

Indianola NAACP Denies Charge

Who Set Fire?

BY J. SMITH
INDIANOLA, Miss. -- "Whatever it takes to get racism eliminated from Sunflower County, we are going to be 100% behind our president, Mr. (Carver) Randle," said Charles Evers last Sunday at the first anniversary banquet of the Sunflower County NAACP.

"We had better let them know also that this old white man's trick--to try to call the head Negro in charge, and get us fighting among ourselves--will not work any more," said Evers. "Because we are all head Negroes, from the littlest ones to the biggest ones, so he has just lost that round."

Evers was referring to Jack Harper, president of the Indianola Chamber of Commerce, who had invited Aaron Henry of Clarksdale, the state NAACP president, to meet with white and black community leaders on easing racial tension here.

"Dr. Henry will not meet with Jack Harper or anybody else, unless the Sunflower County branch requests for him to meet," Evers said. "He invited the wrong man anyway--I'm the field secretary for Mississippi."

Harper's invitation, a three-page letter, had also asked Henry to conduct "a complete investigation of the local NAACP group, its activities, and its usefulness to the Negro community of the city of Indianola and to your state organization."



CARVER RANDLE

Harper said the Sept. 10 fire that destroyed two buildings at Carver Elementary School was the result of "tension and turmoil" created by a "militant youth group" led by Randle.

In his letter, Harper listed the events that in his opinion led to the fire. "Announcement was made by Randle that upon Gentry High School and Carver Elementary School opening, they would be boycotted until the principals were fired or the schools closed," Harper wrote.

"Tension and fear resulted from threats to students and patrons. However, this week it became apparent that Randle and his group had lost the school boycott."

"Just prior to the setting of the fire at Carver," Harper continued, "diversionary fires were set at the Indianola Negro American Legion Home and to a vacant house nearby."

"I do not know who literally struck the match that set the fires, but I do know who created the tension and turmoil and gave sanction to the disregard of the law in the city of Indianola. It was the militant youth group led by Carver Randle."

Randle said after the fires that he has "always encouraged non-violent means in our mass meetings." He said the organization was in no way connected with the incidents.

"The Youth Council," Randle said, "is not the cause of the racial tension in Indianola. It is white men like Harper who are the so-called leaders in the community, who fail to deal with the real problems of the black people--poverty, unemployment, and inferior education."

Randle also said that his group's school and economic boycotts have both been successful.

Earlier last week, seven youths--including Youth Council leader Arthur "Ted" Mabry--were arrested at or near Carver Elementary, after officials said they had run "up and down the halls creating a disturbance." Mabry, 19, was found guilty in city police court, and was sentenced to 180 days on the county farm and fined \$600. The conviction is being appealed.

"I was not near the school at the time of the disturbance," Mabry said. "The police just think that if they get me, they can stop the other children from being active in the movement."

Harper's letter to Henry said it is Henry's responsibility "to enforce the policy of your group on any NAACP chapter, chartered or not. It is your responsibility to see that each chapter operates a clean organization."

"I accept full responsibility for the leadership of the NAACP in Sunflower County," Henry later replied. "I would likewise ask Mr. Harper to assume responsibility for seeing that every vestige of racial discrimination is ended in his community."

Henry said the schools in Indianola are segregated, and Negroes are "forced to attend a high school not accredited by the Southern Association, while the white high school is."

He said Negroes in the area "lost hope for justice in the courts when a Negro man was murdered and the crime went unpunished."

Henry apparently referred to the shooting death last July of Selester "Dink" Brown, a Negro school administrator, Robert Love, was charged with murder by the city police, but last week, a grand jury returned a "no bill" in the case.

Love is an outspoken opponent of the store boycott imposed here by the NAACP.

Randle, learning of the grand jury's decision, said, "It is certainly a let-down to know this kind of act can be committed without anyone being punished."



CHARLES EVERS

Garbage Strike Ends in Atlanta

BY PRINCELLA H. WADE
ATLANTA, Ga.--The Atlanta garbage strike began early in September, as SCLC gave its support to about 500 sanitation workers.

City sewer, water, and construction workers joined the garbage collectors. Mass meetings were held nightly, under the direction of SCLC and one of its top officials, Hosea Williams.

At one of these meetings, Williams pointed out a garbage worker in the audience who takes home \$59 a week. This same man, Williams said, was met a few days earlier by a deputy sheriff who wanted to collect \$60 rent and an \$89 hospital bill out of the man's wages.

Then Williams referred to another man, who has been working for the city since 1949, and still takes home only \$135 every two weeks.

The Atlanta courts add to a poor man's problems, said another worker, citing the example of paternity suits. "When you tell the judge downtown that it's not your baby, he tells you to feed it till it favors you," said the worker, as the crowd roared with laughter. "How can you feed two families on \$50



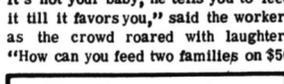
HOSEA WILLIAMS

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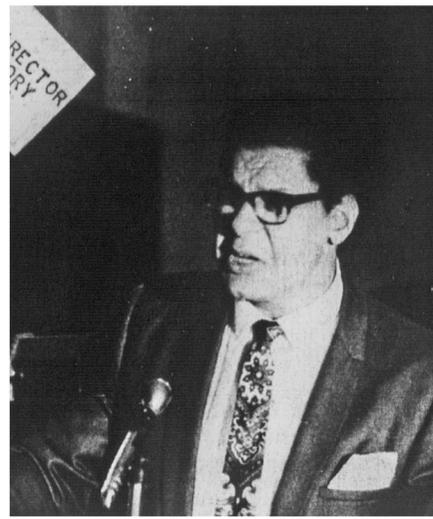
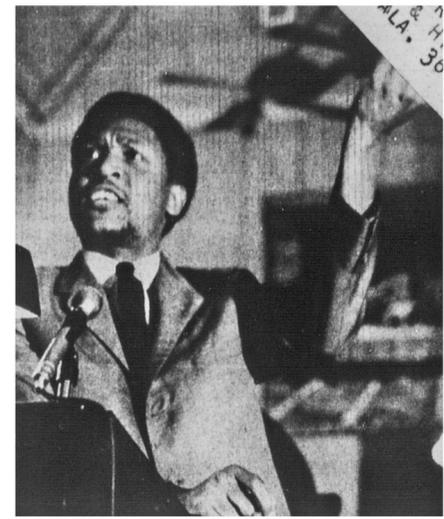
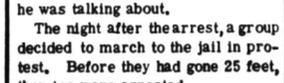
NO PRACTICING

BY PRESLEY FRANKLIN MARKS, Miss.--An exercise in teaching children how to march this month ended in the arrest of their teacher, Miss Martha Burnett.

According to Leo Martinez, an SCLC worker, Miss Burnett was leading the children in a song on the grounds of the Eudora Church when she was arrested. Martinez said he and the Rev. L. C. Coleman told the police officer that if he arrested Miss Burnett, he would have to arrest them, too. So he did.

"Martha Burnett was charged with leading a march without a permit," said Marks policeman J. W. Jenkins, "and according to the new federal law, it gives us the right to arrest them." He didn't explain what law he was talking about.

