

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

VOL. II, NO. 15

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TEN CENTS



IT WASN'T EASY MARCHING PAST "INTERESTED BYSTANDERS" IN PRATTVILLE

Prattville: A Very Tense Week For Students and the Police

BY TERRY COWLES

PRATTVILLE--The ten-day "cooling off period" agreed on by local Negroes and civic and business leaders here ended March 28.

Since then there has been a renewal of picketing downtown stores, 32 arrests, and an alleged case of police brutality. And last Monday the chief of police was hospitalized for "complete nervous and physical exhaustion."

Local high school students have carried on civil rights activities in this small Autauga County town. Schooling came to a complete standstill last Tuesday when less than 30 students showed

up at all-Negro North Highland High School.

The day before, about 40 students blocked the entrances to the school and asked youngsters arriving for class to join them.

The principal of the school, C. P. Everett, went to one of the entrances and told the students outside that school was open if any of them wanted to attend. No one walked into the school.

All the students left the school grounds and started for the downtown area. Police arrived on the scene before the youths had gone two blocks. Police Chief C. O. Burton, who col-

lapsed in city hall later in the day, pulled his pistol from its holster and fired.

Chief Burton "shot into the ground, over to the side," said Assistant Police Chief O. B. Thompson. "He was just trying to get their attention."

Words were exchanged by students and officers. Then police went into the group and made two arrests.

Students said that one of those arrested, Willie D. Leon, was brutally beaten and that his shoes and socks were removed as he was carried to the squad car.

Police said that Leon was later charged with "disorderly conduct and resisting arrest."

"He was kicking at them," Assistant Chief Thompson said. He said force was needed to make the arrest.

Leon had earlier been released from jail on \$3,500 bond on previous charges of "assault with intent to murder." The charges came after an alleged beating of two white youths by Leon, SCLC worker Robert Sims Jr., and two other Negro youths.

Leon was being held in Kilby Prison in Montgomery until \$1,000 bond was posted for the new charges. Mrs. Sallie Mae Hadnott, a NAACP leader in Prattville, said Wednesday that officials have refused to let a doctor go to examine Leon.

The other boy arrested, Frank Davis, was released into the custody of his mother. Thompson said, "He was cursing at us."

Chief Burton had made 26 arrests the day before, Sunday, across the street from the Negro First Baptist Church. Students had asked for use of the church for meetings and were refused. Sunday they picketed the church from the grounds of the NAACP office across the street. Two church officials met with police and complained that the picketers were loud and were disturbing services.

Burton arrived at the scene and placed all picketers under arrest at gunpoint. They were taken to the city jail where a crowd of whites gathered after church services.

Because they were under 16, five of the 26 arrested were released into the custody of their parents. The other 21 were transported to Kilby Prison. One of the 21, 14-year-old Evelyn Howard, was transported to Kilby by mistake.

Assistant Chief Thompson said Wednesday that those arrested had been moved to Kilby because of a lack of facilities in Prattville.

"We only have two little cells here," he said. "They (the picketers) are still in the custody of the Prattville police, and we have a man and woman with them at all times."

Tuesday 275 students at Autauga County Training School dropped their classes to demonstrate around the school grounds while eight state troopers and two deputy sheriffs looked on.

"We heard what happened in Prattville," one of the students said. Picketers have continued to march in front of businesses on Second St. in Prattville, the main street in town.

Tuesday two white youths, Jerry Walker and William McKinnis, were arrested by police for allegedly throwing bottles at picketers leaving the downtown area. They have been released on \$200 bond each.

Circuit Court Judge Glen Curlee, at the request of the school board, issued an order Tuesday forbidding four civil rights groups in Autauga County from: urging students to leave school or prevent their going into school; encouraging students to demonstrate during school hours; or interfering with the operation of schools.



LOWNDES COUNTY PARTY ELECTED AS OFFICERS (LEFT TORIGHT) FRANK MYLES JR., CHAPLAIN; MRS. RUTHIE MAE JONES, FINANCIAL SECRETARY; MRS. ALICE MOORE, RECORDING SECRETARY; JOHN HULETT, PRESIDENT; R. S. STRICKLAND, VICE PRESIDENT; AND SIDNEY LOGAN JR., TREASURER.

Black Panther Group Plans Campaign

Lowndes Party Elects Officers

BY LARRY FREUDIGER

HAYNEVILLE -- Sixty Lowndes County residents met Saturday to make formal a move that has been expected for several months.

They formed the Lowndes County Freedom Organization, which will run candidates for county offices in a third party, under the symbol of the black panther.

They met to elect officers, declare candidates, and discuss their plans for May 3 and the following general election.

Most of those at the meeting at Mt. Moriah Church in Beechwood were from the Lowndes County Christian Movement for Human Rights, and they elected as their president John Hulett, former chairman of the LCCMHR.

Hulett opened the meeting by explaining the reasons behind the formation of a third party.

"We have to form our own power structure," he said, "if we stay within the Democratic Party the same people will still be in control."

He told about how the Lowndes County Democratic organization had increased the filing fees by 900% to keep poor Negroes from entering the primary.

He said that rich Negroes have always been in the Democratic Party, and are there only for power.

"They get into positions of power then

just walk all over their black brothers and sisters," Hulett said.

Some people have criticized the black panther symbol, he said, because it implies there's no place for whites. "But things have been white for too long now. Why can't they be all black a while?"

He said that black people must learn to use political power.

"We boycotted the schools most of last year and got nothing. If we had the power to put some white kids into those schools, then we'd get the money."

And speaking of influence with the federal government, the new president said, "The federal government's been playing around with us on this poverty program. If we had the power we could get the program."

"Once you get power, you don't have to beg."

The moderator of the meeting was R. S. Strickland, who was later chosen as the organization's vice president by unanimous vote.

Strickland told the gathering that the Negro people of Lowndes County had voted for representatives in the county Democratic organization, but had their votes stolen and were declined a voice.

He then explained the legal procedures that the new organization must follow to get their candidates on the ballot.

On May 3, the day of the Democratic primary, 50 or more members of the Freedom Organization must hold a con-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)

Politicians, Leaders Fight Over 'The Negro Vote'

BY STEPHEN E. COTTON

BIRMINGHAM--The lean, nervous looking man played with his campaign card as he glanced out the window. Never before had he seen the view from the Masonic Temple Building, a Negro office building in downtown Birmingham. He had just finished speaking with Orzell Billingsley Jr., chairman of the Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc. It hadn't gone too well.

No, he had told Billingsley, he hadn't spoken to any other Negro about his campaign. No, he hadn't arranged to speak to any Negro group. But, he quickly added, he was a friend of the Negro people.

"Like I told Billingsley," the candidate said afterwards, "I commanded the Army's first integrated training company. I know it was integrated. I think they said it was the first one."

