ohio, Springfield, Mass, and Hoquiam, Washington, and offices in New York and Philadelphia.

The protestors will ask the paper company to change its plans to build in Alabama.

SNCC Chairman John Lewis called the Hammermill move "a direct support to the racist policies of the state and its peoples."

Lewis called for "all freedom lovers not to buy



BURNED OUT HOME in Indianola, Miss. Increased registration under federal court supervision has led to increased violence. Four homes were fire bombed and a Freedom House shot at here in Sunflower County.

Hammermill products and to send letters to Hammermill's president protesting the move to Alabama and stating their intention not to buy Hammermill products." The SNCC leader added, "It is most important to encourage your local stationary stores, college, union, school board, and city not to buy Hammermill products."

Earlier, over 100 people picketed plants and offices in five cities. Twenty people picketed the main plant here.

Donald S. Leslie, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hammermill said his company decided to locate in Selma because of the "character of community and people."

Rev. Robert Spike of the National Council of Churches called the statement "either the height of naivete or the depth of racism."

Earlier this month in McComb a Negro received 67 votes in a special election for city selectman, L. J. Martin, the candidate, also ran in a Freedom Election and received over 500 votes.

Miss. Negroes Run In Local Elections

GREENWOOD, MISS.-Negroes in four Mississippi towns have attempted to run in local elections for the first time since Reconstruction.

One of six Negroes has been put on the ballot.

Two women here were rejected as candidates for Greenwood city elections for failure to pay the poll tax. A third, Mrs. Pinkie Pilcher has qualified as candidate for Street Commissioner.

Mrs. Pilcher is running with the assistance of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The two disqualified women, SNCC worker Mary Lane and Mrs. Alice Blackwell, attempted to run for police commissioner and mayor, respectively.

In other cities in the state Negroes attempted to get on the ballot.

In Meridian, Mrs. Catherine Crowell is attempting to qualify for city councilwoman.

In Moss Point and Shaw, Negroes were disqualified because of registration restrictions on candidates. Dr. Sol Johnson was rejected in Moss Point be-

cause he had not signed the registration book. Andrew Hawkins of Shaw could not run because he was not a registered voter.

YOU CAN HELP

Negroes have a chance to register for the first time in Sunflower County, Mississippi.

Workers continue the door to door, day to day work in Alabama.

Arkansas workers are preparing for a small summer project.

Voter registration continues in Georgia.

You can help.

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)

WORKERS MOVE INTO NINE ALA. COUNTIES

SELMA, ALA. - The civil rights glamor and publicity, the actors and the reporters are gone from Selma, but the day-to-day, door-to-door work continues.

Even while the historic Selma to Montgomery March was in progress civil rights workers here spread their organizational efforts to the nine counties surrounding Dallas County.

Workers for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) moved into the hard core areas where the percentage of Negroes is high as is the terror and intimidation.

"It seems that the number of Negroes has a direct effect on the amount of violence," one rights worker explained.

SNCC workers have set up offices in the towns of York, Marion, Hayneville, Greenboro and Montgom-

ery. In Lowndes County workers aided local people in setting up the Lowndes County Improvement Association. In Hayneville, its county seat, 40 people attempted to register at the courthouse.

In Hale County, SNCC worker Anne Pearl Avery brought members of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to talk to local Negroes.

Workers have moved into Perry, Wilcox, Lowndes, Sumpter, Greene, Hale, Pickens, Calhoun and Montgomery Counties. All except Montgomery and Pickens have over 50% Negro population. Greene and Wilcox have over 80%.

A SNCC field secretary explained, "Most of the work is trying to overcome fear. We are trying to organize the people so they can solve their own problems," he added.

Bond Wins Ga. House Primary

Atlanta, Ga. - A civil rights leader won, a klan Grand Dragon lost and seven Negroes were guaranteed election to the Georgia House of Representatives in the Democratic Primary here Wednesday.

Leading the group of seven Negroes is Julian Bond Communications Director of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Bond easily beat his Negro opponent. The young leader must face Republican opposition in the June 16, General Election.

