

Dear Friends,

To continue this from yesterday where I left off. We have finally moved out of Bo Jackson's house, and in a way I am sorry to go as every night when he came back from his gas station he told us more stories of Albany Movement history - none of which is recorded or the kind of stuff that Howard Zinn learned about - and it was fascinating. Like he told us how when he started working for the Movement he was fired from the Albany Herald. He wanted to collect unemployment and the Herald tried to screw him up by claiming that he wasn't looking for work. So every day he made the rounds applying for jobs - first he would go to the police station and apply, then to the firehouse, and finally to the City water company. When Pritchett finally told him that they were thinking of hiring him he stopped going by the police, but went to the gas company to be a meter reader. He said he was afraid the city would start integrating his employees and he wouldn't have any place to apply for work. He also told us a great story about how he went into the Trailways bus station cafe and ordered a cup of coffee. The waitress put it in a paper cup (so whites wouldn't have to drink from the same cup). He didn't touch it but ordered another cup of coffee - again in a paper cup. He wound up ordering 6 cups of coffee, and finally told her to bring him one in a ceramic cup, which she did. He drank it, put down a dime, and started out. She said who is going to pay for the other 6 coffee's, and he told her that he didn't know as he didn't order a paper cup of coffee, but a cup of coffee, and walked on out.

This week started off with the good news that Pete deLissovoy might be coming back to Albany. He is trying to get a grant to write a book on south Georgia and if it comes through he will probably come back here to write it. He phoned CB to get a recommendation. His story in the most recent issue of The Nation is excellent - the same kind of writing as his piece on CB's election.

On Tuesday I finally got a haircut - my first since I got to SWGa - CB seemed very relieved. I then drove down to Camilla (26 mi South) to pick up subpoena's for the Charlie Burkes habeas hearing, and then drove out to Dawson, Terrell County (26 mi north) to serve the County Clerk - who wasn't very pleased with the prospect of having to drive all the way down to Camilla, and went through a lot of whiney crap about how his assistant was sickly and couldn't be left in the office alone and how his wife used the car all day and more of the same. I told him that I couldn't authorize him not to come, but that he should call CB. He did call and the conversation seemed to infuriate him so I got out of the office fast. At night I got Uncle Wolf to help me move a refrigerator we bought to our new house. Wolf is Bo's uncle tho they are about the same age - he is the youngest brother of Bo's father. Wolf drives a truck for a white man, some kind of refrigeration service I believe. When he is done with work he comes right out to Bo's station and sits around drinking several half pints each night. He used to hang around Harlem doing the same, but since the Negro cops have come in alot of guys dont hang out there anymore as they are afraid they might get in a fight with the Negro cops, so it is just easier to avoid going down there. The response to these cops is very mixed. A lot of guys try to challenge them, and others like Wolf, stay out of their way to make the job easier. The other night they went into the bus station, which is right on the border of Harlem and a white neighborhood and arrested three whites who were drunk. This increased their prestige in Harlem considerably. But the cops themselves differ considerably. Two are very decent guys who everyone likes. One is reputed to have been a spy for Pritchett during the time of strong Movement activity and everyone hates him.

We are still hassling with the South Georgia Vocational and Trade School in Americus. We have written two letters requesting applications for clients. They write back pretending they dont understand what we want.

CB called the Director of Admissions who set out a wierd procedure for application which calls for writing a letter asking for an application request card which you fill out and submit and then get an application. We will ~~not~~ play their game so they cant say there were administrative routes still open and if we ddont get any results we will sue. It is a damn good trade school with priority skill courses like diesel and farm machinery repair, but of course it is only open to whites.