"You know," he went on, "I suggested having nigger policemen here five, six, seven years before I ever heard of Martin Luther King. I asked Bull Connor about it."

He paused. "We really have to get off the emotionalism on that sort of thing," he said. "I'm talking about everybody. King talks in terms of labels like 'police brutality.' To the average person, that means nothing."

"And please don't print that," he added. "It would kill me."

He hadn't talked like that to Billingsley. But a candidate who addressed 200 Negro steel workers in Fairfield Sunday wasn't quite as lucky. He let the word "nigger" slip out.

"If you can't pronounce the word 'Negro,'" one of the workers snapped at him, "say 'colored people' or don't say anything."

With Negro voter registration soaring, more white candidates are talking with Negroes than ever before. "A few of them used to call up just before the election," Billingsley recalled this week. "They'd be afraid to come down here."

"They're not afraid any more," he smiled. "If I want to get any work done, the best thing to do is to leave the office."

Billingsley is not the only man being sought out by white candidates. Just about any Negro who's anybody here has had his share of phone calls and visits.

But until this year, Billingsley's ADCI was the only Negro political action organization with chapters throughout the state. Now there's another one, and the struggle for power is fierce.

The new group, the Confederation of Alabama's Political Organizations, is the brain child of SCLC's Hosea Williams.

"When I started organizing this confederation, one man told me that I shouldn't start messing around here because Alabama was already organized," Williams told one of the first meetings of this group. "I asked him how it could already be organized when Alabama had never had the vote before this time."

Williams announced publicly that the confederation was cooperating with the other Negro political groups in the

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HOSEA WILLIAMS (AT RIGHT) KEEPS AN EYE ON ORZELL BILLINGSLEY JR., AND, LATELY, BILLINGSLEY HAS BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON WILLIAMS.

Selma's Poor Object To Poverty Set-up

SELMA--Poor Negroes here have complained to President Johnson that they are being left out of the Dallas County anti-poverty program.

They sent a telegram to the President and a long list of other important people -- like Sargent Shriver, Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell, John Doar, and Roy Wilkins.

They followed that with a written statement protesting "the insulting behavior and language of the Office of Economic Opportunity representatives, their high pressure tactics, intimidation, threats, and willful misstatement of facts, ... the underhanded manner in which they have dealt with this community."

The telegram and statement were drafted by SHAPE, the Selma Negro anti-poverty organization, and signed

by its chairman, the Rev. Ernest M. Bradford.

SHAPE said the OEO people from Atlanta came into the community "asking the white power structure who are the 'good niggers' in the community." It said elected poverty representatives of the Negro community were ignored.

Mr. Bradford said he was ignored by the federal OEO staff even though he has been elected at least three times, he said, to head the effort of the Negro community to shape a poverty program.

SHAPE said OEO failed to recognize that the Negro community in Dallas County is the majority one and that the poor are a "substantial majority in Dallas County."

The decision to send the telegram and formal protest was made after efforts by the federal Community Relations Service failed to bring about any understanding between SHAPE and its rival organization, The Dallas County and City of Selma Economic Opportunity, Incorporated.

SHAPE said the Atlanta OEO staff "worked very closely" with the other Dallas County group.

The other group is not a "true representation of the community and not brought together or acting in good faith or in the best interest of the total community," Mr. Bradford complained.

The incident that brought about SHAPE's action was a closed meeting called by the white poverty group. Only a handful of SHAPE members were invited, Mr. Bradford charged, and some members received notices of the meeting in their mailboxes the day after the meeting was held.

Rev. Reese Cleared Of Charges in Selma

SELMA -- The Rev. Frederick D. Reese has been freed of charges of misusing funds contributed to the Dallas County Voters League, a 20-year-old Negro organization that he heads.

Mr. Reese was arrested on the charges July 7 on a warrant signed by Selma Police Chief Wilson Baker. The warrant charged the Selma minister with embezzling \$1,850 from the DCVL.

Circuit Judge L. S. Moore dropped the charges last week at the request of District Attorney Blanchard McLeod.

The embezzlement charge had become an issue in the primary election fight between Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark and his opponent, Baker.

Some Negro voters wanted DCVL to put up its own candidate against Clark and Baker. The critics said that DCVL did not run a candidate because it was forced to support Baker, who held alleged evidence of the embezzlement charges against Mr. Reese.

Cafe Integration Try Stirs Thomasville

Four Youths Arrested

BY GAIL FALK

THOMASVILLE--Until three weeks ago people in Thomasville, in northern Clarke County, didn't take much interest in civil rights activity.

Then on Tuesday evening, March 22, seven young Negroes decided to eat at all-white Grace's Restaurant. None of the white restaurants in town had served Negroes until then.

The seven got service, ate their meal, and left the restaurant without any trouble.

Shortly afterwards four of the young people--Osie Pritchett, Claude Dickson, Clarence Allen, and Edison Jackson -- were arrested. They were charged with "cussing in the streets," according to city attorney Johnson McCall.

McCall said the arrests had nothing to do with public accommodations testing.

Whether they did or not, many Negroes in town thought the young men had been arrested because they ate at Grace's, and they got angry -- angry enough to want to do something.

SCLC field secretary Miss Ethel Brooks came to town, and an organized program of public accommodations testing got underway.

Groups of Negroes went to eat at People's Drug Store, John Cassidy's restaurant, Alabama Grill, and Pan Am Cafe--all white restaurants in Thomasville. Miss Brooks spent the night at the Jefferson Davis Motor Court. The testers reported courteous service at every place.

Sunday, March 27, several students said they wanted to watch "Thunderball" at the Thomasville Theatre from the front seats. Negroes had always sat in back of the theater before.

The students were escorted to seats up front and settled down for an afternoon of James Bond and SPECTRE and beautiful women.

Meanwhile, outside the theater, a crowd of white people was gathering. Teenagers were there with bats and chains. Adults were shouting taunts like "Let's put these niggers back in their place" over a loudspeaker.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)



ALPHONSO ARNOLD Beaten in Thomasville

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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Editorial Opinion

'Segregated Justice'

In Prattville four Negro boys were arrested three weeks ago after the early morning beating of two white boys. The Negroes were charged with assault with intent to murder and spent two weeks in jail before anyone could post the \$3,500 bond required for each one.

In Birmingham last Friday a white man appeared in criminal court for a hearing. He was charged on five counts with assault with intent to murder--the same charge as the one in Prattville. The Birmingham man is charged in the shooting of four Negro pickets and a shopper at Liberty Super Market Feb. 22. His bond was set at \$300. The accused man posted bond and was released.

In Beatrice three white men--including the mayor--have been accused of beating a Negro man. It took threats of street demonstrations to get the Monroe County probate judge to sign a warrant for the arrest of the three men. After the warrant was signed, bond was set at \$200 each, and all three men were released.