The night after the arrest, a group decided to march to the jail in protest. Before they had gone 25 feet, they too were arrested.



REV. RICHARD BOONE (LEFT), DR. JOHN CASHIN AT NDPA MEETING

NDPA Candidates Off Ballot--Or Are They?

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- At Montgomery's weekly meeting of the National Democratic Party of Alabama, it took a long time for the people to start talking about politics.

A visitor to the Sept. 12 meeting in the Oak Street AME Zion Church might have thought he was at a religious service, or a 1965-style civil rights meeting.

The Rev. H. T. Wilkins, pastor of the church, told the party members they could do anything they wanted--"just don't desecrate our church, that's all." But despite this invitation, the meeting began like a church service, with a hymn and a prayer.

In giving the "greetings," Mrs. Elaine Schutz referred to the political fact that Secretary of State Mabel Amos had thrown 19 major NDPA candidates off the November ballot.

"Are we so strong that they must fear us?" she asked. "Is there an Achilles heel in Wallace country?"

Mrs. Schutz concluded her remarks by giving a new twist to an old civil rights anthem. "Either this fall, or two years hence, or in 1972," she said, "we shall overcome."

Then came the unscheduled appearance of the Rev. Richard Boone, the

NDPA's candidate for the Second Congressional District seat in the U. S. House. Up until Boone's appearance, the meeting had been quiet, but the candidate woke everyone up with an arm-waving, table-pounding, shouted oration.

"We shall overcome because in this struggle that we have, God is on our side," said Boone, sounding almost exactly like the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He then roared through some dramatic passages taken almost intact from one of Dr. King's annual reports.

As black citizens grow increasingly frustrated, Boone concluded, they begin to think "in terms of throwing a brick or burning down a building." Unless more black candidates are elected to office, he said, "we will see more burning in the nation."

Dr. John Cashin, state chairman of the NDPA, said very little about the party's plans for getting back on the ballot.

"I have every confidence that in November, people in Alabama will have the opportunity to vote for a full slate of candidates under the label of the National Democratic Party of Alabama," he declared. "That is all I can say officially at this time, except that we shall overcome."

Instead, Cashin told about his experiences in 1955-56, when he got his "first taste of human kindness and trust and decency" after being drafted and sent to France.

"I determined when I came back that something was going to change--or I was going to die," he recalled. "I'm not dead yet. They can't kill us all."

Later in his remarks, Cashin returned to the theme of death--although he never explained why the subject was so much on his mind. "Once you have decided that other people have died and it's not so bad," he said, "once you're not afraid to die, you are free."

Although the NDPA's challenge to the regular Alabama delegation was voted down at the Democratic National Convention, Cashin said, the effort was not a failure. "It may look like we lost," he said, "but I assure you--Alabama will never be the same."

"We accomplished one of the greatest objectives we set out to accomplish," he claimed. "At the end of that convention, Alabama had the most integrated delegation there--there was a higher percentage of Negroes in the Alabama delegation than in any other delegation on the floor."

The meeting came during a turbulent week for the NDPA, on both the county and state levels.

First, the party found that all but one of its nine candidates for county office had been disqualified. Two candidates were ruled out because they had not filed the required "letter of intent" last March, and six learned that the offices they sought are not up for election this year.

That left the party with just one candidate for county office--Alvin Holmes, running for a seat on the board of revenue. Holmes promptly withdrew.

"It's not practical politics for a person to have a party on the ballot and be the only candidate," Holmes explained later. And, he added, "I have not been in total agreement with the philosophy of the chairman of the party, Dr. Cashin."

"I think Dr. Cashin's intention is the same intention as my intention--to see that Negroes receive political equality in the state," Holmes said. But, he said, there are differences in "political philosophy."

Like what? "For instance," said Holmes, "they submitted people's names to appear on the ballot where the positions are not open for election. For instance, I filed a letter of intent for place 3 (on the board of revenue). But when my name was filed by the party, it was for place 5--and there is no place 5."

Holmes was a member of the Alabama delegation that was seated at the national convention--a coalition of two NDPA rivals, the regular state party and the Alabama Independent Democratic Party. Did that have anything to do with his decision to withdraw?

"My affiliation is officially with the Alabama Independent Democratic Party," Holmes admitted. "I filed a letter of intent before I became a member of the AIDP. Many conflicts have taken place since then."

Then last Friday, the NDPA asked a federal court to put the party's 19 major candidates--ten for presidential elector, seven for Congress, and one each for the U. S. Senate and the presidency of the state Public Service Commission--back on the ballot.

The court ordered the state to include the NDPA candidates on the ballot--at least until a full hearing is held on the question.

Mrs. Amos had allowed one NDPA candidate--the Rev. William M. Branch, running for Congress in the Fifth District--to remain on the ballot regardless. She said he was the only one who had held the May 7 mass meetings required by law.

Branch Opens Office, Calls for End to War

BY ETHEL THOMAS
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. -- One of the things he'll do if elected to Congress, said the Rev. William M. Branch, is lower the retirement age to 60. This would help reduce unemployment, Branch told an audience last Saturday, and it would enable people to get Social Security benefits sooner.

"Yes," said a lady in the crowd, "you be almost dead when you receive it now."

Branch, the National Democratic Party of Alabama candidate for Congress from the Fifth District, got an enthusiastic reception as he opened his campaign headquarters on Broad Street here.

The crowd shouted and clapped as the Baptist minister and civil rights leader said, "I am not a racist, I am going to fight this thing clean." Noting that there were more whites than Negroes in the crowd, he added, "Racism is a cancer that is eating the heart of America."

"I'm in this race to win," said Branch. "Nobody can bow me out."

Some people have given Branch a good chance of winning the Nov. 5 election, since he is the only Negro in a field of six candidates. "If all the Negroes vote for him," said a Greensboro lady on Saturday, "he will make it."

Branch said he has already been threatened and intimidated, but he recalled the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s statement that "if we have not seen anything fit to die for, we are not fit to live."

Branch blasted the Viet Nam war as "ill-founded, immoral, unwise, unnecessary, and unsuccessful," and called for an immediate end to the fighting.

He linked the war to poverty, saying that people are jobless here because



REV. WILLIAM M. BRANCH

money is being spent in Viet Nam.

Poverty is all around us, Branch said--we can "lock out the back doors of our homes" and see it. As solutions, he recommended an attack on unjust hiring policies, an effort to bring equal-opportunity employers to Alabama, and an increase in job-training programs and unemployment and Social Security benefits.

The candidate also said recreation facilities should be provided for youths from poor families. "Crime can be traced back to poverty," he said. Since youths must go to Viet Nam at age 18, said Branch, they should be able to vote at the same age. "For too long," he said, "we have forced our young men to give up their lives for war policies they had no voice in making."

But above all, Branch said, "hearts have got to be changed, as well as policy." Unless the inequities and divisions in this country are eliminated, he warned, "America is going to be hell, and there's no alternative."

