

Thursday, August 14, 1965

## McCOMB, MISS. Ossie Lee Barr/Jeanne Breaker

Maids at the Holiday Inn are still on strike. Yesterday 10 maids and sympathizers of the McComb Freedom Labor Union picketed. From 1201 they entered the restaurant to have a glass of tea and try to bring the issues before the patrons. While they were in the restaurant, the employers of Ossie's parents saw her. That evening they fired her mother; the reason was because Ossie was demonstrating. Last week Ossie's sister was fired from her job at the State Welfare Office for the same reason. Ossie is the Chairman of the McComb MFLU.

## NORFOLK, VA. Willie Thompson/Barbara Brandt

There was a SNCC chapter here back in '62. They participated in sit-ins, etc. In '63, there was an organization called Student Committee Against Discrimination (SCAD), but it was put down by the local power structure. Recently, Thompson has been going into the community trying to find leadership among lower class Negroes, because the educated middle class is apathetic. When school starts this fall, there will be a lot of students around who will be able to take part in a project.

## GREENWOOD, MISS. James Jones/Barbara Brandt \* \*VR REPORT\* \*

615 people were registered since yesterday. They have a county-wide voter registration drive. Four federal registrars have been here since Tuesday. They are open from 8-4:30. Their office is in the federal post office basement. (It was announced in the newspaper when and where the federal registrars would have their offices (In the Jackson Clarion-Ledger).

Jones and Charles MacLaurin, who is the Second District Project Director, plan to have massive voter registration drives in every 2d District County. They will collect affidavits on every instance in which registrars turn eligible people away (for example, they usually turn illiterate folk away), in order to get federal examiners into those counties.

(WE AGAIN URGE THAT IF YOU RUN INTO ANY INSTANCES OF DEFIANCE OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT, THAT YOU 1-CALL ATLANTA FOR A WATS REPORT, 2-SEND A COPY TO WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY OR THROUGH SOME OTHER SYSTEM YOU HAVE SET UP, SUCH AS IS BEING DONE IN THE SECOND DISTRICT, 3-SEND A COPY TO MARION BARRY, SNCC, 107 RHODE ISLAND NW, WASHINGTON DC.)

Today, as Rev. Daniel Strong of Itta Bena was driving 6 people to be registered he was given a ticket for running a red light. The people in the car will swear that he didn't run the light. Jones assumes this is a harassment which we will see more of.

## WEST POINT, MISS. Bert Halpern/Bab

John Buffington spoke to the "ayor today and worked out the following: tomorrow they will march to the courthouse and have a meeting with the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Schools.

## BAKER COUNTY, GA. Roy Shields/Bab

THEY WANT PEOPLE TO COME TO BAKER COUNTY IMMEDIATELY, TO JOIN IN DEMONSTRATIONS TO FORCE THE ORDINARY TO OPEN REGISTRATION BOOKS, AND TO DEMONSTRATE AROUND THE NIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE.

## CANTON, MISS. Milton Pickett/Bab \* \*VR REPORT\* \*

200 people registered today. That makes about 6-700 registered since federal registrars came Tuesday.

They are now boycotting-picketing Fred's Dollar Store, May's Supermarket, and the C&M Food Store, and Smart Shoe Store, and the Fair Store. Purpose is because they treat Negro customers discourteously and don't hire Negroes.

C.O. Winn, active member of the Movement, was arrested today for "simple assault" after a white boy walking down the street bumped into him. Bail is \$500. When they brought a check, they were told to bring cash. When they brought cash, they were told they needed property bond. Arrest was made by deputy sheriff.

(over)

## WEST TENNESSEE VOTERS PROJECT Tim Hall/Bab

William Springfield, temporary chairman of the Tennessee Freedom Labor Union, just found out that his house had been shot into with a shotgun Wed. night. Springfield's landlord (the plantation owner where he works) refuses to fill out a form telling how much money Springfield made during the past three months. Without this form, Sp. can't get into the food stamp program. A few days ago, Sp. and a civil rights worker were run off the Ames Plantation (largest in the county) at gunpoint.

The Post Office is threatening action against the Union for putting circulars into people's mailboxes.

Parents whose kids are participating in the Fayette Co. school boycott plan to go around to the various Negro schools with a reporter from the Nashville Tennessean (the "New York Times of Tenn!"), who will write about conditions in them.

## INDIOLA, MISS. Allen Cooper/Bab \* \*VR REPORT\* \*

A total of 50 affidavits were filed against the county registrar during the past few days. He has told Negro people who went to register to vote since the passage of the voting rights act, "You can't read or write good enough to register, so come back next week," or "We don't know about the new laws yet, so come back next week." Sunflower Co. has over 70% eligible Negro voters. About 2000 Negroes are registered by now, but most of them still haven't paid the poll tax which would allow them to vote in state and local elections. The registrar, Cecil Campbell, was previously subjected to a federal injunction which required him to apply the long voting test fairly.

## ALABAMA REPORT Jean Wiley/Bab \* \*VR REPORT\* \*

Jean obtained the following information from William S. Atkinson, an official of the Civil Service Commission who is coordinating voter registration for Alabama.

On August 10, federal examiners had been sent into 4 counties as a result of the voting rights act. They are Dallas, Lowndes, Hale, and Marengo. (These are all Black Belt counties where we are working.)

During the first three days of their presence, over 2000 Negroes were "listed" (According to the vr act, the federal examiners "list" the names of everyone eligible to vote--meeting age and residency requirements and not guilty of a felony--and then turn these names over to the local officials. It is up to these officials to put the names of the potentially eligible voters on the books to make them eligible for federal, state, and local elections.)

A breakdown of those listed (all but a handful of whom are Negroes) follows:  
Aug. 10, 480 people listed, (6 rejected for not being eligible--age or residence)  
Dallas: 106 (3 rej); Hale: 125; Lowndes: 48 (1 rej); Marengo: 97 (2 rej).

August 11, 705 people listed, 15 rejected:

Dallas: 218 (3 rej); Hale: 278 (4 rej); Lowndes: 60 (7 rej); Marengo: 159 (1 rej).

August 12, 839 listed, 31 rejected:

Dallas: 291 (1 rej); Hale: 229 (3 rej); Lowndes 102 (12 rej); Marengo: 217 (2 rej)

In Dallas and Hale Co. registrars are in the county seats. In Lowndes and Marengo Cos., they are in another town. In Lowndes Co there was no previous announcement that the registration office would be in another town (It is in Ft. Deposit). Atkinson suggests that the small registration in Lowndes is due to the present location and the fact that people are so spread out in the county.

Attorney General of Alabama, Richmond Flowers, decides into which counties federal registrars will be sent, according to Atkinson.

## EASTERN SHORE, MARYLAND Ellen Fishman/Bab

As a result of a meeting last week between people from Kent's Narrows Island, and representatives of local civil rights and labor organizations and state officials, a meeting was held yesterday. It was attended by representatives from CEO, county officials, and it was announced that Manpower Development Training Act, Food Stamp Program, and several War on Poverty programs would be instituted. SNCC will do some seeing in the W.N. Negro community to see what kind of training programs wanted.