This is what "segregated justice" is all about. The ambitious SCLC series of demonstrations against "segregated justice" last fall has all been forgotten in the excitement of election time. But the bond system is still unfair, arrests are still not made on an equal basis, several counties still have not had a Negro on a jury, and jails and prisons remain rigidly segregated.

"Segregated justice" is still with us.

Y'All Come

•The federal official flies in from Washington, speaks to a group of students, answers a few questions, and departs. The students are left to look at each other and say, "Well?"

•Alabama's school superintendents attend a meeting with a handful of energetic and devoted young men from the U. S. Office of Education. The young men explain the new guidelines for school desegregation, demand compliance, then pack up their bags and head for the next state. The educators are left to look at each other and say, "No Yankee bureaucrats are going to tell us how to run our schools. What do they know of our problems?"

•An alert Justice Department lawyer argues his case in federal court in Montgomery, gathers his papers into his briefcase, and--satisfied that he has once again defeated the forces of evil--flies off to Atlanta and back to Washington.

•A handful of federal officials fly into Mobile to address a regional convention of the NAACP. At the meeting they explain what the federal government is trying to do, then they sit through a blast of questions, complaints and fired-up speeches from people who know better. The federal laws, the people say, just aren't being enforced and complaints are either not answered or not acted upon.

This "government by jet airplane" just doesn't work. The federal government cannot hope to enforce the Constitution from Washington. And federal officials cannot hope to know how federal laws are working only on the basis of weekend visits to the South and a pile of angry letters.

The closest office of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights is in Memphis, Tenn. No Justice Department policy maker lives in the South. The men in charge of hospital desegregation compliance and school desegregation compliance do not live in the South.

The federal government needs officers of importance and authority in Alabama to handle complaints. At the very least there should be a full-time representative of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights in Montgomery.

Beyond that, the special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General for voting rights should have his office in the South, because the law applies only to Southern states.

The assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture for civil rights compliance should have an office in the South. The assistant to the Commissioner of Education in charge of school desegregation should have his office in the South, because the present guidelines affect only the South.

The top man in the civil rights division of the Justice Department should have his office in the South.

These government departments would then have in top positions people who live in the South and want to help the South. At present, part of the Southern population thinks these people are bureaucrats who have lost touch with the people and their problems; and the other part of the population thinks they are bureaucrats meddling in local affairs.

The people who staff these Southern offices would have the authority to use the full powers of the federal government, as many of the lesser federal officials here now do not have. And they would be able to investigate federal law violations immediately without an endless exchange of letters and telephone calls.

Sermon of the Week

Selma Preacher Notes Nature And Man

SELMA--The Rev. T.R. Harris spoke in St. Paul's C.M.E. Church of Palm Sunday and the flowers that have come to symbolize it.

"In spring," he said, "even nature recognizes this day."

He said that nature can mean much to men, and that God "did not create his flowers to blush unseen."

Flowers can bring beauty and happiness, but the preacher warned against



their use for deceit. "We have taken flowers and told more lies than we have fingers and toes."

"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem the people strewed flowers in his path, but three days later they said 'Crucify him.'"

He went on to say that the family of flowers is as numerous as the family of man, and that the same qualities can be found in both.

Consider the morning glory, he said, which blooms only when the air is fresh and new, but folds up when the bright sun hits it.

In this way many men will support you in the beginning, but like Peter when they came for Jesus, they will fold up and say, "I know him not."

And then there is the touch-me-not, which, "every time you touch it will fold up and look withered."

There are people like that, Mr. Harris said, who want to get the glory and be the leaders, but will pull back or give up when criticized. These people are "very unhappy among equals."

A third type is the four-o'clock. "This flower never blooms until four o'clock in the afternoon."

And these are the people who never participate in the struggle, but will always be there to take credit. "And if the wrong thing happens they will come in time to say 'I knew it.'"

Mr. Harris then said that not all flowers, nor all people, have these weaknesses.

"Thanks be to God that there is another called the sunflower, which stands straight and tall, and always points toward the sun."

Even when the sky is covered with clouds the sunflower points toward the source of its nourishment, and it in turn gives nourishment both to the birds and the other flowers around it.

"Let us emulate the sunflower, always looking to Jesus Christ the Son of God who died for our sins," Mr. Harris said in his sermon.

THE SOUTHERN COURIER welcomes letters from anyone on any subject. Letters must be signed, but your name will be withheld upon request.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I have just read the March 26-27, 1966, edition of The Southern Courier and was quite surprised when I read the article which purports to describe my remarks during a recent visit to Tuskegee Institute. Your reporter misquoted me and used out of context some of the answers to specific questions which were raised during an informal session following my lecture.

Your article would lead one to believe that I am opposed to the basic policy of the Department of Justice in the implementation of the voting rights law and that I made an appeal for the Department to alter its policy. This is not my view and nothing said either in my prepared address or in my answers to specific questions should have caused anyone to think otherwise.

It would serve no useful purpose to comment on each sentence of your article, but I think I should state my views on the Justice Department's policy and I request that you print this letter.

The present policy of the Department of Justice in the implementation of the Voting Rights Act has provided for the assignment of federal examiners in places other than the courthouse in a number of instances and the examiners work both weekdays and Saturdays. Examiners have also been sent to counties where there is no longer any discrimination or intimidation against Negro applicants, but where the hours of registration or other factors have served as a barrier to convenient registration. I subscribe to the basic policy which the Department of Justice follows in implementing this program. I would be naive if I said that I agreed with everything that was done at all times; however, I would consider it a breach of ethics to be critical in public of an agency which



Flowers Draws 3,000 in Selma

SELMA--Last weekend Richmond Flowers took his campaign for governor to Brown's Chapel A.M.E. Church, where he spoke to about 3,000 persons at an outside rally.

As he had done in earlier speeches before largely Negro groups, the Attorney General talked about the anti-poverty program. He said that the Rev. T. Y. Rogers of Tuscaloosa took him on a tour of slums there March 16. Since that time, Flowers has been talking about his impressions of the visit.

"Right there I made up my mind there's something wrong with the poverty program," he said in the bright afternoon sun. "I'm going to see that the poverty money gets to you."

Flowers, running in the May Democratic primary, said he also visited Bryce State Hospital for the mentally ill, also in Tuscaloosa. "I'm going to put the mental health program on the same level with all the others," he said in promising he would provide better facilities for mental health if elected.

Flowers spoke to a Kiwanis Club group in Montgomery Wednesday on much the same themes.

Then he said, "I suggest the heart of the 'rights' issue is a new bill of rights for the people of Alabama--the right to reason, the right to law, the right to a job, the right to grow, the right to know, the right to health and welfare, the right to live under reasons and laws."

What Caused B'ham Mayor To Seek Out Negro Policemen

BY STEPHEN E. COTTON

BIRMINGHAM--"When Albert Boutwell was elected mayor," an old hand at city hall observed this week, "85 per cent of the police here wouldn't even look at him when he said hello."