On Thursday we drove down to Camilla for the hearing on Charlie Burkes habeas. Before we went into the Court - it was the City Court who also has authority here and we didnt use the superior Court as Judge Crow said his schedule was too busy - CB went into see Crow, to see about cleaning up some of the old cases before Crow leaves Dougherty County. On Jan 1 Dougherty County will be its own judicial district and have its own Superior Court Judge, and Crow will serve for several other small counties nearby. Crow agreed to drop the case against Perdew (an assault with intent to murder dating back to the beginning of the summer that I was last here). He is also considering throwing out old old cases against Jim Foreman and others going back to '61 I believe, on charges of unlawful assembly which the Fed Court has held is unconstitutional. And he said he would give us his decision on what will happen to the Ware case. I believe he will allow the motion for a new trial and then nolle prosequi rather than alter the jury system of Baker County.

The habeas itself was very interesting. Charlie Burkes might be illiterate but the lawyer representing the Warden couldnt shake his story. The record is terribly confused with everyone telling another version. The Judge is a very interesting old guy. He made it very clear that we would be treated as any other attorneys, and he ruled in our favor several times on objections. I guess he is trying to keep the record clean. But when the argument was over instead of ruling against us he asked if we would like to submit briefs which was a very good deal as it gives us additional time to prepare our appeal instead of having to rush it up to the Supreme Court without the benefit of the written record in front of us.

On Friday I drew up a motion to acquit and discharge and also wrote another memo for the City Court of Albany in the traffic cases of Ricks and Battle, also the concealed weapon charge against Rev Wells, and the moonshine charge on Mrs. Wallace - CB had filed a demand for trial and the second term has ended. This might be our second major line of attack along with "arbitrary and systematic exclusion of Negroes from the jury".

Since the last Poverty Bill meeting alot has happened. Some white group called the South West Georgia Area Planning and Dev Comm (which covers a multi county area in SWGa has gotten over \$10,000 from the Gov. under the Community Action Protgram part of the Poverty Bill. We were furious, as we had never even heard of their existence. But we wrote them telling them our group wishes to cooperate with them, sent it certified, and if they dont respond we will have grounds to challenge further money going to them. The god damn Federal government really is terrible. To give money to these damn racists especially under the guise of a poverty program, where the people who most need this kind of program arent even consulted. Since this happened, however, people are getting more interested. They have been having meetings of block captains, to inform them so they will be able to take surveys to formulate area programs. There is one woman who is 82 years old. Goldie said that the other day she walked from her house to the Movement office in the bitter cold, about 3 miles, to find out how she could help to work on the Poverty Bill.- and they give the money to the Crackars.

Sprayman finally got out of jail today - Slater bonded him out. He was charged with burglary stemming from the night of the riot in Harlem. Spray is the smoothest kind of hussler - a guy who can keep alive by conning and hussling in Harlem, shooting dice, maybe stealing a little, conning women, etc. But to keep alive in this baren ground is amazing.

On Saturday morning a guy came into the office with this story. He and his wife and another couple went into one of the white restaurants for something to eat about 2:30 a.m. There are no Negro places open at that hour. These weren't "Movement" people who would be going in to test the place or who go in occasionally just to keep these restaurants honest, but this was just a couple of ~~xxx~~ working guys who had been out with their wives and wanted something to eat. There were a couple of cops in the place when they went in. The waitress didnt come to the table for about 15 minutes, so one of them called her over. She came and took their order. After they finished eating they started to go out. The cops followed them out and arrested one of the men outside charging him with drunk and disorderly. They claim ~~haxxx~~ the waitress told them he "put his hands" on her - which is alot of ~~crap~~. That's how the Public Accomodations Bill is ~~xxx~~ working out in Albany, Georgia. In Cordele a Negro kid went into a truck stop and when he came out a dozen guys worked him over so bad that he had to be hospitalized. So that is what the new Civil Rights Act is all about.

