

# 'This Is Not the End of the Program'



A FEW WEEKS AGO, D. ROBERT SMITH HAD A CHURCH; NOW IT'S RUBBLE

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN  
HAYNEVILLE -- Bob Garner didn't hear about it until last Sunday afternoon.

"(Robert) Strickland came in here talking about a tragedy," said the white filling station operator who serves on the board of the Lowndes County anti-poverty program. "I didn't know what he was talking about. I thought maybe some local folks had been in a bad wreck."

But Strickland, board chairman of the Lowndes County Christian Movement, hadn't come to Garner's gas station to talk about an auto accident. He told Garner that the Movement's anti-poverty headquarters--an abandoned church in Hayneville--had been burned to the ground early Sunday morning.

"It was fixed up real nice," Garner said after hearing the news. "A lot of money went into it--a lot of work, too. I did the plumbing."

The blaze began at 5 a.m. Ten hours later, flames still flickered in the heap of rubble that had once been the anti-poverty office. All the carpentry work done by John Hulet, Sidney Logan Jr., and other Christian Movement volunteers was destroyed, and the new desks

and chairs were reduced to twisted masses of melted steel.

But even before the ashes had cooled, people were working toward the day when the burned-down headquarters would rise again.

"This is not the end of the program," said Strickland. And Project Director D. Robert Smith said classes will continue in centers in Ash Creek and Calhoun.

Furthermore, Smith said, money will be raised to rebuild both the headquarters and the Macedonia Baptist Church in Fort Deposit. The church was burned to the ground early Monday, after Strickland had spoken there Sunday.

Smith said the headquarters will first be installed in a trailer on the site of the original anti-poverty office. When enough money is raised, he said, a new office will be constructed there.

The fire was the latest setback for the \$241,604 federal program. The project--designed to teach migrant farmers new job skills--was held up for several months last year because of objections by former Governor George C. Wallace.

At mid-week, federal, state, and county investigations had produced nothing to show what caused the blaze, "I don't think it was any accident,"

Smith said. "I think it was deliberate." He said the fire might have been intended as a warning to white people who cooperated with the program.

Coby C. Coleman, the white cafe owner who leased the old church to the anti-poverty group, didn't want to discuss reports that he had been told the building would be burned. "I won't say yes or no," Coleman said.

There were also reports that Lowndes County Probate Judge Harrell Hammonds--who helped the program get the lease--had had several of his cows poisoned recently.

On Sunday afternoon, a white family was calmly planting trees across the street from the site of the headquarters. "People used to be coming and going all night long," said the lady of the house. "Who knows what was going on in there?"

But Smith said the first days of the rebuilding campaign had turned up "encouraging signs" of support from some white residents of the county.

Smith said the contents of the building had been insured, but "a lot of volunteer work, and a lot of time" had been lost. Nonetheless, he said, "We are determined to run an anti-poverty program for all the people of Lowndes County."

## THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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TEN CENTS

### People Criticize New Stamp Plan

BY ROBIN REISIG

SELMA--"How in the world can you buy food stamps with something you ain't got?" asked Mrs. Agatha Harville, who has five children and no regular income. "It's a deal to starve you to death."

When Dallas County changed from a free surplus food program to a food stamp program at the first of the month, many people like Mrs. Harville were upset about it. They said they couldn't understand why the county replaced its free surplus food program with a plan that made people pay.

In the new program, you pay a certain sum of money to get a larger amount in stamps. The stamps can then be "spent" at local food stores.

"It's obvious that the only reason most business people and officials went for it was to get rid of the surplus food program," charged Miss Shirley Mesher, a civil rights worker. "When folks are getting a little something, you can't work them for nothing."

William Speed, the officer in charge of the food stamp program for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said the county changed to food stamps because "it gives the people more and better food than they ever had before. They couldn't eat some of the food on the commodity (surplus food) program. It wasn't any good."

"It's a wonderful program," said Mrs. Catherine Revel, the food stamp supervisor. "It lets people participate in the program, select their own foods. And it's good for the community and the grocery stores."

By the end of the first week of the stamp program, 299 Dallas County households had paid \$7,000 for \$16,000 worth of stamps.

Some of these purchasers complained, though, that they can't buy soap with the stamps, and that they are forced to scrape together food money for a whole month at once.

But "the people that really needs it is the one that won't be able to get anything from it," said Mrs. Clara Walker,



WAITING FOR FOOD STAMPS

who used to receive surplus food. One woman, with no income and more than \$100 in hospital bills, said she couldn't scrape up even the \$2 she would need to get \$12 worth of food stamps.

Another woman, Mrs. George Campbell, has four children. Their only income is \$76 a month from welfare. Under the free food program, she got a "six-food sack every month--it carried me a long way." With food stamps, to get \$64 worth of food, she'd have to spend at least \$30 of the money that now goes for rent, gas, and clothes.

"My children will probably be hungry now," she said. "I sure do wish free groceries would start back."

"This new program stinks," said Clarence Williams, head of the Dallas County Independent Free Voters Organization. "It's a businessman's adventure, a gimmick to bleed the poor people of the few nickels and dimes they had already. The rich people get richer, and the poor get poorer."

"If the white man says you can get something, OK, 'You're a good nigger,' you get it," said Mrs. Walker. "If not, you can't get it. It's just another knot to tie you to the white man."

### Meanwhile, in Liberty, Miss.

## EXPLOSION BLASTS OFFICE

BY MERTIS RUBIN

LIBERTY, Miss. -- An explosion woke the sleeping small town of Liberty about 3 a.m. last Monday morning. The explosion came from the Southwest Mississippi Child Development Council headquarters.

The office, located on Main St. next to a grocery and appliance store, is headquarters for a Head Start program serving Pike, Amite, and Wilkinson counties. Jimmy Sharp, a local white man, owns both the office building and the store.

From the outside, the brick Head Start office building looked almost undamaged, except for broken windows.

But inside, there was a hole in the floor, some of the ceiling had fallen out, and the wood partitions between rooms were splintered.

Sharp's store did not appear to be damaged. The owner had no comment about the explosion.



AFTER EXPLOSION IN HEAD START OFFICE

The Child Development Council (CDC) is a branch of Southwest Mississippi Opportunity, Inc. (SMO), one of the new Head Start groups set up last year. SMO retained many of the area

councils begun under CDGM (the Child Development Group of Mississippi).

No one seems to know what caused the explosion, or even whether or not it was an accident. This week, though,

people could think of reasons why someone might want to bomb the CDC headquarters.

The council's staff is 50% Negro and 50% white, according to Director Henrene Matthews. The board of directors, elected at a public meeting, is all Negro. But Matthews said there had been no trouble until now at any of the CDC's 26 Head Start centers.

However, "we were supposed to have some white children enter our center at Fernwood" on Monday, the day of the explosion, Matthews said, "but I don't know right now if they did."

E. W. Steptoe, local NAACP president, said he doubted that the white children had come. "That's what they've been saying ever since they set up here in January," Steptoe said. "There're still no white children in the Head Start centers."

"Some of the staff members of the CDC were the first to integrate some local eating places, but I understand they were told to hold up on that," Steptoe said.