It's easy to see why. Birmingham's finest were well-heelled in the ways of long-time Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor. Three years ago this month Boutwell defeated Connor in a bitter run-off election for mayor. Boutwell was known as a racial moderate.

Birmingham was the largest city in the nation without a single Negro on its police force. Under the new administration, change was bound to come. Last week, it did.

On Wednesday, LeRoy Stover reported for work as the first Negro policeman in the city's history. Two days later, Johnnie Johnson checked in as the second.

Boutwell assured whites on the force that he would treat the new men exactly like any other new recruits, then ordered them to do the same.

Things went so smoothly that by mid-week, city officials were already pointing out that law enforcement in the city would be vastly improved if a great many more Negroes were hired.

It looked like the beginning of the end

for one of the city's most explosive civil rights problems. Negro leaders and city officials have long recognized that many Negroes don't trust the police force and don't bother to report crimes to it. The ill feeling runs deep. The Rev. Joseph P. Lowery, a well-known moderate civil rights leader, last summer told the city council of the "disappointment, disgust, despair, and frustration" of Negroes who resent the all-white force.

To crack the racial barrier Negroes had to file a suit in federal court to be able to take the civil service examination. That was eight years ago.

Since then, there have been demonstrations, petitions, rallies, closed door meetings, and more demonstrations--but no Negro policemen.

Part of the reason is that the pay is low and the examinations are stiff--among the stiffest in the nation.

Negro leaders had a different explanation. "It would be suicide," said one, "to be the first Negro policeman in Birmingham." They charged that more Negroes would be passing--except that the exams were rigged. The city hired a private accounting firm to prove that they weren't.

At any rate, the issue came up again in February after a white man shot into a crowd of Negroes picketing the Liberty Super Market.

There were more demonstrations and they got bigger. Almost every Negro group in the city demanded quick action on what has become the standard list of grievances. Last month, the Negroes announced an "Easter Self-Denial"--Negroes were not going to shop downtown because the city wasn't doing anything about segregation.

That was the last straw. A group of (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)



BY MARY MOULTRIE

In the past, TV has had its limitations for the Negro in show business. Aside from the usual one-night stands on the musical-variety shows, the overall role of the Negro performer was minor, excepting the Amos 'n' Andy comedy series, which featured an all-Negro cast.

Today, there has been a big change in the TV industry, and more and more Negroes are being accepted into the better aspects of TV entertainment.

Presently, the only show that has a

balanced, but with the doors partially opened, it's a start in the right direction.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

EASTER SUNDAY SPECIAL--Marine-land Carnival, with Donna Douglas, Irene Ryan, Max Baer of the "Beverly Hillbillies," and Jim Backus of "Gilligan's Island" touring through Marine-land on the Pacific Coast, Singers Chad and Jeremy also appear singing some of their well-known songs, 6 p.m., Channel 4 in Dothan, Channel 19 in Huntsville, and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

SHENANDOAH--Shenandoah is recognized as the son of a wealthy rancher who is on his deathbed, 9:30 p.m., Channel 3 in Pensacola, Fla.; Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 8 in Selma, Channel 31 in Huntsville, and Channel 32 in Montgomery.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

LOST IN SPACE--The space travelers seek refuge from an over-powering sun in the shelter of a cave and become the prisoners of an underground civilization, 6:30 p.m., Channel 19 in Huntsville and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

THURSDAY NIGHT MOVIE--Burt Lancaster, in the explosive dramatic movie, "Elmer Gantry," which won him an Academy Award as best actor of the year. Co-stars Jean Simmons, 8 p.m., Channel 4 in Dothan and Channel 20 in Montgomery.



SAMMY DAVIS JR.

Negro host is the Sammy Davis Jr. Show on NBC. In time there will be many more. Even now Negroes are appearing as guests on some of the regular weekly shows, actor-comedian Bill Cosby has a supporting role as an intelligence agent on "I Spy," which appears weekly.

The musical shows have been keeping up with the new trend by giving the young Negro entertainer a chance along with the white entertainer. The Dick Clark Show is a good example of this equality.

Mrs. A. I. S. Eufaula, Ala.



STUDENT PILOTS EAT LUNCH AT 'TAC-1'



SQUADRON OF UH-1 HELICOPTERS PREPARES TO TAKE OFF ON 'COMBAT' ASSIGNMENT, ANOTHER SQUADRON IS ALREADY AIR-BORNE

VIET NAM READY

On any given day of the week there are 400 helicopters and airplanes from Fort Rucker in the sky over South Alabama. Most of the men who fly these aircraft (mostly helicopters) are being trained for only one tour of duty--Viet Nam. As many as 95 per cent of the graduates

of the Army Aviation School located at Fort Rucker are sent to Viet Nam.

Climaxing the many weeks of training are the eight days the students spend at "TAC-1," tactical field area. There they are under the watchful eye of instructors like Captain Earl Thomas and Chief Warrant Officer Robert Lester, both veterans of the helicopter war in Viet Nam. The trainees live and fly under conditions just like those in Viet Nam.

