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, as 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," the organizer said.

Members of the Freedom Labor Union, formed April 9, 1965, have signed $1.25 minimum wage; an offer to only work $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 Well a "warior 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 vegetables to move into the rest of the

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

FOVERTY 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.

Continued on Page 4
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 demonstration, 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, picketers 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 to not buy Hammermill products."

BURNED OUT HOME: in Indiana, 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.

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."

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 register 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 county elections for failure to pay the poll tax. A third, Mrs. Pidie Pilcher has qualified as candidate for County Commissioner.

Mrs. Pilcher is running with the assistance of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The women have been disqualified by the authorities.

You can help.

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

Name__________________________
Address_________________________
State___________________________
Zip Code________________________

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.

In Mississippi, SNCC workers have tried to register the first time in Sunflower County, Mississippi.

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

You can help.

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

Name__________________________
Address_________________________
State___________________________
Zip Code________________________

Workers move into Workers move into

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 worker explained.

SNCC workers have set up offices in the towns of York, Marion, Hayneville, Greensboro and Montgomery.

NINE ALA. COUNTIES

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, Sumter, 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

Julian Bond, son of Dr. Hosea Mann Bond, Dean of Education of Atlanta University and former president of Lincoln University in Lincoln, Pennsylvania, won the special election in Georgia to fill the vacancy created when his predecessor resigned.

Bond is the candidate in the election, a leader of the Atlanta Student Movement and former managing editor of the Atlanta Inquirer newspaper. Bond has led registration activities here.

The young leader has staked for a $2,600 minimum wage, improved urban re-
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 Holding 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 by H. P. Haness, 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 report 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 Best 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 ‘black-list’ of the names of the people who had had.”

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. Barnett at the Dallas County, Jim Clark, is the final link in the conspiracy to restrict Negro citizenship. Clark, who appeared before the United States Senate in June 1964, worked as a consultant to attendance officials in registering to vote; “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 citizen to vote. There they must face the combined forces of the above-mentioned powers. Some one said that the Negroes be given a medal. “After facing all that,” SNCC Chairman John Lewis replied, “they should be given the vote.”

“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 ‘luzzy’ thinking adjusted then they might see clearly as you and I can—that there isn’t much wrong with the Mississippi image.”

Since that time Mississippi’s leaders have been trying to adjust the “luzzy” 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 occupany 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 industrialization. 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 the state 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 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
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 peti-
tion 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
is the towns of Drew, Rome,
Doddsville, Sunflower,
Iverness, Ruleville, and
Moorehead should be post-
poned until Negroes have a
chance to register.

A spokesman for the MFDP stated that the Free-
dom Party will run candi-
dates in the upcoming munici-
pal elections.

In Drew, four voter registration workers were
sentenced to several months on the county work
farm. Worker McKinley
Mack of Indiana was ar-
rested for using profanity and impersonating an offi-
cer, and sentenced to three
months at hard labor. Three
other workers who went to
the jail to find out about
Mack were arrested for ob-
structing 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-
tration program. Mrs.
Hamer was Freedom De-
nocratic Party candidate
from the Second Congress-
ional District and is one of
the challengers to the
seating of the Mississippi
delegation in Congress.

Negroes who passed the
test stood outside the court-
house 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 failed the
test twice previously, "I
was so glad I wanted to
bother 'Freedom'," the wo-
man said.

In the injunction Judge
Clayton ordered the regis-
strar to process no less than
four applicants at a time.
He was also ordered to re-
examine past applications
under the new qualifica-
tion, Campbell, the registrar
must file a monthly re-
port with the Justice De-
partment and the court and
give specific reasons for all
rejections.

The order provides that
applicants may qualify ac-

cording to "one man-one
vote" standard. The quali-
fications require only age
and residency.

ARK.

Continued from Page 1

Students

Continued from Page 1

Earlier, police fired over
the heads of a crowd of 600
students on the campus of
the Negro school.

The students were pro-
testing the arrest of civil
rights worker Willie Reader
of the Student Nonviolent
Coordinating Committee
(SNCC).

Over 20 students have
been jailed since demon-
strations began April 21,
1963.

The arrests grew out of
student protests over the
school administration's at-
tempt 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 reas-
tered by firing over the
students' heads.

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

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

The protests flared up
after a faculty-adminis-
tration committee hearing
charged 17 students with
involuntary 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 of-
lice of the president.

Strike

Continued from Page 1

Students

Continued from Page 1

Arkansas SNCC, 700 West
Ninth Street, Little Rock,
Ark.

Demanding the right to
Poll tax, sets up per-
manent registration (peo-
ple 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 stat-
ed that interested persons
should contact him at Ar-
kanas SNCC, 700 West
Ninth Street, Little Rock,
Ark.

ALABAMA REPORT

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