"Everyone seems to think this (the explosion) is a result of that, but the bombing is no surprise to me, because the staff is so well integrated," he added.

Some of the local Negro citizens know there was an explosion just because they heard a loud noise. But the majority of them would rather not talk about the explosion, the Head Start program, or civil rights in general.

Matthews, however, said he is determined to go on. "We're not going to let this stop us," he said on Tuesday. "We didn't even lose a full day's work yesterday."

### Feet



These are the feet of a little boy who attends an open-air school on the island of Jamaica. On Page Three, there are more pictures of this far-away school.

To get to Jamaica, you would have to go all the way down through Florida, past Cuba and into the Caribbean Sea.

Photographer Bob Fitch went to Jamaica earlier this year, to take pictures of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. while King was writing his new book about the civil rights movement.

While he was on the island, Fitch also took pictures of an open-air school, some native fishermen, and a crowded beach. These pictures will appear in the next few issues of The Southern Courier.

### 'It's Time to Move the Man,' Parent Says of Negro Principal

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

MIDWAY--"If a man is in a place for ten years and there's no progress nowhere, then it's time to move the man,"

That's what Eddie M. Turner, a parent, said about Fred Chambers, the principal of Merritt High School, at a parents' meeting in the First Baptist Church last Sunday afternoon.

Turner was one of 65 people who showed up at the meeting to discuss the job Chambers is doing as principal of the local Negro high school.

Most of the people seemed to be dissatisfied. They murmured "Yes," and "That's right," when Bobby Hill, the parent who called the meeting, told

them, "I think we need a change." But not all of them agreed with Turner about the kind of change they needed.

"Let's not talk about a fella," said Benjamin Jordan. "Talk to him. This same body ought to be man enough to iron across the table. A man might do better if he understand better. We might could get the problem solved without moving the man."

Another parent replied that under-

NAACP, told the meeting that he had trouble getting Chambers' permission for a group of children to play in Merritt High School's new gym on Sunday afternoons.

"The principal say, well, he didn't go along with playing on Sunday," Thomas reported. "I said the children wasn't in church sun-up to sun-down."

Thomas said he got permission to use the gym from Bullock County Schools Superintendent Edward M. Lindbloom. "Two Sundays we came down and enjoyed the building," he said.

"Then the man with the key said we have to pay him," Thomas continued. "The principal said we'd have to pay. So I called the superintendent and told him these were poverty people, our tax money went to the schools, and that was all the money we had."

Finally, Thomas said, the superintendent ordered Chambers to give the group a key, "but he gave us a key that opened one room. We couldn't get to the equipment."

Since then, Thomas added, the problem has been straightened out.

This week, Chambers said he didn't remember that Thomas' group had to do anything but "get permission and use the proper procedures. . . . Everybody's allowed to use the gym if we know who they are. You wouldn't let a bunch of strangers in your house."

The principal said he follows "board of education policies" in all matters, including use of the gym and collection of school fees. "All that's up to the board and the superintendent," he said. "I do what they tell me."

Chambers also said he didn't take personal criticism very seriously. "People don't like something, they look for a scapegoat," he observed. "Biggest thing is somebody wants to get his name in the paper."



EDDIE M. TURNER

standing wasn't enough. "We want a man there concerned about the people," he said. "We ain't sure we got one."

Then Turner stood up again. "A lot of you all are in poverty," he said. "You ain't supposed to pay tuition. You paid, didn't you? Well, go back to the principal tomorrow to ask for your money, and see what he says."

"I already went," a lady called out. "He said we're not going to get but \$3 back."

Wilbon Thomas, head of the Midway

told him to sign a confession saying he had beaten Byrd. Watkins refused.

Then, said Cumbest, Watkins remembers being told, "We'll let these men talk to you. They'll take care of you," as another car drove up and three men wearing white hoods and black robes got out.

"Buckley had a knife and kept poking it. Pitts hit Watkins with his fist," said Cumbest. But Watkins still refused to sign the confession, so "the Kluxers dragged him from the car and told him to get down in the dust and pray."

While he was kneeling, Watkins told Cumbest, Pitts snapped a pistol five times at the back of his head. Finally, the men took Watkins home.

Why would anyone pick on Watkins? Cumbest said he thought it was because Watkins is an ex-convict, and "they thought he would be sympathetic

torney for 11 of the 12 men in the case, which is due to come to trial soon.

Watkins' wife said later that her husband didn't have any idea who the men were. She said he went along because "Jack's always tried to be cooperative with the authorities. He thought maybe he knew something they wanted to know. He tries to do anything he can to keep himself clear."

While the men were drinking, Watkins told the district attorney, Buckley and Pitts said they'd heard Watkins had beaten up Lawrence Byrd of Laurel. Byrd has been identified as an important witness in the Dahmer case.

"Watkins told them he didn't know anything about the Dahmer case except what he read in the paper," said Cumbest.

After that, according to the district attorney, Buckley and Pitts drove Watkins out to a deserted country road, and

### Plot to Discredit Dahmer Witness?

## Terror on a Lonely Miss. Road

BY GAIL FALK

PASCAGOULA, Miss. -- Jack Watkins, a Pascagoula white man, told authorities last week that five men tried to terrorize him along a lonely road near the Gulf Coast. He claimed they wanted him to cooperate in a scheme for discrediting one of the key witnesses in the Vernon Dahmer case.

District Attorney Donald W. Cumbest said Watkins made a statement saying two strangers came to his home in a Pascagoula housing project the night of Saturday, March 4. One man identified himself as Travis Buckley, county attorney for Jasper County, and the other man was introduced as Billy Ray Pitts, Cumbest said. The two men took Watkins out with them to get some whiskey.

Pitts is one of 12 men charged with conspiracy in the 1966 fire-bombing that led to the death of Dahmer, a Hattiesburg NAACP leader. Buckley is at-

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**Editorial Opinion**

**Overtime**

Nearly three weeks ago, the governor of the state of Alabama called her legislature into session to discuss weighty matters like how many tons of asphalt should be laid from where to where.

So the legislators came to Montgomery to begin solving Alabama's vital problems. But before they got around to road-building, they tackled a couple of other issues--money and time.

The law-makers have an intuitive grasp of money. They got to the heart of that problem right away. They voted themselves a pay raise. Then the governor's number-one assistant vetoed it, the legislators sulked, and finally they tried again. This time they succeeded in over-riding the veto. So much for money.

As for time, the legislators used up a lot of it deciding not to exempt the state from the federal law requiring daylight saving--or "fast"--time from May through October. "Fast" time simply moves the clock

an hour ahead of the sun, meaning there is one less hour of daylight before lunch, and one more hour of daylight after lunch. City people are supposed to like it, because it gives them one more hour of daylight during the hours they're up and out. Farmers are supposed to dislike it, because it gives them one less hour... you get the idea.

All kinds of people went over to the Capitol to tell the legislators why fast time was one of the great moral issues of the decade. But the way we see it, it's a simple matter of civil rights. Everyone has a right to whatever time he prefers. And why stop at one hour? People who like to sleep late could decide that 10 a.m. is really 7 a.m. With a little ingenuity, most of us could find a reason to do almost no work at all. Maybe we could even get a pay raise for it, just like the legislators.