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Editorial Opinion

Local Thought Control

George C. Wallace, among others, continues to shout about how the federal government and the courts are taking over people's lives--telling them where they have to go to school, whom they have to sell their property to, and so on.

Wallace has used the awful spectre of "federal control" to frighten audiences all over the country, and he has many imitators. But for our part, we are much more frightened by the way some local institutions have been intruding into people's personal lives.

For example, in Montgomery, Ala., District Attorney David Crosland has apparently strong-armed local theater-owners into adopting a policy of strict self-censorship. The owners have agreed not to use certain words or subjects in their advertising, and to bar young people from certain kinds of movies.

The forbidden movies, of course, are those dealing with sex, and the forbidden words and subjects--except for "high state of violence or horror"--are also limited to matters of sex and morality.

There is no law forcing people to go to movies they don't like, just as there is no law requiring the theater-owners to adopt the district attorney's standards as their own. But nonetheless, the D.A. and the owners have decided to keep you and me from reading certain words and seeing certain movies.

Why? In their new morality code, the theater-owners said they are imposing thought control "in an effort to please the entire population and not wishing to offend anyone." But who decides what "pleases" and what "offends"--David Crosland? Shouldn't the people be allowed to decide for themselves?

A more serious and shocking instance of thought control has occurred in Mobile, Ala., where Roman Catholic Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen has canceled a theological forum that was to be held at Springhill College. The John XXIII Forum of Post-Conciliar Theology would have brought 48 church scholars to Mobile, to lecture on eight different subjects to priests from Alabama and Mississippi.

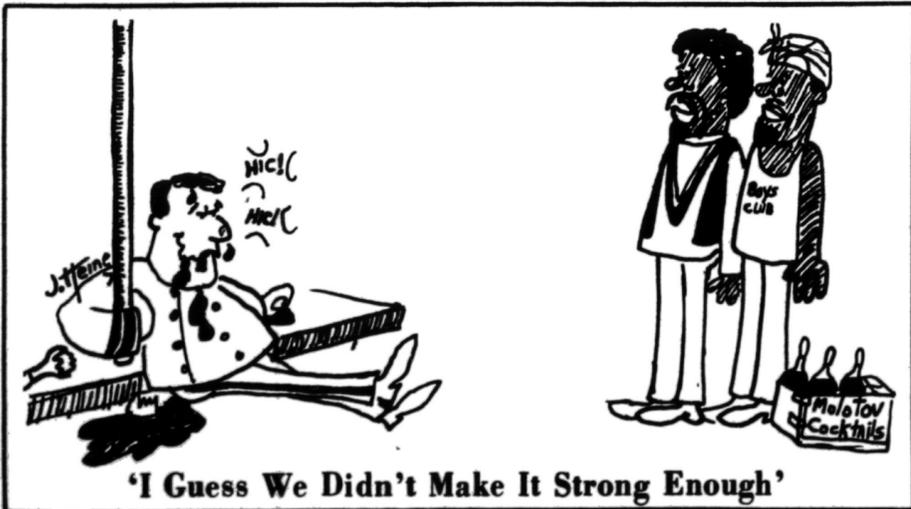
But now there will be no forum--because of Toolen's requirement that these noted scholars must first swear that they agree with Pope Paul's recent encyclical on birth control.

The encyclical--which forbade all artificial forms of birth control--has been the subject of much debate since it was announced. Many known and respected theologians have disagreed with it, saying birth control is a matter of individual conscience. But now Toolen has said that no one who disagrees with the encyclical can even set foot in his diocese.

The Catholics in Alabama and Mississippi--many of them Negroes, and many of them poor--are entitled to hear the other side of this vital question, but Toolen will not let them. In a letter explaining his stand, Toolen said that "all the members of the faculty that have been chosen do not have my confidence in their integrity as theologians. . . . I find that I cannot be assured that these men will not spread what I consider to be erroneous opinions leading to erroneous practices in many areas of the pastoral apostolate."

One priest--the Rev. Charles S. Sullivan of Birmingham's John Carroll High School--has quit in protest of Toolen's action. But so far, no one else has spoken out--just as no one has questioned whether District Attorney Crosland is entitled to be Montgomery's supreme censor. While everyone is keeping an eye on the dirty federal government, the folks right here at home are taking our lives away from us.

Heine-Sight



Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Big Night at Yale University

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
NEW HAVEN, Connecticut-- When Secretary of State Dean Rusk came to dinner at Yale University last week, nearly 3,000 people turned out to greet him.

About one-third of them were the people Rusk came to speak to--members of the Manufacturers Association of Connecticut.

But the rest were people who came to speak against Rusk, against the manufacturers, against U.S. policies at home and abroad, and--most of all--against the war in Viet Nam.

The businessmen--wearing neat dark suits and conservative ties--gathered on the steps of Yale's huge Woolsey Hall as the demonstrators marched around and around the block.

There were college students, high school kids, professors, ministers, and housewives. Many protesters carried signs reading "Peace Now," "Stop the Bombing," "War Profiteers--Get Out of Yale," or--on another topic--"Rusk Smiles at Genocide in Biafra."

Between the businessmen and the demonstrators, the New Haven police formed a not-very-solid line. No one seemed very alarmed when a couple of pretty girls--both law students--began questioning the manufacturers about their views on the war in Viet Nam.

"I enlisted in the First World War," replied one businessman, snapping his fingers, "and if my country wanted me tomorrow, I'd give my last drop of blood."

Another middle-aged manufacturer offered some unwanted advice to a young demonstrator who was trying to persuade him that the war is morally wrong.

"You need to learn something about how you get out and work and make your way in the world," the man told the bearded youth. "You should listen to people who lived through the Depression."

About half an hour after the demonstration began, Rusk's black limousine drew up to a side entrance. An alert parade marshal spotted him, and set the crowd to chanting, "We want PEACE--we want it NOW!"

As policemen ringed the building to keep the demonstrators out, the march-

ers adjourned to nearby Beinecke Plaza for an anti-war rally.

At the rally, Rennie Davis--a leader of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam and of the demonstrations at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois--promised to "stay on the case."

"Dean Rusk has said we will make a Great Society in Asia," shouted Davis, a mild-looking, curly-haired young man. "The Great Society is NOT being exported to Viet Nam--the war of national liberation is being brought home!"

Davis said the National Mobilization Committee--and other anti-war groups--want this fall's elections postponed "until there is a meaningful choice."

He said the protesters plan to confront the major U. S. presidential candidates with "little Chicagos" everywhere they go.

"We won in Chicago, because we dramatized to the world that the Democratic Party can be destroyed if it continues its aggressive war policies in Viet Nam," Davis said.

On Election Day--Nov. 5--protesters will turn the candidates' home polling places in Minnesota, Maine, New York, and Maryland into "armed camps," said Davis. "We will have direct demonstrations when the major candidates come with their wives for an election which is rigged and fraudulent, and has no meaning for most Americans."

Finally, Davis said, the peace groups plan "a massive convergence on Washington on the date of the inauguration--some of us feel there will be no inauguration!"