In a District near Bond's, Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon Clvin Craig ran a poor second in a three man race for the Georgia House.

Craig polled less than 500 votes.

Three Negroes are unopposed in the General Election. Another four have Negro opponents, including Bond.

One Negro must face white opposition in a county-wide at-large race.

Three Negroes faced whites in the primary. One Negro fared better than the white.

Bond, at 25, is the youngest candidate in the election. A leader of the Atlanta Student Movement and former managing editor of the Atlanta Inquirer newspaper, Bond has led desegregation activities here.

The young leader has called for a \$2.00 minimum wage, improved urban re-



Julian Bond

newal programs, repeal of the right to work law and an end to the literacy test for voters in Georgia.

The SNCC leader stated, "I am talking with the people in my district to see what they want done."

"I see this campaign as a chance to prove that the ordinary citizen has decision making power," Bond added.

Bond is the son of Dr. Horace Mann Bond, Dean of Education of Atlanta University and former president of Lincoln University in Lincoln, Pennsylvania.

The special election grew out of a federal court order ruling that the state house of representatives must be re-apportioned. The new House raises Atlanta's membership from 3 to 24.

THE WHITE CITIZENS' COUNCIL - How It Operates

CONTINUED FROM
LAST ISSUE

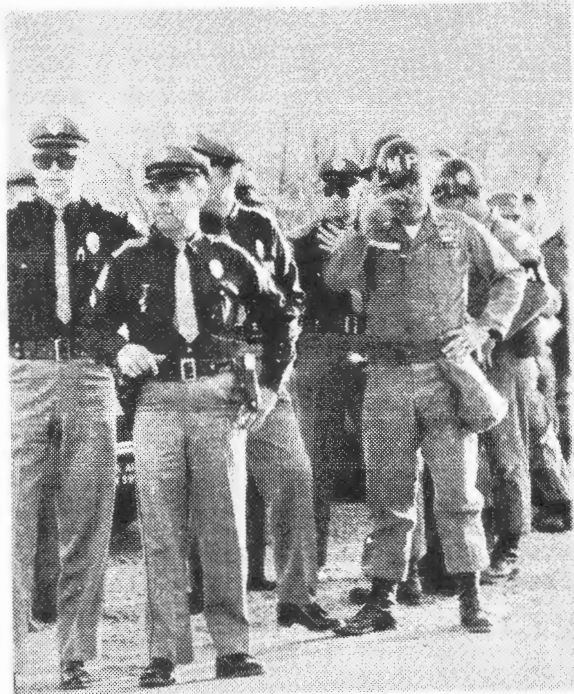
The Council must keep control of the white community in order to control the Negro community. And control of the Negro community means holding down registration. Although it was organized in November 1954 as a reaction to the Supreme Court school decision, the Council has concentrated its activities on the prevention of Negro registration.

The Council's method of controlling Negro registration is reported by Hodding Carter in THE SOUTH STRIKES BACK. The Mississippi editor says,

"During an organizational meeting of the Citizens' Council... in Dallas County... one speaker said: 'We intend to make it difficult, if not impossible for any Negro who advocates desegregation to find and hold a job, get credit, or renew a mortgage.'

Economic control is established by having officers of the four major banks on the executive committee. This group is headed H. P. Hansell, Associate Vice-President of the City National Bank and Treasurer of the Citizens' Council. A SNCC worker reported, "Businessmen who do not support the White Citizens' Council cannot make loans at the local banks."

That the Council has been effective can be seen from a Justice Department re-



NEGRO REGISTRATION IS STIFLED BY an alliance of Council members with law enforcement officials who work very closely with it.

port that states: "From June 1954... through 1960, the Board of Registrars of Dallas County registered more than 200 white persons and only 14 Negroes."

An example of the way the Council and its members "prevent" Negro registration is an incident involving Charlie Dunn, a reported Citizens' Council member and owner of Dunn's Rest Home: In the summer of 1964, workers for SNCC sponsored a "Freedom Day" in which

local Negroes line up at the courthouse to attempt to register. On that day Dunn went to the courthouse to check if any of "his Negroes" were on the registration line. He saw one; and the next day when the Negro woman appeared for work, Dunn also assaulted her, which led to the rest of his 40 Negro employees walking off their jobs.