**She Takes Three Buses To Get to School**

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

EUFAULA -- Miss Gloria Stanford lives about nine miles south of Eufaula High School. But she has to take three different school buses to get there every morning. She leaves home a little after 7 a.m., and usually gets to school just as it begins at 8 a.m.

Several other children live near Miss Stanford on the Screamer Road. They go to Eufaula High School too. But they take only one bus--and about half an hour--to get there.

Miss Stanford is Negro. She rides three buses that carry only Negro children. The other children are white. They ride a bus which carries only white children.

The "white" bus goes directly to Eufaula High School. The "Negro" buses don't. So Miss Stanford first takes a bus to Freemount Elementary School in Bakerhill. Then she switches to a bus from Freemount to T.V. McCoo, the Negro high school in Eufaula. And, finally, she takes a bus from McCoo across town to Eufaula High.

Miss Stanford, 15, an 11th grader, is one of about 50 children who desegregated Eufaula High School last fall. And she isn't the only Negro student who has to take more than one bus to get there.

George Jones Jr., who lives ten miles north of Eufaula High, rides two Negro school buses. Like Miss Stanford, he lives within a few hundred yards of a "white" school bus route.

Barbour County is under federal court order to stop operating "a dual school system based upon race or color," and to re-draw its school bus routes along non-racial lines by June 30.

Last fall, the court also ruled that three Negro schoolchildren who had filed a suit against the Barbour County Board of Education must be bused to Eufaula City schools "on the same basis that the county board of education has transported the whites."

This court order went into effect immediately, and Elijah Franklin, the children's father, says that the board has followed it.

"But they haven't done anything they didn't have to do," Franklin said. "Looks like they figure the rules are only for people who go to court."

Barbour County school officials weren't available early this week. Superintendent Raymond E. Faught's office in Clayton said that Faught and S. O. Corbitt, the schools supervisor, were "out in the county all day."

But George Jones said that when he asked for an explanation of the county's bus school arrangements, "Mr. Corbitt



MISS GLORIA STANFORD told me the schools was integrated but the buses wasn't."

Jones, an 11th grader, said that taking two buses doesn't bother him, even though he has to leave home half an hour earlier than his white classmates who live close by.

The Negro and white buses are both "pretty crowded," he said, "so either one is okay with me, I guess."

But Miss Stanford said she had been "20 or 30 minutes late to school every morning until after Christmas.... I used to miss half of my chemistry class. When we were having a test, I'd just have to catch up."

The problem, Miss Stanford said, was that when the bus from Freemount was late getting to McCoo High School, the bus from McCoo to Eufaula High would leave before she got there.

"I'd have to go find a teacher and talk him into taking me over," she said. "They'd have to arrange things.... and it wasn't really their responsibility."

For a few weeks, Mrs. Rosie Stanford said, she drove her daughter to school every morning. But then she decided that wasn't the way things ought to be.

"I talked to the bus drivers first--never would get nowhere," she said. "So I talked to the supervisor." Since then, Mrs. Stanford said, "Mr. Corbitt fixed it so the third bus waits for Gloria."

Now that her daughter never gets to school later than the middle of homeroom period, Mrs. Stanford is satisfied.

But, she added, "If it goes back to the former way, I'll cry down the superintendent's shoulder and the supervisor's shoulder until they see Gloria gets to school."

**SINGS IN JACKSON**

**Leontyne Price Comes Home**

JACKSON, Miss. -- Miss Leontyne Price has been applauded by audiences all over the world. Many music experts think she is the world's greatest soprano.

But a 10-minute standing ovation last Sunday from an audience in her home state of Mississippi moved the opera star so much that she said, "I'm just overwhelmed. This is the greatest thrill of my life."

About 9,000 people from all over the state crowded into the Mississippi Coliseum to hear the concert. White and Negro music-lovers cheered Miss Price, a Negro who was born in Laurel.

The huge Coliseum, usually used for sporting events and livestock shows, is a terrible place for a concert. A Tougaloo College professor who sat near the back of the hall said he heard Miss Price's voice "with static--like a radio that's not tuned right."

But the Sunday audience didn't care. They greeted the first song on the program so enthusiastically that Miss Price had to tell them it wasn't polite to clap after every number.

Miss Price's concert--a benefit for Rust College in Holly Springs--included opera arias by Mozart and Handel, and songs by many other classical composers. But it was the powerful way Miss Price sang her last song--the Negro spiritual "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"--that brought the audience to its feet.

The great soprano had to sing three more songs before the crowd finally stopped applauding.

**Anti-War Demonstrators Accompany ROTC Parade**

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE--It was warm and sunny in Tuskegee last Saturday--a perfect afternoon for an ROTC award ceremony and parade.

Several hundred parents--in town for Tuskegee Institute's fourth annual Par-

ents' Day--gathered on the college lawn to watch the blue-uniformed cadets march by.

Suddenly, half a dozen people carrying anti-war signs began threading their way through the crowd. The pickets' placards said things like "We protest the draft," and "No Viet Cong ever

called me a nigger."

The group was led by a SNCC worker. But it included Tuskegee Institute faculty members and students.

During the award ceremony, the pickets circled silently behind rows of cadets standing at attention. During the parade, the pickets stood along the route, holding their signs up high so everyone could read them.

No one tried to stop the demonstrators. But after the ROTC parade was over, Tuskegee Institute President Luther H. Foster spotted a sign-carrying SNCC worker, Michael Wright.

"There are ways to do things and ways not to..." Foster called out. "It's a display of democracy..." Wright called back. Then both of them smiled, shrugged, and turned away.

The protesters didn't start out to picket the ROTC parade. They gathered on the terrace behind the student union at noon Saturday, for a "spoke-out" against the war in Viet Nam.

Several speakers pleaded with passing students and parents to sign a petition calling for changes in the draft system and an end to the war.

The petition, sponsored by the Student Government Association, is intended for Secretary of State Dean Rusk. It charges that the draft has "racist overtones," and that black men bear "the burden of an unjust war."

The speakers called the war in Viet Nam "immoral and illegal." They criticized the ROTC cadets and other Tuskegee Institute students as "pseudo-bourgeois niggers."

But after an hour and a half, the protesters had less than 100 signatures, and almost no audience. Nearly everyone was at the ROTC ceremony.

"If we can't beat 'em, let's join 'em," one student suggested. So the protesters turned over their large, red-card-board petitions, wrote anti-war slogans on the back, and went off to picket where the people were.

After the ROTC parade ended, the protesters turned their signs over again, and went back to collecting signatures.

J. L. Downing, an ROTC cadet, came up to Chester Higgins, a student carrying a sign that said, "Pull out of Southeast Asia."

Downing looked at the sign, read the petition, and handed it back. "I don't go along with fighting myself," he said, "but there comes a time when we have to do things we don't go along with."

A woman peered over Higgins' shoulder and sniffed. "Next thing we know the Communists will be over here," she said.

Two girls stopped and signed the petition. One of them wrote "for my brother" after her name. Why couldn't he sign it himself? "He's in Viet Nam," she explained as she walked away.