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against the war, the draft, and the U.S. political system. But only a few people contributed money, only one draft card was turned in, and nobody promised to join the planned demonstrations.

Most of the speakers didn't forget to criticize the U. S. government for spending money to kill people in Viet Nam instead of to help people at home.

But nobody used the word "racism," and the only black speaker was Laz Ekwueme, a Yale student and refugee from Biafra, the African state which broke away from Nigeria.

"I am very grateful to this country for sheltering me from the guns of Nigeria," Ekwueme said. But, he asked, how can the United States be "powerful enough to drop thousands of bombs on Viet Nam--but not one grain of food in Biafra?"

(Inside Woolsey Hall, Rusk told the businessmen that starvation in Biafra

is "not of international concern." The United States wants to help, he said, but it cannot intervene in the struggle between Biafra and Nigeria unless both sides agree to an airlift of food.)

Although New Haven has a substantial Negro community, very few of the anti-war demonstrators were black. Some of the few were plainclothes policemen.

A march organizer looked puzzled when someone asked whether the local peace groups had thought about getting in touch with black organizations in and around New Haven. And some black college students who knew about the demonstration decided not to join it.

"I'm black and I'm beautiful--and I don't demonstrate," explained one youth. "I'm militant, but this isn't my thing."

"You gonna get drafted anyway," a friend predicted. The black student just shrugged and walked away.



Atlanta, Ga.



MISS KATHY JACKSON

Miss Kathy Jackson, a 16-year-old Negro girl from Atlanta, was named the winner recently in ABC-TV's "Super-talent" contest. The final round of the contest was held on the nationally-televised show, "Sounds of '68."

Miss Jackson, a senior at Grady High School, was one of 10,000 youths from all over the country who entered the contest. She sang "The Look of Love." As one of nine finalists, Miss Jackson won an all-expense-paid trip to California, where the final show was taped. Among her other prizes were a guitar, a sewing machine, a color TV, and a customized \$12,000 Pontiac equipped with a TV set, a typewriter, and a stereo console (she took the money instead of the car). "All in all," said Miss Jackson after returning home, "I'm really enjoying life, people, and places. There's just one thing I want, and that's to pass physics this year."

Hollywood, California



WIDMARK AND MISS HORNE

Singer Lena Horne, after many years in show business, is just now working on her first acting role in a movie. She has returned to Hollywood to play a starring role opposite Richard Widmark--whom she calls her "blue-eyed

soul brother"--in "Patch," a Universal movie about a saloon-owner in the old West. "When I left Hollywood 12 years ago," she said, "it was because I got sick and tired of being a Negro woman leaning against a pillar and breathing a sultry song in a scene which could be conveniently cut from the film when it was shown in the South." In this movie, she winds up marrying Widmark.

Atlanta, Ga.

Morehouse College has been awarded a \$91,803 grant from the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, to conduct a "critical languages" program for the undergraduate schools in the Atlanta University Center. The program will offer languages that are important for U. S. participation in world affairs, but are rarely offered at liberal arts colleges. A course in Russian, introduced last year at Morris Brown College, will become part of this program, and new courses will be offered in Chinese, Ibo (Nigerian), and Swahili.

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Harold N. Stinson, president of Stillman College, has been named president of a new organization formed by eight of Alabama's predominantly-Negro colleges. The organization, the Alabama Center for Higher Education, is designed to search for funds, and to improve college faculties and programs. Member colleges include Stillman, Alabama A&M, Alabama State, Daniel Payne, Miles, Oakwood, Talladega, and Tuskegee Institute.

Tuskegee, Ala.

Edward L. Jackson, former director of the department of physical education at Tuskegee Institute, has been appointed the Institute's vice-president for academic affairs. He succeeds Andrew P. Torrence, who recently was named president of his alma mater, Tennessee A&I University.

Troy, Ala.

The National Security Insurance Company has recently moved into a new building on Normal Avenue in Troy. I. H. Harris, the superintendent, has been proudly showing people the new office, which is air-conditioned and in perfect order. But "the thing that impressed me most," said one recent visitor, "is that there were no white bosses, and everyone in the group met me with courteous smiles." In the picture below, in the front row, left to right, are Jack Bean, the Rev. S. C. Caldwell, David Frazier (manager), Mrs. W. P. McBride (cashier), Mrs. Laura C. Pryor, Mrs. Willa K. McGowan, and Harris. In the back row, left to right, are Brewer Thomas, R. D. Boykin, and W. G. Crowley. S. C. Robinson is not shown.



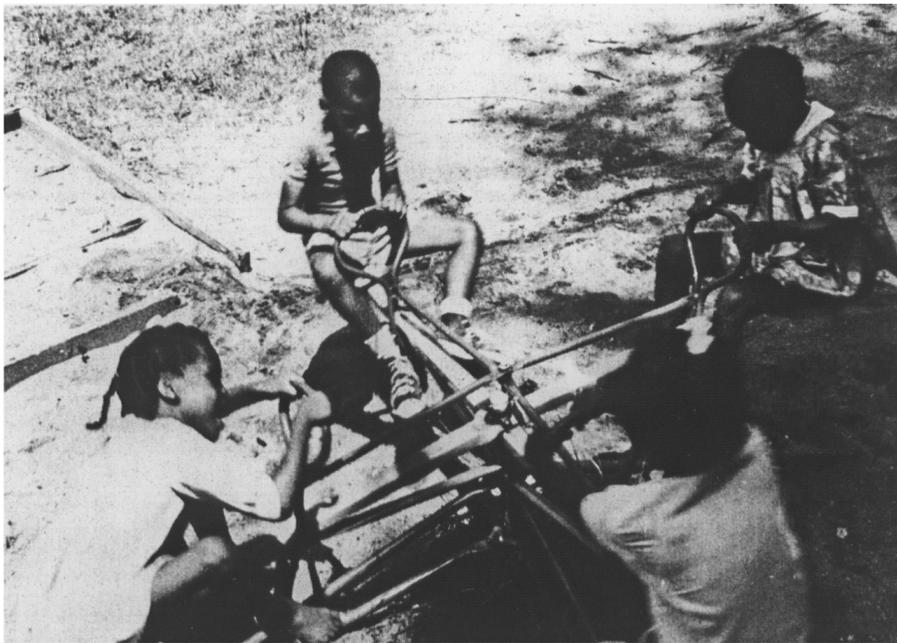
STAFF OF TROY INSURANCE FIRM



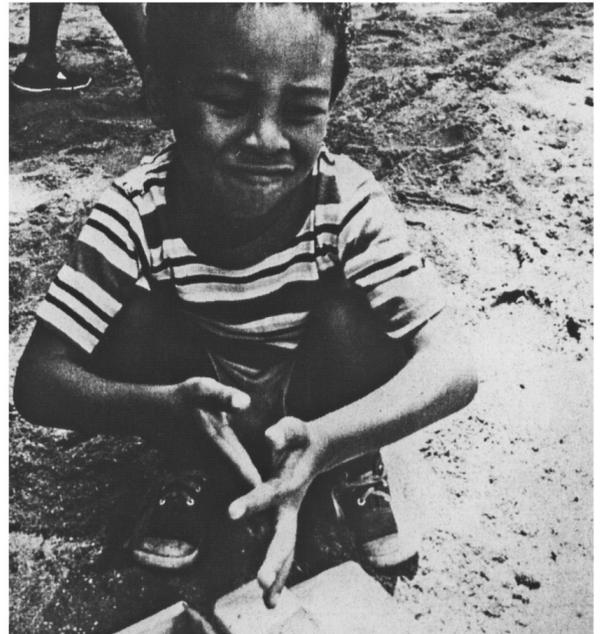
A Day at Head Start



*Photos by
Kenneth W. Lumpkin*



MONTGOMER, la - Every day from Monday through Friday, 200 kids come to the Holt Street Head Start center for a day of learning, laughing, playing, and most of all - eating. In all, nearly 1,000 children attend Head Start center operated by the Montgomery Community Action Committee.