The unemployed Negroes found it impossible to find new jobs. A local white woman explained, "Dunn

and/or the Citizens' Council had circulated a 'blacklist' of the names of the people who had left."

Distressed local white women got together and attempted to get jobs for the Negroes. They contacted whites who needed maids, but the white women were afraid to hire them. They called the management of the newly-opened Holiday Inn, who told them that he had been given a list of Negroes who had tried to register or who were "agitators" and that he couldn't buck Dunn and the Council.

A restaurant owner attempted to employ one of the fired women. A white man told the reporter that "Dunn threatened to have his supplies cut off and institute a boycott." He fired the lady.

Finally, Negro registration is effectively stifled by an alliance of Council members with law enforcement officials who, if they are not dues-paying members of the organization, work very closely with it.

The sheriff of Dallas County, Jim Clark, is the final link in the conspiracy to restrict Negro citizenship. Clark, who appeared on the podium with Connor and Barnett at the Citizens' Council rally, has a 300-man posse behind him. He is now a defendant in three Justice Department suits charging him with voter intimidation and interference.

Also defendants under the same charges are Blanchard McCleod, Circuit Solicitor and a "proud

member" of the adjoining Wilcox County Citizens' Council; the county solicitor; the circuit judge; his clerk; Robert D. Wilkinson, Jr., Foreman of the Grand Jury and member of the Executive Committee of the Dallas County Council; and the Dallas County Citizens' Council.

The suit charges the Council and its members with "Adopting and attempting to carry out a program:

--"to use economic sanctions against Negro citizens of Dallas County;

--"to frustrate federal court orders designed to eliminate discrimination of race in registering to vote;

--"of deterring Negro citizens... from attending voter registration meetings;

--"of preventing wholesale Negro voter registration;

--"of resisting efforts of the United States government in enforcing the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1960."

The case, now before Federal District Judge Daniel Thomas, is yet to be decided.

In order for the Negro citizens to register to vote, they must face the combined forces of the above-mentioned powers. Someone suggested that the Negroes be given a medal. "After facing all that," SNCC Chairman John Lewis replied, "they should be given the vote,"

since that January 4th. They realize that a better impression will lessen the chance for any success by the Freedom Democratic Party.

The challenge "has drawn an inordinate amount of publicity and has whipped up even more anti-Mississippi sentiment," William L. Chaze wrote in the January 3 Jackson Clarion-Ledger and Daily News. "And more of this type sentiment we don't need," he concluded.

NEXT ISSUE: Mississippi Image and Reality-Part II

THE CHALLENGE

Mississippi Image And Reality

Since that time Mississippi's leaders have been trying to adjust the "fuzzy" thinking" of others who have thought that racism and second-class citizenship are part of Mississippi life. These leaders have suddenly decided to do this as state revenues fell and the state began operating on a hand to mouth basis and as the state's five congressional representatives were being challenged.

Last November a state sales tax of 3.5 percent produced less revenue than a 3.0 percent levy brought

the same month the preceding year. After the Neshoba County slayings tourist trade along the Gulf coast dropped 50 percent. By December it was still low. Hotel and motel occupancy in the Gulfport-Biloxi area was only 8 percent. From March to December the state was forced to borrow \$8 million.

Robert Gordon reported in a UPI dispatch February 28: "Business leaders feared a boycott campaign against Mississippi industry and products and noted the state's slow industria-

lization. Others pointed to the challenge of the Mississippi congressional delegation."

This latter is perhaps the most important reason for the sudden attempt at window dressing. Mississippi political leaders have taken the congressional challenge very seriously and are worried about the outcome. The number of votes against Mississippi last January 4th has given leaders second thoughts about their state's "image". All of these attempts to change the impression of Mississippi have come

"There are a lot of people who have been talking about the need to improve the image of Mississippi," former Governor Ross Barnett told a Citizens' Council meeting in New Orleans a few months ago. "but let me ask you people here...is there anything wrong with Mississippi's image?" Barnett answered, "No."