THE SIGN SAYS, "NO VIET CONG EVER CALLED ME A NIGGER"

**Youth Corps Head Fired**

BY ROBIN REISIG

TUSCALOOSA--The board of directors of Tuscaloosa's anti-poverty program has fired William Morgan, the Negro who was director of the Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) project.

The surprise firing came on March 9, after a stormy session in which many instances of mismanagement of poverty program funds were alleged. The move, far from providing an easy solution, has left the board "all upset," according to one member.

"We acted rashly," he said. "I hate to say it, but the poverty program is in a shambles."

The confrontation occurred when Jerry Griffin, executive director of the Tuscaloosa Opportunity Program (TOP), told the TOP board about six charges against Morgan. The board members were told that an unidentified person in the poverty office had written to Washington about the charges.

According to several board members, the charges included claims that some Youth Corps workers were being paid more than \$1.25 an hour; that there were discrepancies in gas mileage, possibly in the thousands of dollars; and that ineligible people were in the program.

"The way Jerry (Griffin) brought it, it was an iron-clad thing," said one member. "He said either Morgan would have to go, or he (Griffin) would resign."

"But it doesn't seem possible that all that was going on for three to six months without the boss man knowing it. Somebody had to be blamed."

The member also complained that most of the board members were caught by surprise in the vote. "And the way the charges were brought, they were in disguise," he said. "Unless you had the ability to really think and look through it, you couldn't understand."

One man said, "He (Griffin) said Congress was going to investigate us if we didn't fire Morgan." According to another member, "The board voted to authorize the chairman of the board to ask for a congressional investigation."

**Three SW Ala. Counties Get Funds for Head Start**

BY JOHN C. DIAMANTE

DAPHNE--The Little River Community Action Program (LRCAP) has been awarded \$147,000 for an eight-month Head Start program in Baldwin, Escambia, and Monroe counties. LRCAP officials say this is only the beginning.

The grant, from the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), will be used to run three Head Start centers--in Daphne, Monroeville, and Brewton.

But William Harvey, assistant program director, said LRCAP hopes to have six centers in operation for its summer Head Start program. And, he said, the group anticipates additional grants in May, for a food distribution program and a Neighborhood Youth Corps.

The addition of neighborhood referral centers--to advise the poor on everything from welfare to legal matters--"would give us a total of four programs by June," said Harvey. "We're trying to create multipurpose centers."

This is the kind of thoroughness LRCAP has stressed since it began organizing Negroes, whites, Creoles, and Indians for community action in the three-county area. LRCAP's program director, Miss Mary Grice, was once

felt we would have had to make drastic changes (if Morgan stayed). It's such a shame, his being Negro, that he didn't resign. You could tell even the white folks who voted to fire him were sick about it."

A member said that at one point, the Rev. Robert R. Cook, president of the board, asked angrily, "Why should somebody write to Washington, instead of bringing it to the board?"

Cook later issued a statement complimenting Morgan on his "fine work... in the personal relationships with the enrollees."

**PASCAGOULA**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

to their cause."

And why wouldn't Watkins agree to cooperate? "He told me he'd had enough of the penitentiary," Cumbest explained. "He showed me a \$400 check for two weeks' work at Coastal Chemical Company, where he has a steady job now. He said he couldn't make that in Parchman (penitentiary)."

Buckley and Pitts were arrested March 9, and jailed on counts of conspiracy, kidnaping, and assault.

Buckley refused to comment on the charges, because "my lawyers told me to keep my mouth shut about the case."

**Youths Plead Guilty To Reduced Charge**

PRATTVILLE -- Criminal cases against four young civil rights workers ended in compromise here last Monday.

The four--James O. Hadnott, Sammy Lee Moorner, and Willie D. Leon of Prattville, and Robert Sims of Montgomery--pleaded guilty to reduced charges of simple assault. Hadnott was fined \$25 and costs, and the others were fined \$100 and costs.

The charge of assault is a misdemeanor. The four youths had been scheduled to go on trial the week of March 27, on a felony charge of assault with intent to kill. The charges grew out of an incident during last spring's protest in Prattville.

Solomon S. Seay, attorney for the youths, said their decisions to plead guilty came after conferences involving District Attorney U. G. Jones, Seay himself, the defendants, and their parents.



**Letter From Arizona**

**Dear Folks,**

What would we do without the media of mass communication? Just by watching television, reading a newspaper, listening to the radio, or even talking over the telephone, I learned about some incidents that were humorous. At least, I thought they were.

For instance:

Pearl Bailey was a guest on Johnny Carson's popular night-time TV show. She was talking about a guy who was on another show with her once and who kept trying to be funny. "A black pearl is rare," was one of his remarks. Miss Bailey said she replied, "And a brown Pearl is rarer."

In a Tucson newspaper, there was an article about Morris Udall, one of Arizona's representatives in Congress. After Udall gave a speech at a junior high school here, a boy asked him, "What do you think of atomic power?" Udall didn't quite hear the question. "What do I think of Adam Powell?" he asked.

"No--atomic power," said the boy. "Oh, they're both problems," said the congressman.

While I was talking over the telephone to a white minister, he told me of the many scholarships that are available to Negroes. To get to college, he said, "it used to take brains and brawn--but now it's brain and brown."

Then there's the disk jockey who blasted out over the radio, "Did you

ever hear about the guy who didn't want to burn his draft card, so he boiled it?"

*Dialo B.*

**Amerson Says Party Helped Him Win**

BY JAMES O. HADNOTT

MONTGOMERY -- "I don't believe that I would have won if I wasn't in the Democratic Party," Macon County Sheriff Lucius D. Amerson said last Sunday at the monthly meeting of the Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc. "We have another party," he said, "but the Democratic Party has the best policy, and I don't think the other party will get very far."

"A fellow in my position needs some good common sense to meet the public," said Macon County's first Negro sheriff. "But really, I think we could have gotten more people in office if we'd known how to use our vote."

A lot of people asked Amerson what he would do when he went into parts of the county where prejudice was strong. "I will use whatever is necessary within the law," the sheriff said. "They made the laws, and they (white people) are going to obey them."

About 150 people attended the meeting in the First Congregation Church.



## OPEN-AIR SCHOOL

*In Jamaica*

This is an open-air "base school"--a pre-school or kindergarten--in Discovery Bay on the north coast of Jamaica. There are no sides to the building--just a roof, supporting columns, and a concrete floor.

The school is paid for by parents, not by the government. Each of the 27 students, ages two through five, pays one shilling (14¢) a week to attend.

The instructor is Mistress Virginia Bell. She is 64 years old, and one of her grandsons is a student in the class. Mistress Bell was born less than a mile from the school site. She has been teaching for 41 years, three of them at the open-air school.

Even though there are several recesses and an hour off for lunch, the long day--8:30 a.m. from 3 p.m.--and the mild weather often cause the younger students to fall asleep at their desks during the afternoon.