New Mayor Friendly, Too

Fairfield Never Had a Negro Official-- Until Last Month, When It Elected Six

BY BOB LABAREE

FAIRFIELD, Ala.--With few exceptions, the 1968 municipal elections were a disaster for Negro candidates. One of the biggest and most surprising exceptions was Fairfield.

In a record turn-out of voters of both races--about 60%--all six Negroes running at large for the City Council were elected outright on Aug. 13. They included Jimmie Lee Williams, Ernest McLin, Jerry D. Coleman, McKinley Kolb, Virgil Lee Pearson, and Joe L. Dubose.

(A seventh Negro candidate, Vernard F. Thomas, missed a quick victory over incumbent Lawrence G. Sides in a four-way race for president of the city council. In the Sept. 10 run-off, Sides edged Thomas by 200 votes.)

Fairfield's black community also claimed credit for electing a new mayor--a young white man named Joe H. King, who soundly defeated aging incumbent Claude Smithson (running for his fourth term) and two other white candidates on Aug. 13.

During the campaign, King openly courted voters from "the Hill," Fairfield's largest Negro section, and he was rewarded with an endorsement from community leaders.

The endorsement no doubt helped bring him the majorities he needed in wards 3 and 4.

In return, according to several Negro leaders, King supported the seven black candidates. "He knew he couldn't win without us," said Demetrius Newton, a Fairfield native and an active leader in the campaign.

For some people, the change in administration is likely to be a shock. Literally overnight, Fairfield--a town which has never had a Negro officeholder--finds itself with six of its 12 city council seats filled by Negroes.

But if Negroes have never served in City Hall before, it's not because they haven't tried. In 1952--after a long period when, as one long-time Negro resident put it, "we never even raised our heads"--Edward Robinson broke the ice and became the first Negro to run for city council. He lost.

In 1956, Thomas and Newton tried again for city council positions, with the same results. There were no black candidates in the election four years later, but in 1964, Newton, Thomas, and another Negro ran again--and lost again.

Finally, said Newton, "we got our

first taste of victory in 1966"--but not for a city office. That year, Newton won 62% of the vote in his race against two white men for Fairfield's one spot on the Jefferson County Democratic Executive Committee.

"Not long after that," Newton recalled, "they changed it so that Fairfield would be represented by three men instead of one."

Newton pointed out that his 1966 victory came at a time when "they (the whites) were out-voting us by quite a bit." But since then, said David Hood, Negro voting strength has equalled and even passed the whites'.

Hood estimated that, on paper at least, Negroes now make up about 52% of the electorate. The Negroes' losing streak "didn't change," he said, "until we managed to pack more Negroes in."

But--as many Black Belt counties with even larger Negro majorities have found--numbers aren't everything. Why, then, such a success in Fairfield, and why in this particular election?

"In the past, we've been waiting until the night before the election to ask for votes," was Hood's answer. "But not this time."

Much of the credit for the pre-election



VOLUNTEERS IN CAMPAIGN OFFICE

organization is given to Mrs. Louvenia Thomas, who first called the black candidates together shortly after they qualified in early July, and suggested something new--that they campaign together. They agreed.

Eventually, it was decided that the candidates would pool campaign funds, operate one campaign headquarters, appear on the same posters, and share a campaign staff--with Mrs. Thomas as campaign manager. The motto they adopted was "Moving Forward With Togetherness."

Long experience with NAACP voter-registration drives provided a model for the campaign organization, said Mrs. Thomas. Negro sections were divided up under ward captains, street captains, and block workers. People were assigned to carry others to register and to vote. Finally, said Mrs. Thomas, a voters list was prepared with telephone numbers, and "we made direct contact with each voter."

Every week, mass meetings were held to generate interest and to collect money. And as election time approached, cars with sound equipment passed through Negro areas, urging people to vote.

Newton said much of the interest shown in this election was the result of long-term efforts by the Rev. J. A. Salary, head of the Fairfield NAACP. "He's the one who started the ball rolling with school integration," said Newton, an attorney. Newton himself carried the schools issue into federal court in 1965.

About a month before the election, Newton filed another federal suit. This one charged city officials and others with using a privately-financed urban renewal project to squeeze Negroes out of Fairfield, and with discriminating against Negroes in municipal services. The hearings in court in early August were attended by many Fairfield people.

"I confess (that filing the suit so close to election time) was deliberate," said Newton, "and I don't care who knows it."

But other issues, too, brought people to the polls. Besides the slow pace of school integration--which has been the subject of much legal action and community bitterness--Negroes have complained about a lack of job opportunities downtown, discriminatory zoning, and an almost total lack of representation on city boards and agencies.

But whatever the specific grievances, said Mrs. Thomas, "the main thing in this election was we needed representation according to population."

Determined this time to leave nothing to chance, Hood made certain that the slim Negro majority would be "protected from corrupt practices," and from legal complications which have stolen victories elsewhere in the past.

"We've prepared for everything that might transpire," Hood said as the polls were about to close on Aug. 13. Federal inspectors as well as the candidates' own poll-watchers had been engaged to observe the voting from beginning to end.

Hood also briefed the candidates on election procedures, especially the law requiring them to spend no more than a certain amount of money on their campaign and to report their expenditures by a certain date.

"If someone spent too much or didn't report it--either one would deny him an office if he won," Hood said.

Despite the precautions, though,

there were complaints on Aug. 13 from people who said their polling place had been changed or their name was not on the rolls.

But City Clerk Grady Ellison discounted most of the complaints as misunderstandings. And with the returns so much in their favor, no one on the Hill seemed in the mood to press charges.

Perhaps because of King's support and perhaps because of wide-spread discontent with the old administration, several Negro candidates picked up substantial votes Aug. 13 in predominantly-white boxes.

At the Forest Hills box in ward 6, for

example, Jimmy Lee Williams received 230 votes, and other Negro candidates got as many as 70.

On the other hand, some of the black candidates actually found themselves running their closest races in their own wards. This lack of solid backing in wards 3 and 4 was expected to--and did--hurt Thomas in his Sept. 10 run-off for council president.

The prospect of an integrated city government was apparently too much for some white people to take. The votes had scarcely been counted Aug. 13 before meetings were being called in one white section of town, to discuss the possibility of having Fairfield annexed by Birmingham.