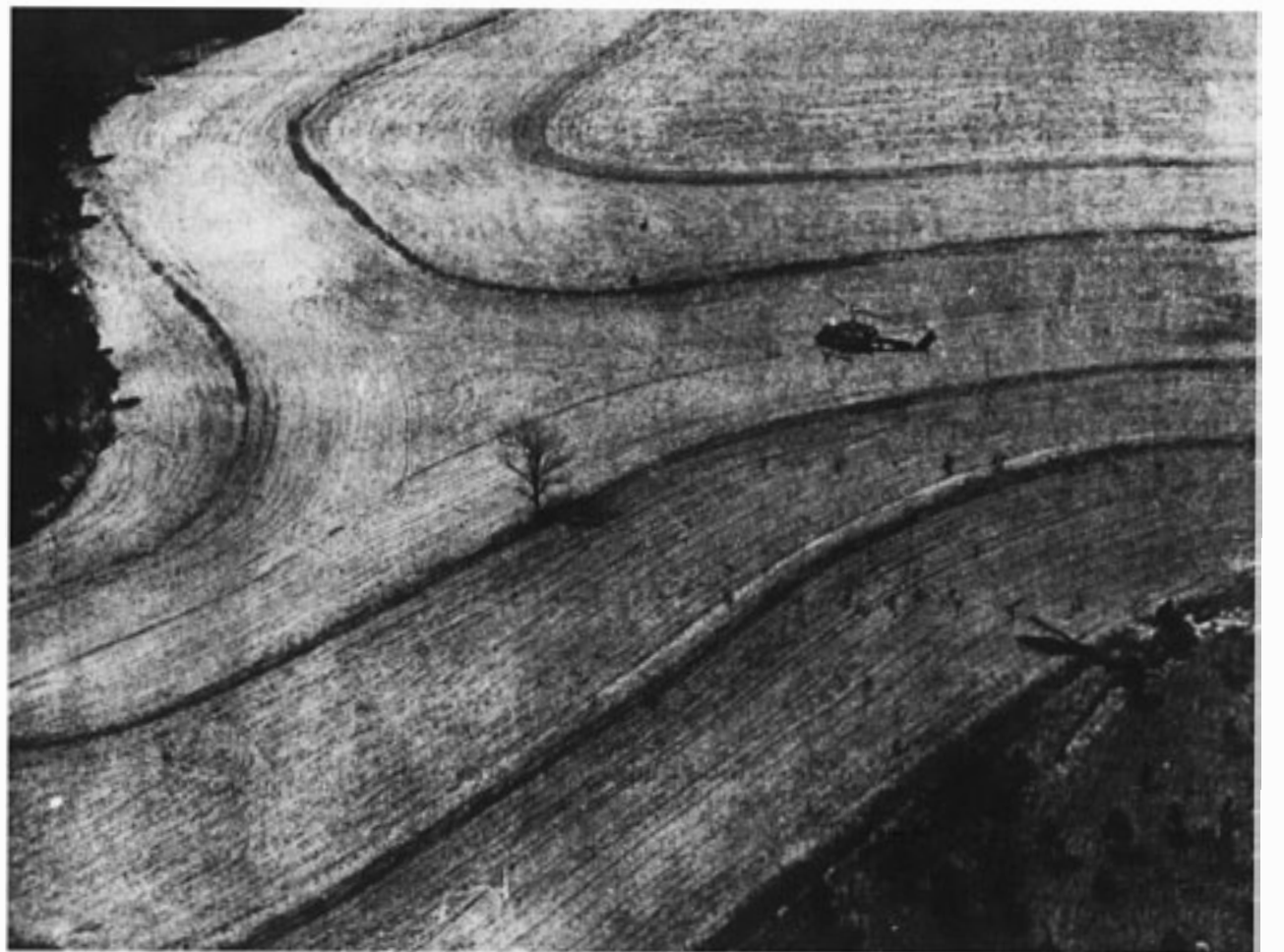
From the airfield at TAC-1, they fly practice combat missions to gather information, take supplies, use night lighting, escort other aircraft, and attack with a massive air assault.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXT BY JAMES H. PEPPLER



SHELLS KICK UP DIRT BY BUNKER

AT THE FIRING RANGE INSTRUCTORS START PASS ON 'ENEMY BUNKER'

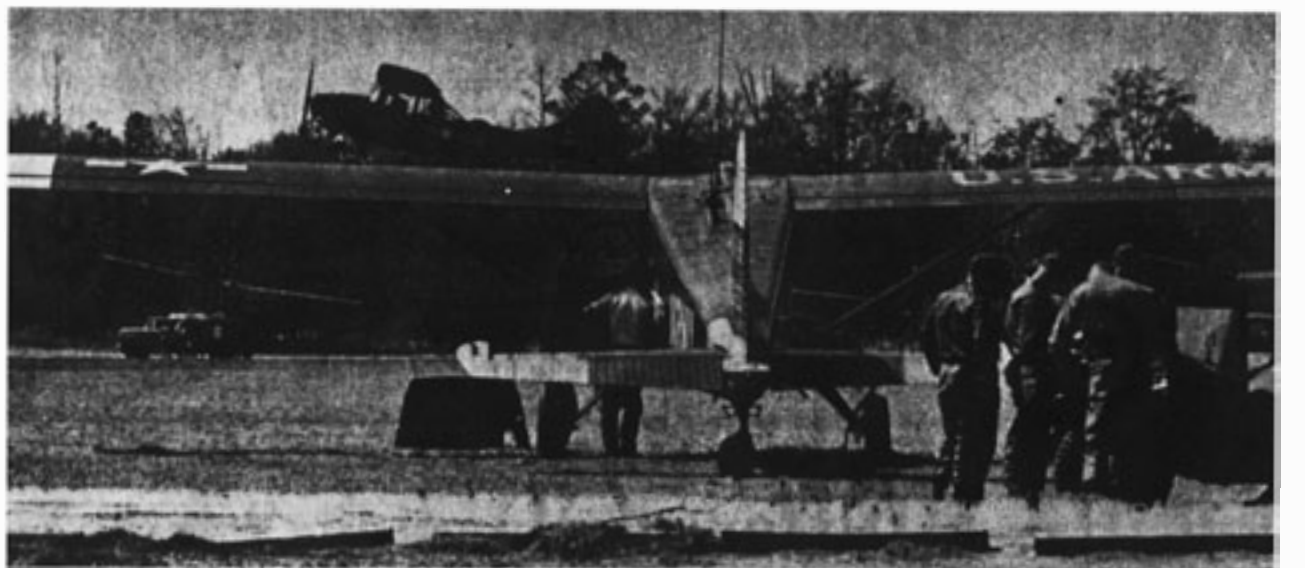


HELICOPTER 'HUEY' OVER CULTIVATED FIELDS OF SOUTH ALABAMA



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER ROBERT LESTER, CO-PILOT

CAPTAIN EARL THOMAS, PILOT



FIXED WING STUDENTS GO OVER ASSIGNMENT, IN BACKGROUND O-1 'BIRD DOG' TAKES OFF

CAPT. ROBERT N. DAWES JR. WALKS TWO VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE STUDENT PILOTS TO THEIR HELICOPTER



CREW CHIEF CHECKS 7.62mm MACHINE GUNS AFTER THEY JAMMED ON PREVIOUS RUN AT TARGET



Strike City Times

Freedomcrafts Time To Wake Up

BY GEORGE LEE MARTIN AND JAMES MARTIN

All the men are cutting nativity scenes out of two-by-fours. They are getting \$4 a set. They are selling the sets to people in the northern states, and those people will buy all they make.

The men can make the sets all year around. That means that the men at Strike City have started their own business, and they are making more money now than they were on the Andrews plantation. The women and the children are helping to get the sets ready by sanding the blocks. We're making a good profit so far.

And when we get welding equipment we can make tricycles and jumping horses, and we can get contracts to make sewer pipe and diesel and gas storage tanks. We're going to try hard to stay in business, and I know we're going to make it.

'We Need Importance'

BY BERTHA L. GREEN

Well, what I think of Strike City is very plain and understandable. Strike City need some importance, and the people at Strike City can't make it important by themselves. What I'm trying to say is that we need your help as well as we need our own.

If we are important at Strike City maybe people on other plantations will strike before the white man puts them off the plantation. Because in the next few years there won't be any use for the Negro to stay on the plantation because the white folks will have machines to do their work.