These young Jamaicans study reading, writing, arithmetic, currency, government, history, and scripture. Supplies

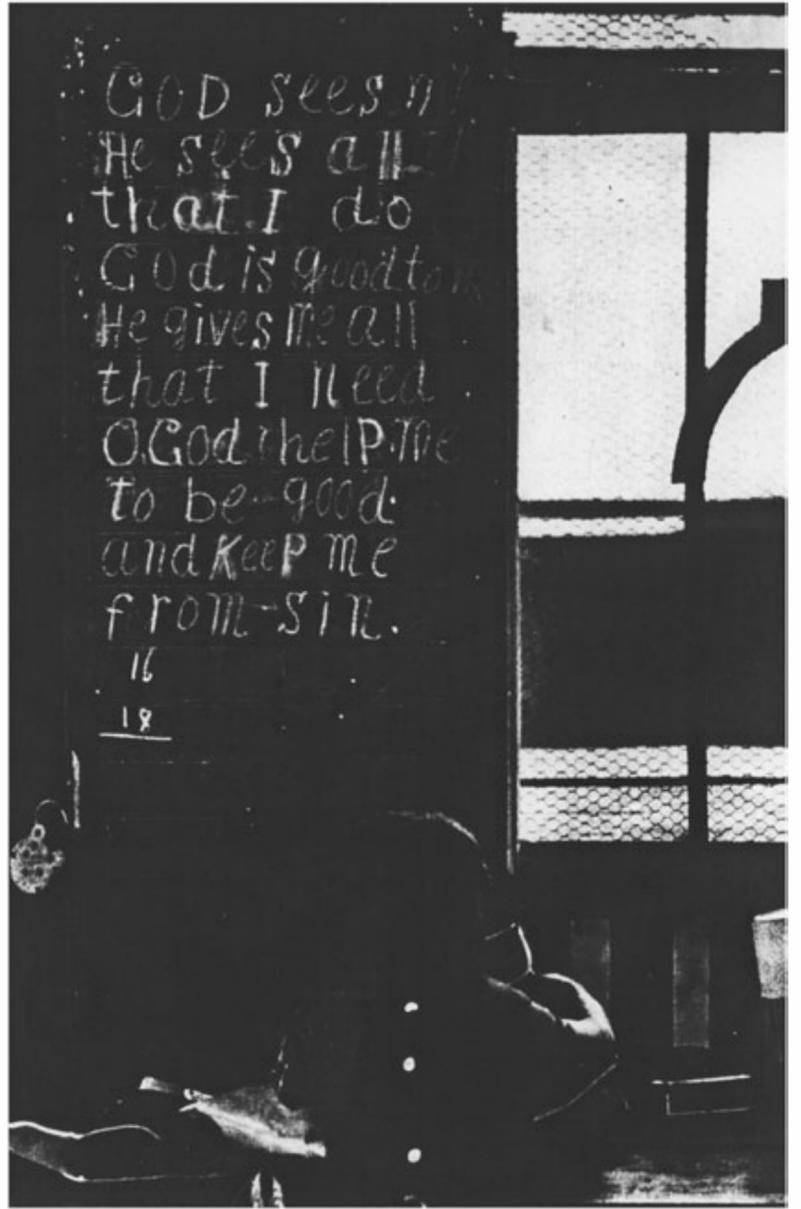
are short, so the children practice their writing and arithmetic on a chalk slate, instead of on paper. They buy their own slate and chalk.

Much of the day is spent in recitation. A single student--or several, to give each other support--rise and recite: "One, two, three, four, five, six... 99, 100." "Two shillings are one florin, two and six pence are a half a crown." "Two times one is two, two times two is four, two times three is 12 (?). . ."

Mistress Bell is everywhere at once. She scolds, encourages, praises, and prods her students. The students know that if Mistress Bell writes "good" on their practice slates, they have earned it.

The day ends with classroom clean-up and prayers. Then, with the long afternoon shadows trailing behind her, Mistress Bell escorts the younger children to their homes.

**Photos & Text by Bob Fitch**



# Mobile's Home for Children in Trouble: 'It's Just a Place to Stash Them'



THE HOME FOR NEGRO BOYS

## Negro Boys Share Beds

BY JOHN C. DIAMANTE

MOBILE -- The Mobile County Detention Home is divided into three separate, unequal parts. One of them is an old, two-story, comfortably furnished home for white girls. Another is a large building for white boys. And the third is a small cinder-block home for Negro boys and girls.

The white boys' home has space for 25 boys--10 in cells and 15 in a dormitory. The cells and the dormitory are well lighted and properly ventilated. The home has a modern kitchen, a large dining room, and a large recreation room.

There are three television sets, and so many books that they sit on tables for lack of shelf space. There is lots of furniture--sturdy chairs and tables, couches, wall decorations, curtains, and fans. The recreation room is stocked with games. There is plenty of outdoor play space.

The boys' home has a full-time staff of four, including J.R. Spafford, supervisor of all three homes.

The white girls' home looks like a college residence hall on the outside. Inside, it has cell space for five girls, and 14 pleasantly-furnished private rooms.

The girls' home has a modern kitchen

and an attractive living room. The recreation room is gaily decorated and packed with books and games. There are two sewing machines, which the girls frequently use to make dresses or stuffed toys.

There is very little supervision. The girls are allowed outside unattended to play badminton, croquet, volleyball, and basketball. "It's just like they live here--they don't have to ask to go out," says Miss Frances Russ, the superintendent, one of three full-time staff members.

The white boys and girls go to separate, largely-white schools, and are kept apart at the homes. Ministers visit both homes regularly. Miss Russ takes the girls who want to go to church every Sunday.

But conditions are not so pleasant at the third home--the one for Negro boys and girls.

This home has three large rooms. At each end of the building is a dormitory--one for 16 boys, and one for 10 girls. The Negro girls do not have bureaus, clothes racks, and stuffed animals like the white girls do. The Negro boys do not have curtains and extra chairs.

Although each of the white homes has a sick-room, the Negro home does not. The cells for Negro children have space for 10 boys and four girls. Both cell-rooms have double sets of locked doors. (The white cells have one locked door.)

There is almost no ventilation in the cell blocks. The toilets are old and discolored. The bedding is poorer than that in the white cells.

All three homes are overcrowded, but the problem is worst at the Negro home. At night, Negro boys are occasionally forced to share one of the small bunks. During the day, there are frequently five Negro youths locked up in the tiny four-boy cell.

In the middle of the building is a large, sparsely furnished room for dining and recreation. Many of the chairs are broken. There is little light and no decoration. Only one of the two television sets is in working order. There are two small bookcases. One holds ragged storybooks; the other has old books of little interest to children, including a 1,000-page law text on bankruptcy.

Out back, in a ungraded yard, is a battered basketball hoop. Indoors, there is an unwrapped badminton set donated by Scott Paper Co.

The set has never been used partly because the Negro children show no interest in it. They spend their free time in front of the television set.

Although the boys and girls watch the same TV set, they sit on opposite sides of the room. And they are not allowed outside together. The Negro girls--unlike the white girls--are not allowed out at all without direct supervision. Since the staff is usually busy, the girls stay inside most of the time.

The kitchen is as stark as the rest of the home, down to the large wrought-iron stove. (But the children say the food is good, and plentiful.)