Meanwhile, residents of another white section--not within the city limits but receiving many of Fairfield's services--declared that they are seeking annexation to all-white Midfield.

In 1964, a proposed annexation by Birmingham was defeated by 400 votes. "We were for that (annexation) at one time," said Hood. "That was when we had no other recourse."

Only 50 to 100 signatures on a petition are needed to call a referendum vote on annexation. But, asked Thomas, "If they couldn't win the election (on Aug. 13), how do they think they can win a referendum?"

People from both City Hall and the Hill say an annexation vote can't succeed. Moreover, Hood and others have rejected the idea that Negroes are going to use their new power to "get even."

"We're not trying to control Fairfield," Hood said. "We're trying to make Fairfield a better place to live for all people."

Last Word on Chicago: What SCLC Was Doing



SIGNS BAR DEMONSTRATORS FROM CONVENTION SITE

BY SANDRA COLVIN

CHICAGO, Illinois--About 125 members of the SCLC Poor People's Campaign put in a hard week of meetings and demonstrations during the Democratic convention here last month.

SCLC said the poor people had come to Chicago "to make the needs of the poor clear to the National Democratic Party," and to the men in power all over the country.

Every day during the convention, marchers left the YMCA Hotel--where most of them were staying--and headed for the International Amphitheatre, where the convention was held, or the Conrad Hilton Hotel, where the party and its major candidates were headquartered.

Although they succeeded in reaching the hotel, the demonstrators never did manage to get into the convention. Because of strict security measures, no one else did, either.

Before their first trip to the Conrad Hilton, the marchers were thoroughly briefed by SCLC staff members, who told them what they were expected to do and say when they met convention delegates.

"There will be a lot of people at the

Conrad Hilton who need to know the demands of poor people," SCLC's Willie Bolden told one group of demonstrators. "Your job is to talk to individuals, and tell them what we are asking for."

At the hotel, SCLC staffers led their groups through the lobby. Leon Hall's group walked silently around the hotel, carrying their signs. Ben "Sunshine" Owens was responsible for the children on the campaign.

Collins Harris--who said he has not been home to Crenshaw County, Ala., since he joined the campaign nearly three months ago--led his group into several cafeterias in the hotel. The demonstrators walked around with their signs, and often paused briefly at tables where people were eating hot lunches.

Many times a waiter would walk up to Harris and ask, "Would you like a table, sir, and a menu?"

"We are poor people," Harris or someone in the group would reply. "Yes, we are hungry, but we have no money."

In other cafeterias, someone would walk up to Harris and say, "Sorry, we can't have you walking around in here--it's against hotel fire regulations." A member of the Chicago police force would usually be handy to verify that statement.

One day, the marchers rode a bus to a YMCA branch several miles away from their hotel. There, they got on their wagons, and hitched up the cam-

paign's mule train for the first time in Chicago. SCLC had obtained a permit for the mules and wagons.

As the train of three wagons and six mules proceeded down South Michigan Avenue with a heavy police escort, thousands of anti-war demonstrators--mostly white--began to pour into the street, seemingly from nowhere.

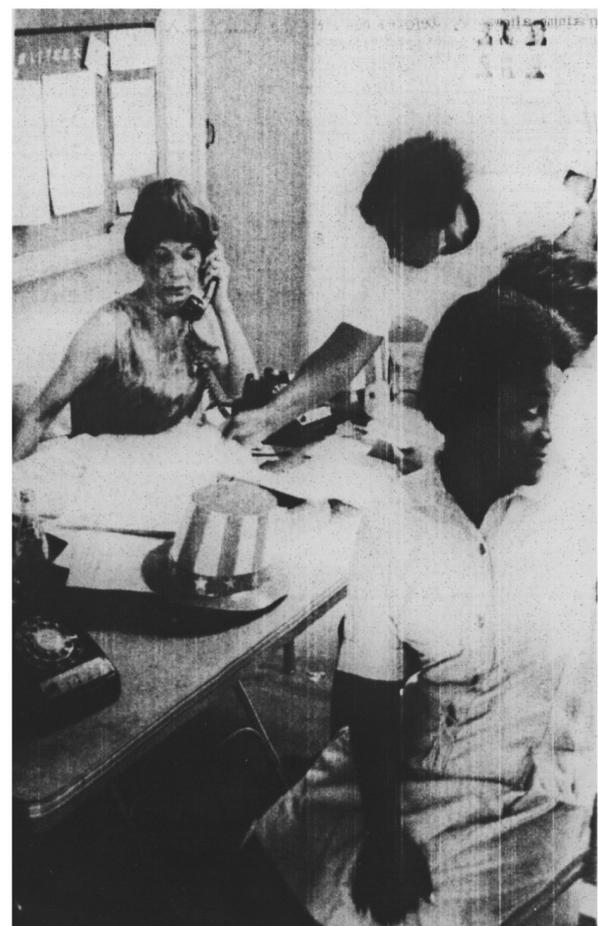
Motorcycle police rode along the sidewalks, and hundreds of other officers stood on each side of the street. Tear gas was heavy in the air, and one black youth on the mule train was severely gassed.

Most of the people on the mule train were unprepared for the gas. But many anti-war demonstrators gave the poor people pieces of wet cloth to put over their nose and mouth.

Finally, the police separated the demonstrators from the mule train, and the poor people went back to the YMCA.

The next day, the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, president of SCLC, held a press conference in front of the Conrad Hilton Hotel. He said the Democrats' response--including their offer of a small number of passes to the convention--had "humiliated" the members of the Poor People's Campaign.

In Miami Beach, Fla., the campaigners were able to present their demands to the Republican convention, added Hosea Williams of SCLC. But in Chicago, he said, "the Democratic Party has not allowed us to do this."



TELEPHONING FAIRFIELD VOTERS



WAITING TO VOTE ON AUG. 13

W. Macon Group To Build Center

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
 SHORTER, Ala.--The West Macon County Improvement Association will no doubt use all the standard materials in building its planned culture center. But Frank J. Toland told 60 members last Sunday that they should also think about salt and straight pins.

There are lessons to be learned from these "little things," said Toland, an

assistant professor of history at Tuskegee Institute and a recently-elected member of the Tuskegee City Council. For instance, he said at the association's first anniversary celebration, salt is a preservative: "We know about it at hog-killing time, don't we?" "Salt will preserve," Toland said, "if we put the salt on BEFORE the meat starts to spoil." In other aspects of life, too, he said, "we've got to save it, before we can preserve what we save."

After Jesse Jeter, representing the Baptists, handed her the deed, Mrs. Harper said the new center will offer services in health and child development, instruction in the history of minorities, adult-education classes, a swimming pool, tennis courts, and a baseball diamond.

"It will be a place for all people," she said, "to raise the standard of living for all humanity."



FRANK J. TOLAND ADDRESSES WEST MACON GROUP



LATT MARTIN doing another community service for WRMA listeners --teen-age record hops during the summer time. WRMA--Montgomery's first Negro radio station, serving all of Montgomery County and Central Alabama.