The other day when I was talking to Mr. Burkes, Charlies father, I saw how I can have alot of problems with the local dialect. I had once asked the father to tell me when the ~~next~~ time he had seen his son was - this was in relation to finding out if he had seen him between the time he was home and when he was in jail again, like at his second "trial". Mr. Burkes insisted that "the ~~xxxxxxx~~ next time I seed him was in jail". So I assumed he hadnt been to the second trial. The later he said something about the trial and how he was there. When I reminded him that he said the he hadn't seen him between the time he was home and when he was in jail, CB explained that when he said "seed him" what he meant was to see him and speak to him. He also talked about how he had paid the white lawyer in Dawson to "throw the case out" and I was trying to figure out some way to ~~xxxxxxx~~ explain that this would only inject a lot of irrelegancies into the case - as we werent interested in accusing the lawyer of taking money under false pretenses, etc. Then CB explained that to "throw out" means to get a continuance in the counties - a guy will want his case "throwed out" for a term, ie. from Spring to Fall, as then he will have money to pay his lawyer when the crop comes in.

Last night Goldie called me at our new place. It seems that some people had come from Miss. to talk in the counties about the MFDP and one of the ladies was staying with her, and she was going up to Washington tomorrow and had a lot of questions about what offices to go to which Goldie couldnt answer. I went ~~by~~ and brought her over to our new place. Mrs. Carthen from Ruleville, Miss is a truly amazing woman. She is about 5 feet tall, has 20 children (all the ones still living in Miss are working with the Movement) and was thrown off a Plantation near Eastland's when she registered last year. We talked about three hours - about what is happening in Miss and what it needs. She told us how the soil there can grow anything and how people are paid by the Fed Govt to keep good land out of production and how this land should be given to the people who could then live decently. This is a woman who has had absolutely no education - and yet who understands instinctively where its at with the Federal Govt. She had no illusions about what Johnson would do and she said, "that man knows how bad we live but he probably owns some plantations himself". She said she wants go to to Washington to tell the people there how her friends are treated, how their babies are starving to death, and she said that what she wanted was a loudspeaker so she could go down the street and yell out the truth. She told us how whites in Miss say they are afraid that the Negro will gain power and harm them, but she said they only say this. What they are really afraid of is "that they'll loose their place under the shade tree", which really sums it up beautifully. It was very encouraging to meet her and realize that there are many people like her - people who went to Washington

for the March and were nice and orderly and went home in a few hours and then saw that nothing was done. Now they are going up for a couple of weeks and might not be so orderly and polite, and she said that what should really be done is that people should come up with tents and just live on the White House lawn until Johnson does something about the situation where she lives.

These are the kind of people Miss is now producing. People like Mrs. Fannie Hamer, and Mrs. Carthen, and some 20 men on Mr. Carlton Hays plantation in Panola County, Miss., who had talked with SNCC people about voting and about the MFDP and on their own drew up a petition of 11 demands regarding changes in working conditions that they were going to give to Mr. Hays; things like minimum wage, repairs of their shacks, weekly payment with receipts furnished for cotton weight, etc. And if Miss produced enough people like this, then things will have to change there.

Phil: I made a copy of the abovementioned petition and am enclosing it for you. Penny Patch brought the original - this is truly amazing - no one suggested this or helped them draw it up, but simply made it more grammatical. Christ only knows what happened to the poor bastards, but they knew when they did it that it had to be done. Talking to Mrs. Carthens was a great experience. She KNOWS things just because she feels them. She knows that Johnson is a bullshitter and alot of people in Miss now know this.

I am enclosing two clippings for Davis. Send them to him when you send him the next copy of the letters.

As for my letters, if 3rd class isnt terribly long delay, then send them that way. But if enough people send costs then send them first class. Have anymore people sent you money. Let me know who. I'll have to start dunning the bastards and eventually take them off the list. Fuck 'em, my ego is at stake. Please let me have a copy of Willie H. letter on WRO. Have you heard anymore from Cahn and the Washington people - or why the trip fell through? I had a long talk with Charlie Cobb about the FSM and how it is closely connected to the southern movement and particularly SNCC's experience in Miss - and he was greatly excited by this.

Sorry to ~~delay~~ delay this as long as I did, but with moving in to our new place and all the sorry bullshit that is around here anyhow, it couldnt be helped.

Dennis