So, we'll build houses and community center, to let the Negro know that they can make a living without work on the plantation. The white man think that the Negro doesn't have any sense. And he will call you "boy," and when he get mad with you he will call you "nigger," and

BY SHIRLEY ANN MARTIN

In the near future there will be at least 10,000 people put off the plantation. What will become of the Mississippi Delta? Farming is good in Mississippi but they are still making plans on how to get rid of the Mississippi Negro.

The Negro has made the white man rich in farming his land but it has gotten to the point that white people don't need Negroes any more for his land. They have thought of new ways to farm their land. In years ago Negroes were important to a white man. He would plow with mules from sun up to sun set for the white man for 50¢ a day.

But now the Negroes have woken up. They have been asleep for thousands of years. Don't you think it is time that Negroes come to their senses and look into the world that means so much to them?

that isn't your name. Would you like to be called nigger or called by your own name?

So, there ain't any use to stay on this white man plantation and keep making him rich. Because what the white man pay you won't buy you three good meals. While the white man is eating steak and fish, the Negroes are eating corn bread and molasses.

So, why keep making the white man rich, when you can sit down and eat just like him? What difference in a white man, and Negro man? The only difference that I can see is the white man get all the money and the Negroes get all the hard work.

And I think all human beings are of the Creator and could have the equal right to do things such as be elected an official like the white man. Instead of Negroes being elected, they have to do the hard work for the white man, and make him a big business man.

THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN STRIKE CITY PUT OUT THEIR OWN NEWSPAPER WITH A MIMEOGRAPH MACHINE. THEY WRITE ABOUT THEIR LIVES IN STORIES LIKE THE THREE REPRINTED HERE.

The Search for Homes



IN TENT CITY SETTLEMENT NEAR TRIBBETT, MISS., DOING THE FAMILY WASH IS A PROBLEM FOR THE WOMEN WHO LIVE THERE.



ISSAC FOSTER, ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS OF THE STRIKE



THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA



LAST JANUARY SOME OF THE HOMELESS PEOPLE TRIED TO STAY AT GREENVILLE AIR FORCE BASE



POLICE DRAGGED THEM FROM THE BUILDING, AND THEY HAD TO MOVE INTO TENTS

Time Has a Different Meaning When You Live in a Tent

Poor People Pitch Tents in Washington

WASHINGTON -- Four tents are pitched right across the street from President Johnson's front door this week. In front of the tents two signs say "Strike City, Mississippi" and "Houses Not Tents."

The tents belong to evicted tenants and sharecroppers who have no homes except their tents in the Mississippi Delta, where they come from. They came to Washington last Thursday to speed up approval of \$1.3 million anti-poverty funds so they can start building houses for themselves.

Four months ago the tent city residents began negotiating with the Office of Economic Opportunity. They wanted money to build cinder block houses and to start literacy and vocational classes in their new communities. A month and a half ago they filed formal application for funds.

Last week they got tired of waiting, and 90 of them came to Washington to tell the OEO they couldn't wait through any more months of red tape. "When you live in a tent and people

shoot at you at night and your kids can't take a bath and your wife has no privacy, a month can be a long time, even a day," says Frank Smith, a spokesman for the group.

"We're here because Washington seems to run on a different schedule. We have to get started right away," said Smith.

The homeless Negroes say if they don't start building right away, they won't finish the houses before next winter.

A COLD WINTER IN TENTS

Many of the families have already spent one cold winter in tents.

During the last year evicted Negroes have moved into tent cities in several Mississippi communities. Some, like the people who wrote the articles on this page for the Strike City Times, were evicted last summer when they went on strike for higher wages.

Some were evicted for registering to vote. And some, simply because they weren't needed any more.

About 100 of the homeless people tried to set up housekeeping in empty barracks at the Greenville Air Force Base. After they were dragged from the Air

Base, some went to live in tents at Strike City near Tribbett, but then moved on because living was so crowded.

They pitched two circus-sized tents in Issaquena County for a time. But the mud there was so deep "the pigs wouldn't mess with it," said one of the men. The Delta Ministry offered the wanderers temporary shelter at Mt. Beulah in Edwards, Miss., and the people moved there.

PLANS FOR THREE PROJECTS

The group in Washington is asking for approval of three projects to house all these displaced people.

Neighborhood Developers Inc. has submitted plans for a self-help housing project in Washington County. The Delta Opportunities Corporation wants to build homes for the people living at Mt. Beulah. And the Poor People's Corporation in Una will start a community of cinder block houses in Una.

FARMERS ANSWER QUESTIONS

The first day the families were in Washington, Representative Adam Clayton Powell, a Democrat from New York and chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, held an open hearing at which some of the sharecrop-

pers explained why they were homeless:

"Well, we weren't making enough money to pay the light bills and buy food and like that. I was making \$6 a day driving a tractor. We asked for a raise and he told us to get off. He run us off. Question: What did you ask for? Answer: Seven dollars a day. The hoe-men were getting \$2.50 a day. Question: What hours did you work? Answer: I don't know about hours, Sun to sun.

After listening to the testimony, Powell called up Sargent Shriver, director of the OEO, to ask why the project had not been financed.

THEIR ANSWERS ANGER BURTON

And Representative Phillip Burton of California, one of the congressmen who participated in the hearing, told the Mississippians:

"I'm having a great deal of trouble keeping my stomach in order. Nothing we seem able to do, no law, no program we pass, seems to be able to help the people who need help the most. I apologize to you."

On Friday of last week, some of the delegation met with Theodore Berry, director of the Community Action Project part of OEO, and other OEO offi-

cials, but they left that meeting with no more assurance than before that they would get the money promptly.

The delegation had been scheduled to return to Mississippi Saturday, but they decided not to leave until they had a firmer promise of funds.

Last Sunday they marched with members of Washington's Bibleways Church to Lafayette Square, across the street from the White House. They set up tents like the ones they live in back home, and about 30 of them moved in.

There is a Washington, D.C. ordinance that forbids camping in Lafayette Park, but no branch of the government seemed anxious to take responsibility for evicting the homeless sharecroppers from their tulip-bordered tent ground.

NOT CAMPING, DEMONSTRATING

The U.S. Department of the Interior said that the tenters could stay because "They are not camping. They are demonstrating."

The sharecroppers say they are going to stay until they are certain of prompt approval for their projects.

If they do, President Johnson may have tenters as neighbors for quite a while. The OEO sounds as though it does not want to be pushed.

The deputy information director for the OEO, James Kelleher, said early this week that it would be "the grossest kind of grandstand hypocrisy on our part" to give immediate approval for the grant. They don't own the land, and they can't build houses if they don't have land," he said.

"It would be a cruel hoax," he said, to approve money for homes that could not be built.

The Mississippians say that they do own land. Neighborhood Developers Inc. owns land and is buying more in Tribbett, where it is already building eight concrete-block homes with private funds. The Poor People's Corporation of Una owns land in Clay County. And the Delta Opportunities Corporation is now purchasing 400 acres in the Delta.