WRMA

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FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence, Tusculum, Sheffield, Auburn, Opelika, Tuskegee, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. It has a staff that works throughout the state. The Alabama Council is integrated at all levels: its staff officers, staff, and local chapters all have people of both races working side by side. The Alabama Council wishes to establish local chapters in every county in the state. If you wish to join the Council's crusade for equal opportunity and human brotherhood, write the Alabama Council, P. O. Box 1310, Auburn, Ala. 36830.

EDUCATION BENEFITS--The Veterans Administration will pay up to \$130 a month to help educate each son and daughter of a deceased veteran, or of a veteran who has been totally and permanently disabled as a result of honorable service. These payments are usually provided for children 18 to 26 years of age, for education beyond the high school level, but there are exceptions. Veterans' children who are of legal age may file their own applications for the payments, but parents or guardians must file for minors. Filing can be done at any V. A. office.

FOR SALE--Unclaimed lay-away, a 1968 Singer sewing machine in beautiful condition. It does button-holes, sews on buttons, and makes monograms, designs, and bad patterns--all without any attachments. Guaranteed--you must see it to appreciate it. Pay final balance of \$41.65, or just pay \$2 per week. For free home serial, call 263-2008 in Montgomery, Ala.

POWER PLANT JOBS--Applications are being accepted for the position of hydro-electric power plant trainee I, \$2,83 per hour. The positions to be filled are located at hydro-electric power plants in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Virginia. For further information, and for application forms or information as to where such forms may be obtained, apply at any Post Office (except the Atlanta, Ga., Post Office). Information and application forms are also available at the Federal Job Information Center, 275 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30303. Application forms are to be mailed to the Executive Office, Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Federal Office Building, 275 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30303. Applications will be accepted until Oct. 15.

BARBER SEES--Two first-class barbers sought for established business at good permanent location in Montgomery, Ala. Salary guaranteed until you are established. Call 262-3572 and ask about barber's jobs.

FEDERAL AERIAL JOBS--The Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners is holding examinations for the job of office aide. This examination provides applicants with career employment opportunities in the federal service. The positions are located in the Montgomery area and throughout South Alabama and Northwest Florida. Interested applicants may obtain additional information and application forms by contacting Alex Culver, Examiner in Charge, 406 Post Office Building, Montgomery, Ala. 36104.

JOBS FOR DRIVERS--The Montgomery, Ala., Post Office is now receiving applications for motor vehicle operators and garage men. The beginning rate of pay for operators is \$2.95 per hour, and for garage men \$2.72 per hour. Applicants must be 18 years old, and must have a valid driver's license. Applicants will take an examination to establish a register of qualified people, from which future operators and garage men will be appointed. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Those interested can obtain further information and application forms from the Civil Service Office, Room 306, Main Post Office Bldg., Memphis, Tenn. 38101, or from Alex Culver, Examiner-in-Charge, Room 406, Main Post Office Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104. Applications must be filed not later than Monday, Sept. 23.

DISABLED VETERANS--Veterans with service-connected disabilities that qualify them for vocational rehabilitation through the Veterans Administration are now eligible for a part-time training allowance. Before a new law was passed last month, only veterans taking full-time rehabilitation training were entitled to a training allowance. Now, for part-time trainees, the V. A. will pay tuition, fees, and all other training costs, plus part-time allowances as much as \$130 a month. Details can be obtained from the Montgomery, Ala., regional V. A. office, or any other V. A. office.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--This week's Lesson-Sermon in all Christian Science churches is titled "Matter." One of the selections from the Bible is this verse from Zechariah: "Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord: for He is raised up out of His holy habitation."

HELP WANTED--Applications for the following positions are being accepted by the Coosa-Elmore (Ala.) Community Action Committee: **CLERK-TYPIST--**must be able to type 60 words per minute, and be accurate, neat, and dependable. Interested persons should contact A. J. Boulter, Coosa-Elmore Community Action Committee, telephone 567-4361 in Wetumpka, Ala. **SUMMER HEAD START DIRECTOR--**is responsible for formulation, coordination, and implementation of total program. Qualifications should include a degree in early-childhood education and relevant experience with pre-school children and poverty situations. Three years of teaching experience or of formal training in education or child development is the minimum acceptable. Interested persons should send a written resume of their training and experience to the committee at P. O. Drawer H, Wetumpka, Ala. 36092. We are an equal-opportunity employer.

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Montgomery invite you to their weekly fireside at 8 p.m. this Saturday, at the Community House, 409 S. Union St., Montgomery, Ala. For transportation, call 265-9992. Meet Baha'ullah.

LOWNDES COUNTY RESIDENTS--Job applications will be taken through Monday, Sept. 30, for 20 neighborhood health workers (nurse-aide-type jobs) in the OEO-sponsored Lowndes County Board of Health Community Health Project (P. O. Box 236, Hayneville, Ala. 36040). Selections for these jobs will be made as early as possible in the month of October. Job descriptions and application forms are available at the project office, located in the brick building across from the Post Office in Hayneville. Applicants must apply in person, and only residents of Lowndes County will be considered. Preference for these positions will be given to untrained, unemployed, low-income applicants.



MRS. HARPER ACCEPTS DEED

assistant professor of history at Tuskegee Institute and a recently-elected member of the Tuskegee City Council.

For instance, he said at the association's first anniversary celebration, salt is a preservative: "We know about it at hog-killing time, don't we?"

"Salt will preserve," Toland said, "if we put the salt on BEFORE the meat starts to spoil." In other aspects of life, too, he said, "we've got to save it, before we can preserve what we save."

And "just like salt draws out the best flavor in food," he said, "people working together in a common cause for good draw the best flavor out of life."

"You can't take salt and make sugar out of it," Toland told the audience in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church. "We got to be satisfied with what we are, subject to improvement...."

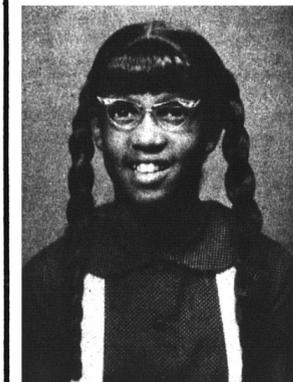
"We come with different levels of ability, but all of us come able to do something--something for the common cause, something for the kingdom of

PATRONIZE COURIER ADVERTISERS

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights
 The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23, in the New Hope Baptist Church, 1154 Tenth Ave. S., the Rev. H. Stone, pastor. The Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth will be the speaker.

Gleaners for Christ
 are offering prayers for anyone who is sick, in trouble, heartbroken, or distressed. Whatever your problems are, send them to The Gleaners for Christ, 411 S. Lowe St., Dowagiac, Mich. 49047.

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Besides making money, Southern Courier distributors make sure that their friends and neighbors get the straight story about events like the Poor People's Campaign, the national conventions, and local and national elections.

The Courier is also looking for full-time writers and reporters. These people have the responsibility for gathering and writing news in the area where they are assigned. They also may be sent off on special assignments--on the Southern caravan of the Poor People's Campaign, to Memphis for the SCLC convention, or to Miami Beach for the Republican convention.