There are six staff members at the Negro home, including Charles Perkins, the acting superintendent, who expects to leave soon to become a probation officer. Perkins is the fourth superintendent the home has had since August.

The city and the county each pay half the cost of running the homes. Last year's budget for the 38-child Negro home was \$29,695. Nearly that much was spent on boys' home, and another \$20,000 on the white girls' home.

Spafford, the supervisor, said the difference reflects the money saved by keeping Negro boys and girls together

in one building. He said that an equal amount of money is spent for each child's food and for other services.

The average cost per child per year for all three homes is \$200, Spafford said. "But it's hard to figure that," he added, "because the colored have so many going in and out all year."

Although Spafford takes care of day-to-day operations, the county detention home is really the responsibility of Mobile's Juvenile Commission. The commission has three city and three county appointees. All of them serve for life. Only one Negro, Dr. A. P. Dixon, serves on the commission, which is headed by the Rev. Thomas Nunan.

The commission built the detention homes, and provides the basic equipment. But extras like television sets, books, even Christmas trees, have to come from the community.

Spafford said that white civic groups have contributed to the furnishings of the two white homes. The bareness of the Negro home represents "my utter failure to get colored civic organizations to donate things," he said.

A staff member at the Negro home agreed that the Negro community has done little. Some civic groups have formed committees to help the home, he said, but "they must be committees in name only--no one's been out here."

The detention home's biggest problem is money. Without money, the Juvenile Commission cannot replace--or even expand--the out-dated buildings to take care of the increasing numbers of children who get in trouble with the law.

"We had good services for a detention home when we were a little city," Spafford said. "But now we're a detention home, a shelter care, a training school for retarded children, and a training school for delinquents. We had to include these during the depression. We need new buildings..."

Spafford admitted that integration of the existing facilities would make the limited funds stretch further. "The system should be changed," he said. "We're the only detention home in the South I know of that's not integrated."

But the supervisor also said that integration of living quarters would not be practical now. Any change, he said, would only make overcrowding worse at the present homes.

Another way of saving money would be integration of recreational activities. If Negro and white boys, and Negro and white girls, were allowed to



THE MAXIMUM-SECURITY CELLS

play together, fewer staff members would be needed to supervise the children.

Spafford said "there would be no objection" to this much integration. But the Juvenile Commission has not accepted the idea.

Instead, a few weeks ago, the commission approved new additions to the segregated staffs. Each staff was given one more attendant and a live-in college student.

Spafford says it's hard to find "qualified help." But one reason the Negro home has had four superintendents in the last eight months is the low pay. Spafford is looking for a college graduate to run the home on a monthly salary of \$391.

A staff member at the Negro home says that long hours and low pay mean "someone would have to rock in his head" to apply for the job. But when Negroes do apply, they first have to meet the standards of the Mobile County Personnel Board.

Negro leaders in Mobile have long charged that the board discriminates against Negroes. They say that Lee Malone, now Perkins' assistant, is a case in point.

Some people, including several children at the home, think Malone would make a good superintendent. But he probably lost his chance when he appeared before the personnel board.

Malone, a college graduate, passed the written part of the personnel test "with flying colors," Spafford said. But Malone failed the oral examination.

The oral exam is based "mostly on who you are," Spafford explained. He said Malone failed because of a "bad employment record" and the impres-

sion he made on the examiners: "He walked in here with a transistor radio and so forth," Spafford noted.

The Juvenile Commission has taken some steps toward integration. A few weeks ago, the commission instructed Juvenile Court Judge J. T. Strickland to send overflow Negro inmates to the white homes instead of jamming the youngsters two in a bed.

But that isn't enough for some Mobile civil rights leaders. John LeFlore, head of the Non-Partisan Voters League, says he thinks the homes are in violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and should be desegregated by the federal courts if the Juvenile Commission won't do the job.

Meanwhile, the Juvenile Commission soon will have to start looking for new facilities for the detention homes. The present buildings have been bought by the Gordon Smith Center, a civic group which is building a new center for retarded and crippled children on the site of the homes.

The Juvenile Commission has said it will operate the new facilities on the basis of the findings of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. The council will give the commission a special report on juvenile crime in Mobile later this year.

The commission ordered the study in an effort to improve Mobile's treatment of youngsters in trouble. But meanwhile, the children still live in the three segregated detention homes.

"The food's pretty good, the facilities are bad--that's about it," said a staff member. "As far as rehabilitating the kids--it don't do nothing. It's just a place to stash them."

## Two Weeks in a Detention Home: 'It's Like a Big Bathroom'

BY JOHN C. DIAMANTE

MOBILE -- A detention home is a jail for children. When a child between the ages of six and 16 breaks a law in Mobile, he is usually taken to one of the three county detention homes.

He may be a seven-year-old who ran away from home or a 15-year-old car thief with a long arrest record. Either way, he spends the next few days behind bars in a maximum-security cell.

Wednesday is juvenile court day in Mobile. The children are taken out of the cells and brought to court.

Most of them get a hearing before Juvenile Court Judge J. T. Strickland--without a jury, without a lawyer, and without publicity. The system is meant to protect the children.

But not every child appears in court the first Wednesday after he is arrested. If there are too many cases, the judge puts some of them off until the next Wednesday.

This means that some children spend two weeks in a jail cell before they are sentenced--or set free.

The jail cells for the white children are light and fairly clean. But the ones for Negro children are poorly lit and have almost no ventilation.

What is it like to stay in one of the cells? An 11-year-old Negro youngster described it like this:

"We was down there two weeks in a two-man cell. It's two bunk beds and they got a flat piece of steel under the bars so they can pass out dinner around. It's like a big bathroom..."

The youth said that he was the third child put into the two-person cell.

"So I didn't have a bunk and I had to sleep with a boy," he recalled.

The youngster--who was arrested for throwing dirt clods at cars--said the worst problem for him was boredom.

"During the day we just lay down--nothin' else to do--we didn't have no radio or anythin'. I stayed in there two weeks and a half. . . . They only let us out to take our shower every night and clean up the room where those other boys sleep (the dormitory) . . . and mop the bathroom," he said.

The 11-year-old left the home a few days later. But some children stay there for many months, moving out of the cells into dormitories. These children are the ones sentenced to the detention home by the juvenile court.

The home is less restrictive than the state schools, where the worst offenders are sent. The children who are sentenced to live at the home attend the regular public schools.

Most of the inmates are young children whose families cannot control them, or older children whose crimes are not serious. The present group of youngsters includes a seven-year-old boy who has been sent to the home nine times, and two youths who skipped school one day to earn money at temporary jobs.

A juvenile probation staff tries to rehabilitate the children. But the staff is small, and the case-loads are large. Most children get very little individual counseling. Many of them are repeat offenders.

Although some children are sent to the homes partly because their families do not look after them, the

case-workers seldom have time to visit the families and find out what is wrong.

Like the homes, the staffs are segregated. White staff members work with white children, Negro staff members with Negro children.

All staff members work long hours for low pay. The turn-over is high. There are not enough staff people to give the children full-time supervision.

One result of the lack of supervision is "lots of sex at all three homes," admitted J. R. Spafford, who is in charge of the homes. But there is more sexual activity at the Negro home, where boys and girls live in the same building and where staff shortages are most acute.