These three projects will only scratch the surface if, as many people predict, thousands of sharecroppers are evicted from Mississippi plantations this summer because of a decrease in cotton allotments under the new cotton bill and because of mechanization.

But the tenters outside President Johnson's front door say they're in a hurry to make the first scratch.

THOMASVILLE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

When he heard the commotion, Alphonso Arnold ran over to the theater. He said he had been told the Negro students were trapped inside.

Arnold said that before he could get inside the door, some of the white teenagers grabbed him and started beating him with bats.

Another Negro man Wilbur Rice, who had been inside the show, left about this time to go home early. He too was grabbed, beaten, and injured in the head.

The audience rushed out of the movie to see what was happening, but police and sheriff's deputies prevented further violence.

Many Thomasville Negroes continued to eat in the previously white restaurants and sit up front in the movie this week. They say they plan to continue to patronize these public accommodations in large enough numbers to make up for the white customers who will stay away.

"We'll keep them in business," said Miss Brooks.

"People in Thomasville have learned

from the example of Jackson (30 miles south of Thomasville)," she said, "The people in Jackson started testing last summer, but they didn't go back. Now they see they have to start all over again."

Negroes have organized the Thomasville Movement for Dynamic Action and have begun a voter registration campaign. They say they plan to demand Negro mail carriers, full-time Negro policemen, and Negro representation on the city council.

Tenants Evicted

SELMA--About 30 families say they were notified this week by J. A. Minter, a Dallas County landowner, that they are being evicted. The tenants had earlier complained to federal government officials that Minter wanted them to sign over their shares of payments under the U. S. Cotton Domestic Allotment Program.

The tenants said they will try to fight the eviction in federal court.

Macon Puts Off Spring Jury Term

Segrest Trial Delayed Until Fall

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE--Spring will be a little late this year for the Circuit Court of Macon County.

Under an order issued by Circuit Judge Dan Boyd, spring won't come until next fall.

And neither will the possible indictment and trial of the man accused of murdering Samuel L. Younge Jr., a student civil rights worker. Younge was shot to death Jan. 3.

The spring grand jury was scheduled to meet April 18 to consider the murder case against Marvin Segrest of Shorter and more than three dozen other cases.

But Judge Boyd called the whole thing off. In an order signed March 29, he "continued generally" (postponed) the entire spring court term until the next regular court session in mid-October.

"Most all of the attorneys resident in

Macon County, Alabama, have requested, both personally and in writing, that the spring session, 1966, of this court be continued generally," Judge Boyd noted.

But Fred D. Gray of Tuskegee, the only Negro attorney resident in Macon County, said that "most all" didn't mean all.

"I don't want an of you to think Fred Gray was one of those lawyers who didn't want to hold court," Gray, a candidate for the state legislature, told 200 people at a political meeting late last week.

"I was not consulted or conferred with or notified," Gray said, adding, "We've heard a lot tonight about racial progress, but we're not quite out of the woods."

William M. Russell Jr., president of the Macon County Bar Association, confirmed that several of the county's white lawyers asked Judge Boyd to put off the court session.

Russell pointed out that the spring term of court has been similarly postponed in other election years. But he refused to discuss the bar association's reasons for wanting court postponed this year.

Russell's law firm, Russell, Raymon, and Russell, is handling the defense for Segrest, who was charged with killing Younge after a quarrel near a downtown Tuskegee service station.

Judge Boyd's order suggested that the attorneys' request was "due doubtless to the uncertainty attendant the matter of jury for the session."

"There is now no jury box from which to draw a venire of jurors to serve... and there is no certainty that there will be, even before the day set for the commencement" of the spring session, the judge explained.

Macon County has been under federal court order to empty and refill its jury box since Jan. 18. U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. directed the county jury commission to make a new jury list that did not discriminate against Negroes.

The jury commission and its clerk resigned. Three new commissioners made a new jury list of 637 Negroes and 396 whites, and sent it to Judge Johnson on March 25, according to Hunter Slaton, the new clerk.

But, Slaton said this week, Johnson has not yet replied.

Panthers Set Convention

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

vention in Hayneville to nominate one candidate for each position open.

The names of these candidates are then given to the county registrar, who is required by Alabama law to place the names on the ballot for the November election.

"And when you go to the polls in November," he said, "just pull the lever under the black panther."

Strickland also explained that even if none of its candidates won, the Freedom Organization would become a bona fide political party if it polled more than 20% of the vote.

Hulett then tried to clarify what the organization's members must do on May 3.

He said that anyone may attend the convention, but only registered members of the LCFO may vote for nominees.

Furthermore, those who vote at the convention will not be allowed to vote in the primary that day. Hulett urged people to be very careful about this, because "they'll be watching for any irregularities."

Some of the members were worried about not being able to vote for the state Democratic candidates, but one elderly man stood up and said, "So what! We ain't been votin' at all till now."

The county positions open are sheriff, tax assessor, tax collector, coroner, and three seats on the school board.

Members were urged to begin campaigning for the positions they wanted so that the convention could make intelligent choices.

SNCC worker Courtland Cox then told the secretary that SNCC would hand over its files to the Freedom Organization so that it could reach as many people as possible in the county.

He was followed by fellow SNCC

worker Stokely Carmichael, who congratulated the group.

"This meeting is different from any other meeting taking place in the state, because the candidates are not important. It is this organization that is important.

"Everyone else has been talking about the governor--as if one man could make a difference.

"As long as one man can make a difference we're all tied to that man. And you're going to change all that."

The meeting was then closed by Strickland, who said, "We have so-called leaders who have worked with the Democratic Party for 30 years and ain't done nuthin'.

"We've got to stop bowing down and begging for the crumbs."



Meanwhile, COAPO Plans Busy Schedule

BY LARRY FREUDIGER

SELMA--The three elected committees of the Confederation of Alabama Political Organizations (COAPO) met Saturday to make plans for the coming May 3 Democratic primary election.

About 140 people gathered at St. Paul's CME Church as official representatives of participating county organizations. Most were there for the first time.

Lowndes County, which has formed an independent party under the symbol of the black panther, sent no representatives.

The Rev. T. J. Rogers of Tuscaloosa, chairman of COAPO, explained the organization of the group and set the timetable for the coming month.

Mr. Rogers spoke of his group mobilizing and uniting 200,000 voters for the primary, the run-off, and the general election.

He said that COAPO is structured from the bottom up, and that representation must come from civil rights groups already established in the various counties.

When asked by a delegate whether labor organizations would be consulted before endorsing candidates, Mr. Rogers said, "Labor's already made their endorsements."

COAPO knows who the Alabama labor forces will support, and will take this into account, he said. "But their interests are not at all the same as the Negro community's."