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'Didn't Know He Had It in Him', B'ham Housing Agency Plans for Re-Location

BY SANDRA COLVIN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--"There are giants to be killed in order for the black man to survive," Latt Martin told a Youth Day audience last Sunday in the North Star Baptist Church.

"Let's not burn the Capitol," said Martin, a WRMA radio disk jockey. But, he said, "the idea is still there. We've got to kill that thing called tradition."

When men are bound by tradition, he said, they will fight change, even in a changing society. "Things ain't like they used to be," he said, "and we refuse to accept them as they are."

"If prayer changes things, why have we not moved with the changes?" Martin asked.

Why, he continued, did so few youths attend Youth Day in the little Newtown church? Maybe, he said, the church isn't offering them what they need. "We know that a minister's ability is not



LATT MARTIN

measured in terms of the number of sisters he can make shout on a Sunday morning," he said.

There is a lack of communication between the church and the young people, Martin said. He said the church should go out in the community and work for change. The church should take part in voter-registration campaigns, he said, and it should be the place where people take their problems.

Martin said there is also a division between students and school administrators. The students have begged to talk to their college presidents, he said, but the presidents have no time for them. But if the college trustees call the president, Martin said, they don't have to beg, "because they sign his paycheck."

So, Martin continued, when the students throw their bricks and bottles at the president's office, they're really saying, "He gonna hear THIS."

Afterwards, Mrs. Hattie Williams, director of the church choir, commented on Martin's speech. "Just to hear him on the air every day," she said, "you wouldn't think it was in him."

BY BOB LABAREE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--"They won't be taking these homes, I don't think," said Mrs. Lois Martin, as she stood on the steps of her apartment on 14th Street South.

But Mrs. Martin was mistaken. On a map of Birmingham printed by the Birmingham Housing Authority, a heavy black line is drawn around a 50-block area where Mrs. Martin lives.

When the time comes--sometime in the next several years--996 families living inside the black line will have to move out, to make way for the expanding University of Alabama Medical Center.

Southside residents seem to be unsure about moving. Most people in the area believe they will have to go sometime. Some, like Mrs. Martin, think they won't have to go at all. Only a few know where they will move to, and many say they haven't the money to move.

But even though the exact date for clearing the area is still unknown, the housing authority said it has been doing its best recently to clear up the question of re-location.

A ten-page leaflet telling where and how people will be moved has been handed out to each resident--tenant and owner--in the expansion area.

In it, the housing authority says it will take care of nearly everything. "We not only will find them a place to stay, but we will pay for their moving expenses," promised Hugh Denman, chairman of the housing authority.

The payment for moving is set at about \$15 per room, Denman said. But, he said, residents can also hire some-

one to move them, and the authority will pay the bill. (The housing authority must approve the charges before the move is made.)

"Usually, though, people come out better using the fixed (\$15) rate," Denman said.

The chairman said property-owners will be paid for their homes according to a price set by outside assessors. He claimed that, generally, "they'll (home-owners) get more than they put into it."

Denman warned, though, that people in the area who want the housing authority's help in re-locating should not move until the authority tells them to. "They'll hurt themselves financially if they go now," he said.

People who move before they are notified, he said, will have to find a house by themselves, and won't be paid for their moving expenses.

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

In Alabama all our yesterdays are marred by hate, discrimination, injustice, and violence. Among the organizations working for a better tomorrow on the principle of human brotherhood is the Alabama Council on Human Relations. Membership in the Council is open to all who wish to work for a better tomorrow on this principle. For further information, write the Alabama Council, P. O. Box 1310, Auburn, Alabama.

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WEUP has served as host to Project Discovery, a part of the Huntsville, Ala., anti-poverty program. Project Discovery contributes to the lives of the children by introducing them to industrial and educational environments not normally part of their lives.



The group pictured here is from the Council Training School and Lincoln School communities, and was accompanied by Mrs. Nina Scott and Mrs. Beatrice Neal of Huntsville.

WEUP, as host, served the group Double Cola, which has been an advertiser on WEUP since the station began. During this time, Double Cola has grown and is still growing--and is a must in the refrigerator of the average family home.

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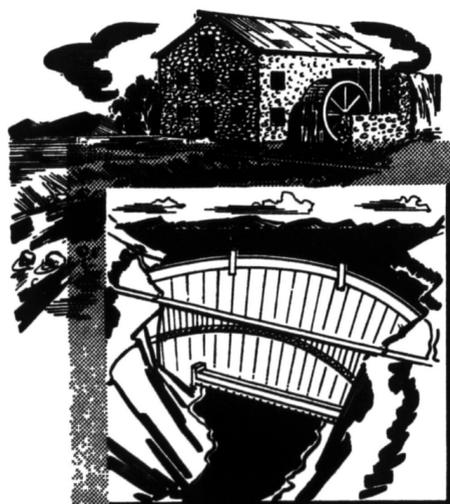
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THE PASTOR'S STUDY is a daily devotional prepared under the auspices of and in conjunction with the Montgomery Ministerial Alliance. Listen to your favorite minister in our Pastor's Study.

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Personally
Yours

... answers questions about
Junior Miss etiquette,
grooming and interests.



Q. I'm constantly leaving the family bathroom a mess with hair rollers, make-up, etc. How can I forget? Dad raises the roof about it every day. I never seem to have time to clean up when I'm through. Any solutions?

A. How about making a place for your things? A cigar or shoe box will do the trick. But don't stop there! Cover the box in Marvalon adhesive covering and you have a cute "catch-all!" Choose a pattern to blend with the decor of your bedroom or bath. Or, you needn't even have your catch-all match any room if a particular pattern -- powy, zowy or fragile feminine -- happens to strike your fancy. Dad will be pleased at your thoughtfulness, and you'll have a fanciful decorator accessory all your own.

Q. Would you believe I have a problem when it's time to leave a party? I never know what to do or say. My whole "happiness balloon" bursts! What should I do?

A. Take your "happiness balloon" with you when you leave! There's no need for uneasiness or embarrassment. It's polite to

thank your hostess and tell her how much you enjoyed the party. Then leave. Still concerned? Call your hostess the next day to tell her again how grand the party was. This simple etiquette applies to friends' casual parties as well as teachers' teas. Follow it and you'll carry your "happiness balloon" out the door after every party.

Q. I simply can't keep rollers in my hair overnight. I've tried more bobbypins, even thicker brushes -- ugh! Nothing but frustration. What's new in feminine "hair hardware"?

A. Try this: Place a piece of Kleenex tissue (the junior size is just about right for most rollers) over the hair before you wind it onto the roller. Fasten the roller with a pin or a pick as usual. The tissue softens the sharpness of the roller -- a definite plus for hairdo and beauty sleep!

(Free: "The Miracle of You," a new booklet that tells what it means to be a girl. Recommended for ages 9 to 14. Send your name and address to "Miracle," Education Department, Kimberly-Clark Corp., Neenah, Wis. 54956.)



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