The racist political leader continued, "...if some of the people who are talking about Mississippi's image would just spend a little more time having their 'fuzzy' thinking adjusted then maybe they could see as clearly as you and I can--that there is not much wrong with the Mississippi image."

Sunflower

Continued from Page 1

day," stated rights worker James Jones. "Twenty-five to 30 pass a day," he added.

In, Greenville, lawyers for the MFDP filed a petition before Judge Clayton asking the federal judge to hold up municipal elections for six months in Sunflower County.

The Freedom Party lawyers contend that elections in the towns of Drew, Rome, Doddsville, Sunflower, Iverness, Ruleville, and Moorhead should be postponed until Negroes have a chance to register.

A spokesman for the MFDP stated that the Freedom Party will run candidates in the upcoming municipal elections.

In Drew, four voter registration workers were sentenced to several months on the county work farm. Worker McKinley Mack of Indianola was arrested for using profanity and impersonating an officer, and sentenced to three months at hard labor. Three other workers who went to the jail to find out about Mack were arrested for obstructing the door of a public place and disobeying an officer. The three were convicted and sentenced to two months on the work farm.

Mrs. Fannie Low Hamer, of nearby Ruleville, has helped the "crash" regis-



THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY has organized hundreds of Negroes throughout Mississippi. For the first time in their lives, people are participating in the decision making of a political party.

tration program. Mrs. Hamer was Freedom Democratic Party candidate from the Second Congressional District and is one of the challengers to the seating of the Mississippi delegation in Congress.

Negroes who passed the test stood outside the courthouse here hugging their neighbors, many had tears in their eyes. One couple, both over 70, travelled 28 miles from Ruleville to take the test. Each had failed the

test twice previously. "I was so glad I wanted to holler 'Freedom'", the woman said.

In the injunction Judge Clayton ordered the registrar to process no less than four applicants at a time. He was also ordered to re-examine past applications under the new qualification. Cambell, the registrar must file a monthly report with the Justice Department and the court and give specific reasons for all

rejections.

The order provides that applicants may qualify according to "one man-one vote" standard. The qualifications require only age and residency.

ARK.

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rural hard core areas," he stated.

The project will center its activities around Freedom Centers in four cities - Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Helena and Forrest City. "The centers will be a combination community center and freedom school," said Nancy Stoller coordinator for the Freedom Center Program.

Registration will be facilitated by new procedures which makes age and residency the only requirements. The constitutional amendment also outlaws the poll tax, sets up permanent registration (people had to re-register every year), makes the county clerk the registrar instead of the sheriff, and provides for safeguards against election fraud which has rampant in the past.

SNCC director Jones stated that interested persons should contact him at: Arkansas SNCC, 700 West Ninth Street, Little Rock, Ark.

Students

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Earlier, police fired over the heads of a crowd of 400 students on the campus of the Negro school.

The students were protesting the arrest of civil rights worker Willie Ricks of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Over 20 students have been jailed since demonstrations began April 21, 1965.

The arrests grew out of student protests over the school administration's attempt to punish students who participated in rights demonstrations here. Some 9 students were suspended for taking part in direct action here.

Students faced police, throwing rocks and bottles. The all white police retaliated by firing over the students' heads.

One girl was reported injured when she fainted after being burned from the blast of a firing pistol.

On the previous night, 400-500 students sat in front of the president's house, where student leaders called for a boycott of classes.

The protests flared up after a faculty-administration committee hearing charged 17 students with insubordination, willful defiance of authority, and conduct prejudicial to the college and unbecoming a student and future teacher.

Thirteen students were arrested here earlier after a 13 hour sit-in at the office of the president.

Strike

Continued from Page 1

table gardens. One man donated 12 acres of land to be planted with vegetables that will be sold to provide money for the union," she added.

"She stated that the local residents did not wish outside help at this time.

They want to do it themselves," she said.

ALA. REPORT

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

8½ Raymond Street, N. W
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