The detention homes have made some improvements over the last few months. A Negro youth who stayed there last year said he was beaten during his stay in a cell. He said the man who did the whipping "takes us one by one and tells us to hold the bars of the cell. He say, 'What you in here for?'"

"He whupped me--he gave me three or four licks," the child said. "He had a reason for whippin' us--'cause we were there, he told us. He whupped us with a board called the 'white stallion'--it's painted white. There was a woman had to whip the girls."

But the boys and girls living at the Negro home now say that they haven't been whipped by anyone.

Many children even said they liked staying at the home. "The food's good," explained one thin boy, reluctantly looking away from the television set for a moment. "It's all right here."



THE NEGRO BOYS' DORMITORY

Desegregation Speed-Up or Not?

12 Judges Hear School Arguments

BY GAIL FALK
JACKSONVILLE, Fla.--Twelve solemn men in long black robes walked into the federal courtroom here last Friday morning and took seats on a platform at the front of the room.

1. Ordered complete faculty desegregation;
2. Declared that the school desegregation guidelines put out by the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) are constitutional; and
3. Warned school districts that they must try another plan if freedom of choice fails to produce more than token desegregation.

choice was adopted," answered Carl Rachlin of the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee. "For the purpose of maintaining the dual system,"
John Doar, head of the U. S. Justice Department's civil rights division, answered the school lawyers who attacked the court's endorsement of the guidelines.
"This court and HEW are like two engines on an airplane," he said. "We

ought to try to keep those two engines in synchronization." If the court's desegregation standards are less strict than HEW's, said Doar, "every system will come to court."
Chief Judge Elbert Tuttle said he hoped a clear and unified decision by the full court in this case would "accomplish some break in the log-jam" of desegregation suits now clogging Southern federal courts.

WANT ADS

JOB OPENINGS--The Southern Courier will soon be interviewing applicants for four positions on its business staff. Two people are needed to work on circulation and subscriptions, and two are needed to work on advertising. High pay, generous expense accounts, Applicants must be honest, responsible, and willing to work long hours, and they must be experienced or interested in business. A car is required. If interested, call 262-3572 in Montgomery to arrange an interview.

FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tusculumbia-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, Alabama.

BAHA'IS--"Renewal of Civilization" will be discussed by the Baha'is of Montgomery at this week's informal, public meetings. These gatherings are at the Chambliss home, 513 Charles St., on Thursday; at the Brook home, 33 Galliard, Tuskegee, on Friday; and at the Featherstone home, 3222 Santee Dr., on Saturday, all at 8 p.m. No contributions, no obligations.

MOBILE ROBBERY WITNESS--If the man who witnessed the robbery of Hermann & Hynde Realty, 257 St. Francis, on the afternoon of Feb. 3 is still in the Mobile area, he should get in touch with the office of District Attorney Carl Booth.

MOBILE -- The Happy Tears Club, organized last summer for school-age children on the South side, is looking for more members. The club encourages play activities of all kinds, and urges youngsters to join churches and choirs. More mothers are needed to cooperate in an attempt to get a playground. If interested please call 438-1270 in Mobile.

SOCIAL SECURITY -- You can receive all or part of your Social Security benefits even if you continue to work. If you earn \$1,500 or less in a year, you can get the full benefits to which you are entitled. And if you earn more than \$1,500, you can still get some of your benefits. The Social Security office at 474 S. Court St. in Montgomery--and other Social Security offices--can tell you how to claim your benefit payments. The Montgomery office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Kenneth W. Jennings, district manager.

COME AND WORSHIP -- St. Mark CME Church, 301 Iota Ave., Birmingham, Ala., observes Holy Week services nightly at 7:30 p.m., from Monday, March 20, through Friday, March 24. Leading ministers of the city will be speakers for these pre-Easter services. The Rev. J. Arthur Crumpton is host speaker.

ARKANSAS--The Arkansas Council on Human Relations has affiliate councils in Conway, Fayetteville, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, and North Little Rock. We are interested in establishing local councils throughout the state. ACHR is integrated at all levels, working in education, voter education, employment, welfare, and housing. For information, write Arkansas Council on Human Relations, 1310 Wright, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.

CHURCH SERVICES--The Bayside Church of Christ in Mobile, 713 Bayou St. at Mallin, cordially invites the public to its Sunday worship at 11 a.m. Bible school is held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, and Bible classes at 7 p.m. every Wednesday evening. The Rev. J. F. Gilcrease, pastor.

CHOICE OPPORTUNITY--For medical records librarian or technician. The challenging task of directing the medical records department of a modern 95-bed hospital awaits the "challenger" at Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma, Ala. Exceptional working conditions, fringe benefits, salary open. Letter of application should include character references, work experience, and educational background. Send to Good Samaritan Hospital, P. O. Box 1053, Selma, Ala. 36701.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--"I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." This passage from Isaiah is the Golden Text for this week's Lesson-Sermon, titled "Matter," to be read in all Christian Science churches on Sunday, March 19.

LEARN TO READ -- Learn how to read, or improve your reading. No charge for lessons. For information, call Mrs. Chambliss, 265-4394 in Montgomery.



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6. WHY NOT TONIGHT-- Jimmy Hughes (Fame)
7. ONE HURT DESERVES A NOTHER--Raelettes (Tang.)
8. MERCY MERCY-- Cannonball Adderly or Marlena Shaw (Cap. & Cad.)
9. JIMMY MACK-- Martha & the Vandellas (Gordy)
10. WHAT YOUR DOIN' TO ME-- Rosco Robinson (Wand)
11. SHOW ME-- Joe Tex (Dial)
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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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BIG D WAKE-UP SHOW
6-9 AM Sam Double "OO" Moore
OLE GOSPEL SHIP
9-11 AM Willie McKinstry
NOON SPECIAL
11 AM-1 PM Sam Double "OO" Moore
AFTERNOON SESSION
1-3:30 PM Rick Upshaw

MOVIN' HOME SHOW
3:30-6 PM Sam Double "OO" Moore
EVENING SPECIAL
6-8 PM Rick Upshaw
OLE GOSPEL SHIP
8-10 PM Willie McKinstry
LATE DATE
10 PM-Midnight Johnny "Jive" McClure

Saturday

ALL-NIGHT SHOW
Midnight-6 AM Lewis White
WEEKEND SPECIAL
6 AM-Noon Rick Upshaw
SATURDAY SESSION
Noon-6 PM Johnny "Jive" McClure
SATURDAY EXPRESS
6 PM-Midnight "Little Walter" Anglin



Sunday

ALL-NIGHT SHOW
Midnight-10 AM Johnny Jackson
FAVORITE CHURCHES
10 AM-4 PM "Little Walter" Anglin
SONGS OF THE CHURCH
4-6 PM Willie McKinstry
JOHNNY JACKSON
6 PM-Midnight

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# Crowded Ballot 'What's Going to Happen to Me?' In Montgomery

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN  
MONTGOMERY -- In the past few weeks, Montgomery citizens have been treated to an 11-way battle for three seats on the City Commission, and a particularly bitter race for the job of police and fire commissioner.