MRS. WILLIAMS TRIES TO RECRUIT MARCHERS IN HOUSING PROJECT

In Mobile Sparse Turnout for March

BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

MOBILE--People driving home along Davis Avenue last Friday evening looked out of their car windows in amazement. A small line of sign-carrying marchers was walking down The Avenue, headed for town. This was the first Mobile had seen of a civil rights demonstration.

Many Negro drivers laughed at the marchers; others looked just once, and then tried to ignore them. But some people stopped long enough to read the signs, and a few shouted encouragement to the marchers.

The marchers needed it. At 4 p.m., when the march was supposed to start from a vacant lot next to the Roger Williams housing project, only a stack of signs and two organizers of the march were there.

The two, Mrs. Jackie Jacobs, a public school teacher, and Jerry Pogue, a private school teacher, were disappointed. Pogue, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Dorothy Williams, a one-member civil rights

organization in nearby Prichard, and Leo Brinkley, a voter registration worker, had been planning the march for more than a week.

They had contacted people all around Mobile, who promised to join them in the "awakening freedom walk," as Mrs. Jacobs called it.

When Mrs. Williams arrived, she and two other ladies paraded through the project with signs. Residents came out

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, COL. 2)

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BIRMINGHAM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

downtown businessmen called in Mr. Lowery and assured him that there would be Negro cops.

Several business leaders agreed to let Negro employees off for a day (with pay) to take the test, and promised them that if they passed, took the job, and didn't like it, they could have their old jobs back.

In a statement printed on the front page of Birmingham newspapers last month, the mayor asked Negro groups for help in finding Negro applicants for the police force.

The businessmen had made it plain to city hall that there had been entirely too much bickering over the issue already--and that this time nothing had better go wrong. "When these racial things flare up, who gets it in the neck? City hall?" growled one of the businessmen "Hell no. We do."

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Mobile Starts School

A Snake in the Ditch And Other Problems

BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

PRICHARD--"I want each of you to tell your neighbors, and then bring three of four of them back with you next time," Jerry Pogue told a group of about 15 people at Antioch Baptist Church, "And we'll do some advertising of our own."

The advertising was a few posters placed around the neighborhood three days later. A big one alongside an open ditch had a big snake on it and said peo-



JERRY POGUE

ple who wanted to do something about the ditch should come to the church Wednesday evening.

The night after the posters were put up, someone went around and tore them down, but the people who had attended the first meeting apparently spread the word well enough without the posters.

About 75 people, young and old, came to the second meeting at the church to hear about "the project," Mrs. Dorothy Williams is the director. Mrs. Jackie Jacobs is the head teacher, and Pogue is the research and complaint director.

The three of them and a few assistants are trying to set up small "community action schools" around Mobile County. The schools will help people to prepare for the coming elections, to improve their neighborhoods, to get jobs, and to deal with their government--local, state, national.

Mrs. Williams, who will teach a class on how to use a voting machine, told the crowd, "Let's stop right now and say, 'I'm not ashamed anymore and I'm not afraid.' When we get through with the class, voting will be so simple that it'll be like you have been voting all your life."

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Al Lingo Returns to Challenge Bailey for Jefferson Co. Sheriff

BIRMINGHAM -- The last time Colonel Al Lingo ran for office was when he was Alabama Public Safety Director last year.

He used his authority to summon more than 200 state troopers to Tuscaloosa to win for himself the vice presidency of the Alabama Peace Officers Association.



AL LINGO

Albert Jennings Lingo is now running for sheriff of Jefferson County (Birmingham), and he may wish he could call for his troopers again.

An informal survey revealed that opposition to Lingo is strong among whites as well as Negroes.

Lingo thinks his candidacy is not getting good coverage in the Birmingham newspapers. "They're giving me the silent treatment . . . The only things they'll print about me make me appear to be mad or stupid."

One well-known white lawyer in Birmingham said, "I would think that white support is about the same low proportion as Negro." He said businessmen he knows fear economic disruption if Lingo is elected sheriff of Jefferson County.

Lingo said about the campaign, "They think I'm a racist. I'm not a racist. I have many Negro friends. A lot of the good colored people here are actively working for my campaign."

"I'm not going to name them," the former Wallace appointee said, "because they would be intimidated by other groups within their own communities."

Lingo said he would "be glad to speak to colored groups." But he has not met with any Negro groups and does not have time left in his schedule to do so, he said.

"I want the support of everybody, white or colored," he said.

The former head of the state troopers is dissatisfied with being associated with "Bloody Sunday" in Selma in March, 1965.

"I was made the scapegoat," he said, explaining he wanted to let the marchers pass by the bridge. "They wouldn't have lasted five miles--they weren't prepared to march."

Lingo says his troopers were at the scene because of orders from Governor George C. Wallace.

"I was ruled down," said Lingo. "Of course, we have no beef with the governor. He has the right to make decisions."

Like many candidates for national office, Lingo has a book about himself on sale--"Nightriders, The Story of the Luzzo killing." It is written by Bud Gordon, who was Lingo's specially appointed assistant when Lingo was director of the Alabama State Troopers.

The book, which is on sale at Lingo's branch office in Fairfield, makes the same argument about Lingo's wanting to



MEL BAILEY

let the marchers go, and Wallace's overruling him.

It also tells how the state troopers got national recognition when they "quelled thousands of rioting Negroes and repeatedly met and defeated street demonstrators in Tuscaloosa, Selma, Greensboro, Montgomery, Notasulga, and numerous other Alabama cities."

Sheriff Mel Bailey, running for reelection, thinks he has the votes of most Negroes and whites.

Bailey is not conducting a full-time campaign; he says he is content to stand on his record.

"This office's got to go on and politics doesn't," he said, explaining why he works full-time at the sheriff's office and goes on the campaign trail only on weekends and evenings. Bailey says he has seen to it that there is no campaign

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literature available in his sheriff's office.

The sheriff has declined an invitation to speak to SCLC, but he has spoken to certain Negro churches and organizations. He said he would not speak before the Southern Christian Leadership Conference because it is "not a local group."

"Nor would I go before the KKK," he added.

None of Bailey's 96 deputy sheriffs are Negro. Bailey says that if Negroes who pass the joint qualifying examination for Birmingham police or Jefferson County sheriff deputies want to be deputies, "and I've got vacancies, they'd be hired."

"The worst problem is that there has been so much controversy here that there is a certain reservation in the minds of (Negro) candidates that keeps them from applying."

Neither sheriff candidate will publicly criticize the other. Bailey says, "I would be the first to challenge any who mistreat Negroes -- as some may know."

Asked if he thought Negroes have always been treated fairly by Jefferson County officials, Bailey answered, "I have--and they know it . . . All I'm standing for is law enforcement and it's got to be pure in the best sense whether the person involved is black or white or Jew or Gentile or Chinese."

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