

ANNOUNCEMENT:

There will be a Statewide Mississippi Freedom Labor Union workshop this Saturday, August 21, 1965. It will be held in Shaw starting 10 a.m. All chapters are asked to send reports in writing to Shaw, telling about their local activities, how many members they have, what plans they have for the future, etc. (At present, we know of chapters in Shaw, Cleveland, Rosedale, Marks, Sidon, Greenville, Tribbett, Lamont, Hollandale, Glen Allen, Winterville, Indianola, Ruleville, McComb, and Natchez. If there is a chapter in your area also, please let us know.)

For more information, please contact the MFLU, Box 547, Shaw, Mississippi, phone 754-9831.

Sunday, August 15, 1965 continued

WEST POINT, MISS. Jay Lockard/Barbara Brandt

On Friday, 230 people marched to the courthouse for a meeting with local school officials. They asked a lot of questions about bad conditions in the schools, allocation of funds, etc., but didn't get any really satisfactory answers. The reply was usually "We're working on it." They have an integration plan which covers only the first and second grades. When somebody at the meeting suggested they integrate the Negro high school, the officials said that was out of the question. The West Point FDP is filing a suit which may result in two more grades integrated. PHEBA, MISS. Last Saturday, someone fired into the Freedom House 51 times and into the house of an active neighbor 30 times. They think the people who did the shooting were the Blanchard family, a poor white family that has a house nearby.

Friday night, Aug. 13, Bert Blanchard invaded the Freedom House and put a pistol to the neck of a local man. The others managed to get Blanchard out. When workers tried to get help, they were followed and their car was almost run off the road. The next day, worker Joel Bernard was followed by a white guy who it seems was trying to get near enough to take a shot at him. When Joel complained to the sheriff Joe Strickland, he was fined \$37 for blocking a car. That night, three more shots were fired at the Freedom House and two were fired back.

Today, Sheriff Strickland said the shots that were fired yesterday had really been fired a few weeks ago. He then came by with two men who had shot at the Freedom House last night, and produced a warrant for the arrest of an unknown party who, he claimed, had fired at the two white guys for no reason. Justice of the Peace Bob White refused to swear out warrants for the arrest of the guy who had shot at the house, and at Blanchard, on the grounds that the FDP was violating the rights of the white people (in general).

Monday, August 16, 1965

SELMA, ALA. Shirley Walker/Jeanne Breaker morning--more on Lowndes Co.

Bond for Stokely and Chris has been raised to \$1000 each. Stokely was not driving, but he was charged with reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident. Chris, the driver, was charged with driving without a license and leaving the scene.... Doctors from the Medical Committee visited the people today. They report that the morale of the people is very high, and the jailor wants the people to be released because they are running him crazy.

Scott B. Smith reports that on Saturday night, when the Klan moved into Haynesville with radio cars, they were checking with local officials as to what frequencies they could use, and what local homes they could stay in.

JACKSON, MISS. Bob Smith/Bab REPORT ON THE YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI

CONVENTION The YDCM convention was held Saturday, August 14, at the Heidelberg Hotel in downtown Jackson. Representatives of the FDP, the NAACP, and the AFL-CIO had been caucassing during the past week, and had agreed on a slate of candidates and a platform. (They have to elect a 19 man delegation to represent the YDCM at the National Convention in New York on Sept. 14.) They had also decided that they would draw up a constitution first, and elect officers afterward.

The meeting was chaired by Johnny Frazier of the NAACP. When the meeting began, (over)

YDCM Convention. cont.

Cleveland Donald (NAACP-Negro student at Ole Miss) stood up and proposed that they elect officers first and then draw up the constitution. Donald's resolution won 105-15. By 1:15pm, Joyce Brown (FDP) was elected National Committeewoman. When Joyce was elected, Frazier called a lunch break. After the lunch break, a representative of the NAACP proposed that they nominate a new chairman. (Bob interprets this as asking for a test of strength of the two opposing factions.) Frazier lost. Then Hodding Carter III (grandson of the white moderate editor of the Greenville Delta Democrat-Times) got up and made a speech, that ended with the words "All true Democrats who want form an organized Young Dems should walk out and form a true Young Dems club." The truth shall rise again." At this point, 104 people, NAACP and white moderates, walked out. About 200 people, FDP and some NAACP and some white moderates, remained. They thereupon threw out everything that had been done up to that time, and had new elections. Officers included:

President: Bob Smith (FDP)

National Committeeman: Leonard Rosenthal (white attorney from Jackson)

National Committeewoman: Joyce Brown (FDP)

First VP: Ed King (white chaplain at Tougaloo College)

Second VP: Everett Sanders (Tougaloo student)

Third VP: Chester Rash (Tougaloo)

College VP: Cleveland Donald (elected in his absence)

Teen VP: Thelma Hill (FDP)

Secretary: Hunter Morey (FDP)

Treasurer: Hodding Carter III (elected in his absence)

Rev. King, Sanford, and Rash (first three VP's) will be willing to give up their seats to members of the faction that walked out, and Bob Smith said he would give four seats as delegates-at-large to them. This would give the other faction 9 voting seats out of 19. When the proposal was made to Hodding Carter, he said they would rather die than work with the FDP group. The NAACP faction plans to present its own slate of delegates to the national Convention in September.

Several of the FDP delegates (over 20) were turned away from the meeting by the Manager of the Heidelberg Hotel and NAACP people.

WEST TENNESSEE VOTERS PROJECT Herbert Bonner/Bab

There is a woman who works for the local Welfare Dept. (out of the Somerville office) who is also in charge of administering the food stamp program. She has taken a lot of people who are active with the Movement off the program. She has also been telling parents whose kids are participating in the school boycott that if they keep their kids out, they will stop receiving welfare checks.

ATLANTA, GA. STATEMENT BY JOHN LEWIS ON LOS ANGELES AND CHICAGO

In Los Angeles and Chicago, black people are protesting against police brutality, economic and social discrimination, and the failure and refusal of men with power to meet the needs of an oppressed people. The conditions these people have lived in breed frustration, bitterness, and a sense of despair. The Negro people throughout this country are tired of being treated like things, instead of being respected as human beings. The use of police and military power to try to solve the problems that Negroes are confronted with in the ghettos and slums of our cities is an unspeakable mistake. It will only aggravate the disease of poverty and despair. The only way to end this kind of protest is for local, state, and federal governments to bring about a true democracy in which all Americans, regardless of class and color, will have an equal stake and share in the economic and political life of this country.

GREENVILLE, MISS. Jon Steinberg/Bab

* *VR REPORT* *

Over 2000 people have been registered since July. Now about 100 people a day are going down to register. They are working with the NAACP. The registrar demands that applicants fill out and sign the voting application, and some people have been rejected for being unable to sign their names. (more)