But for many of the city's Negro voters, the most interesting contest has been waged over a relatively minor office--the Ward Two seat on the City Democratic Executive Committee. Two Negro candidates and a white moderate have staged energetic campaigns for the job, which usually goes to someone without a challenge.

That's just the trouble, says Nelson Malden, a successful Negro barber running for the seat. "Most of the people I talked to did not even know their committeeman's name, let alone his responsibilities," Malden said as next Monday's primary approached.

But Mrs. Idessa Williams, a veteran community worker, thinks she is better qualified to represent Montgomery Negroes on the committee. In a campaign that has covered everything from churches to nightclubs, she has outlined her own record as a civil rights leader, and has attacked Malden as a newcomer who has done "no community work."

She said he is the candidate of the Montgomery County Democratic Conference--run by her long-time political rival, Rufus Lewis. (Lewis himself is running against white incumbent John Dowe for the Ward Four spot on the committee.)

"If a Negro did win," Malden replied, "he or she should be well-informed on deceptive psychology--being able to separate the important from the unimportant, and if possible, to get the best thing out of the committee for the people."

W. P. Woolley Jr., operator of a printing firm, is the third candidate for the Ward Two seat. He is likely to benefit from the fact that all candidates for the committee must run city-wide, even though they each represent only one ward. White voters have a safe majority in the city.

Woolley may not be what some people expect, however. Now head of the Montgomery Council on Human Relations, Woolley said that, if elected, he would try to put the elections back on a ward-by-ward basis. "If I'm the committeeman of Ward Two, and I work with the people of Ward Two, the people of Ward Two ought to select me," he explained.

If elected, Woolley said, he will "try to find out what's going on" for the people in his ward, and he will see that the people have "a voice on the committee."

In a return match, L. B. Sullivan and J. B. (Jack) Rucker are running for the Democratic nomination for police and fire commissioner (associate commissioner, place two), along with former Fire Chief C. C. Strane.

Four years ago, the Montgomery County Democratic Conference endorsed Rucker, but Sullivan was re-elected. Some Negro leaders said Rucker could have won if he had been "more active," and if he had not seemed to attract extreme right-wing support.

This year, Rucker has campaigned extensively, but the situation in Montgomery is not what it was four years ago. "It's something for us to consider seriously," said Lewis. "We can't fool ourselves on this."

Four years ago, Sullivan was widely disliked in the Negro community. People remembered, for instance, how one came to help when Freedom Riders were attacked in the city in 1961.

"The ink is not dry" on some of Sullivan's record, said one local leader, but another said, "We've reformed him."

"My position is to uphold and enforce the law," Sullivan said, but he conceded that there were "several years of adjustment" and "times when people accused me of doing otherwise." Now, he said, "the lines of communication have

## Blessings Blessings

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- Can my loved ones be returned?
- Where can I get money?

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RUFUS LEWIS  
been re-established."

Rucker, a former assistant police chief, said morale in the police department is "at a low ebb at present--I don't think they know exactly where they stand."

An underlying issue in the campaign has been the dismissal of a popular white police officer for beating a Negro suspect. The officer was fired last December after an earlier suspension for similar reasons. Some people have received letters criticizing Sullivan for this.

"If we can't uphold the law as individuals, how in hell can we expect others to do it?" Sullivan asked. He said the case had been "distorted all out of proportion," and the officer involved never bothered to appeal his dismissal.

Rucker said he had "heard a little" about the case. "If a man beats up anybody," he said, "I don't approve it."

While some Negroes remember Sullivan's past, someone is seeing that voters are reminded of part of his present--such as his welcoming address to last November's meeting of the Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc., the Negro political group.

"People who displayed my signs and bumper stickers" have received leaflets about this address, said Sullivan. He said he had "no apologies--if invited, I'd do it again."

Rucker said he didn't approve of the leaflets: "That's dirty. That's smear tactics. I don't believe in that type of politics."

BY ROBIN REISG  
BIRMINGHAM--About 75 civil rights and civic leaders from all over Alabama met here last Monday to discuss the nature of law enforcement in the state.

The group unanimously voted to work for passage of a law that would require a grand jury investigation any time a citizen is killed by a police officer.

Automatic grand jury review is the chief demand of Birmingham civil rights groups who have been protesting a wave of police killings in the area.

The 75 leaders also voted to encourage all local organizations to call for public statements of policy by their law enforcement agencies.

"If it's on the record that police aren't supposed to curse you and beat you up, you automatically increase your respect for them," said the Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth, president of the Alabama Christian Movement.

Several leaders said recent killings of Negroes by police provided the occasion for "re-grouping" the non-violent civil rights movement.

The group voted to support Birmingham's "mourning period" and "economic withdrawal," and to hold another meeting "to stir up grass-roots interest in law enforcement." That meeting, they suggested, might even lead to



REV. F. L. SHUTTLESWORTH  
a march to Montgomery.

"Our concern today is not limited to the person who pulls the trigger," said the Rev. T. Y. Rogers of Tuscaloosa. "Until we integrate the law from top to bottom, from sheriff to coroner to clerk to janitor, we'll still have these problems."

Said Daniel S. Oliver of Birmingham: "People in the civic leagues and poverty-stricken areas are asking a question--'What does it profit me? I have demonstrated. I have been to jail, I am

still living in poverty. What's going to happen to me?"

"If enough little folk get together," said Shuttlesworth, "my God, we turn this town upside down."

Monday night at the Christian Movement mass meeting, Shuttlesworth shared the platform with James X of the Black Muslims. "I don't believe in

'Burn, baby, burn,'" Shuttlesworth told the gathering, "because it was Negro

shacks that got burned down, and most of the folks that got killed are Negro."

Then he put on his "walking shoes," and led about 300 men, women, and children on a fast-paced march downtown. It was the beginning of another week of demonstrations in Birmingham.



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## Program Schedule

Monday thru Friday

Sign On 6:00 AM	Morning Reveries (Gospel)	T. J. McLain
6:00-7:00 AM	Jordan Ray Show (R&B)	Jordan Ray
7:00-9:00	The Gospel Hour (Religion)	Rev. Greene
9:00-9:30	Dorothy Jo's Pantry Shelf (Women's News)	Dorothy Jo Stanley
9:30-10:00	Gospel Train (Gospel)	Dorothy Jo Stanley
10:00-12 Noon	Ruben Hughes Show (R&B)	Ruben Hughes
12:00-3:00 PM	Jordan Ray Show (R&B)	Jordan Ray
3:00-Sign Off		

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD (Church & Social News)--On the Half-Hour  
NEWSCASTS--5 Minutes Before the Hour

## Saturday

Sign On 6:00 AM	Morning Reveries (Gospel)	T. J. McLain
6:00-7:00 AM	Jordan Ray Show (R&B)	Jordan Ray
7:00-9:00	The Gospel Hour (Gospel)	Rev. Greene
9:00-9:30	Gospel Train (Gospel)	Dorothy Jo Stanley
9:30-12 Noon	Ruben Hughes Show (R&B)	Ruben Hughes
12:00-3:00 PM	Jordan Ray Show (R&B)	Jordan Ray
3:00-Sign Off		

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