

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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TEN CENTS

Mississippi Challenge: Long Ride, Then Disappointment in Washington

BY DOROTHY GATHRIGHT
WASHINGTON--It was a bus of one mind.

We were all poor people on the bus--from Meridian, Philadelphia, and Newton County, Mississippi. And we were all eager and excited to be on our way to tell our story in Washington.

We didn't know if the old school bus we ended up on could go as far as Washington, but the people were determined they were going to make it.

They kept saying, "We're gonna go tell our story. This is what we've been waiting for so long. We're all gonna get a chance to tell our story to the people at the White House."

Some people on the bus had decided to go after a mass meeting we had in Meridian a couple weeks ago. They had been complaining about welfare and housing and the schools.

We told them, "If you want to get something done, you should tell the people in Washington about your problems."

Some of the women on the bus had been MFDP leaders for more than a year. They had been to Washington once before--last January, when the Congressional Challenge was first brought to the floor of the House.

Others, like me, were young people who had learned a lot from joining the movement and now wanted to try to ex-

plain it to others. We talked on the bus with the older people about how stories of their lives were part of the Congressional Challenge.

And a lot of people just came--some without any money.

Lame Mr. Culpepper and his wife--both in their 70's--came from Southside Meridian to tell their story; they aren't getting welfare checks. We had to buy shoes and stockings for them before they could go, and find them clothing upstairs in the COFO office.

A young man from Newton County wanted to tell his story: he was beaten by police last week and then jailed. Six local people were also arrested when they went to the jail to ask about the charges against him.

All the money which the Newton County FDP had been collecting for the trip to Washington--by giving dances and by asking for donations--had to be used for their bond. Fortunately, the Meridian FDP had raised enough money to lend the Newton County people bus fare.

A Newton County lady on the bus was fired from her job as a housemaid when she asked for time off to come to Washington. She didn't care, she told the people on the bus, because she wanted to tell her story in Washington. And now she just had more story.

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Federal Jury in Mobile Considers Rights Cases

BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

MOBILE--The floor of the Federal Building in Mobile has looked a little bit like a cross between a convention hall and an armory this week.

A federal grand jury, including three Negroes, is investigating the conduct of Alabama law officers in violence that broke out at civil rights demonstrations in Marion last Feb. 18, and in Selma last March 7.

The jury may be considering indictments for police violations of civil rights.

On Feb. 18, Jimmy Lee Jackson, a Negro, was fatally wounded after a civil rights demonstration in Marion.

The local prosecutor in Marion, Circuit Solicitor Blanchard McLeod, has said that a state trooper admitted shooting Jackson.

However, McLeod has said, the evidence "points very strongly to self-defense."

In Selma on March 7, clubs, horses and tear gas were used to stop civil rights marchers attempting to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

About 25 participants in the Marion and Selma demonstrations were ordered to appear before the jury. They have been lining the halls, waiting their turn to testify.

The officials who broke up the demonstrations and threw the demonstrators in jail have also been taking their turns before the jury.

And so have the devices used to break up the demonstrations. Monday morning, Dallas County's chief deputy sheriff L.C. Crocker carried in a box containing a tear gas gun, among other things.

Major Joe Smelley, administrative officer of the Alabama State Troopers, and Wilson Baker, public safety director in Selma, also appeared during the first two days of testimony.

Jim Clark, sheriff of Dallas County, was subpoenaed by the grand jury, but may not have to appear.

He was ordered to produce various police files and equipment. If the jury found what it wanted in Crocker's box and in the police files Crocker was supposed to bring, then Clark will not have to testify.

Other local and state officials may also have received subpoenas.

On Tuesday, the jury heard testimony from the head of a hospital in Selma where many of the injured demonstrators were treated.

Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, attorney general of the United States, has said officials who violated federal laws dur-

ing the demonstrations will be prosecuted. He has assigned three special Justice Department lawyers to assist the local U. S. Attorney, Vernor R. Jansen Jr., in the grand jury investigation.

If the jurors find enough evidence to believe that federal laws have been broken, they will vote indictments. Then arrests will be made and trial dates set.

The jury may complete its investigation of the demonstrations by the end of this week. Arrests would follow very soon after that.

Accused officials would be tried under sections of the United States Code outlawing police brutality and conspiracy to deprive people of their constitutional rights.

The maximum penalty under these sections is ten years in prison.

Coleman Charge Is Manslaughter

MONTGOMERY--Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers said last week he was "shocked and amazed" that the Lowndes County grand jury had not returned a first-degree murder indictment in the killing of Jonathan Daniels.

Instead, the grand jury brought an indictment for manslaughter against Thomas L. Coleman, a special deputy sheriff in Lowndes.

Daniels, a white theological student doing civil rights work in Lowndes County for the summer, was shot to death Aug. 20 in Hayneville.

Coleman was also indicted for assault and battery in the wounding of the Rev. Richard Morrisroe, who was badly injured in front of a grocery store when Daniels was killed.

Flowers said he would take "all necessary steps to see that the accused is correctly and properly charged with first-degree murder."

A first-degree murder indictment means the defendant is charged with intentionally killing someone, and with planning the murder beforehand.

A manslaughter indictment means the defendant may not have intended to kill his victim, but his conduct was so negligent or reckless that he should have known death would result.

Witnesses to Daniel's death said Coleman approached an integrated group with a shotgun and fired on Daniels and Father Morrisroe.

House Set to Dismiss Move to Unseat Five

BY RITA DERSHOWITZ

WASHINGTON--Congress is refusing the plea of 200 Mississippians who came to Washington to try to unseat their state's members of the House of Representatives.

After two days of closed hearings, which the Mississippians were not permitted to attend, the House Elections Subcommittee rejected the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's Challenge last Tuesday. The full House was expected to do the same on Friday. The Mississippians and their supporters, however, decided not to give up without a fight.

Several civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. of SCLC, John Lewis of SNCC, and James Farmer of CORE, made a statement after the subcommittee announced its decision. They urged the House not to accept the subcommittee's verdict.

At a rally for the Challenge, both Lewis and Farmer spoke of holding demonstrations before the Capitol.

The civil rights leaders also want the House to give the Challenge open hearings on the merits of the case. If, as expected, the Challenge loses, it will be on technical grounds.

The subcommittee's hearings were on a move to dismiss the Challenge on such grounds. The subcommittee never considered the MFDP's case against Mississippi's representatives or the challenge to the way the House members were elected.

The MFDP has compiled hundreds of pages of testimony stating that Negroes have been systematically denied the right to vote in Mississippi.

In the Challenge, Mississippi Negroes are trying to unseat the state's five congressmen, because, the Negroes contend, the election was illegal. The Negroes are asking for a new, free election.

The Challenge lost much of its chance of success when the Voting Rights Bill was passed. Most congressmen have said that even if elections in the past have not been open to Negroes, they will be in the future under the new bill.

The decision of the subcommittee was actually a compromise. Although the subcommittee's report rejected the Challenge, it also warned that 1966 elections must be free.

This is the same sort of compromise the MFDP was given when it tried to unseat the Mississippi delegation to the Democratic National Convention last summer.

It refused to accept the compromise then, and it is now refusing to accept dismissal of the Challenge.

Governor Hampers Registration, Blasts Supreme Court, Congress

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY--Last week was a big one for Gov. George Wallace.

He won court orders that at least temporarily will keep names of people registered by federal examiners off the voting lists in six Alabama counties.

Earlier, he delivered a bombastic attack on the federal government over state-wide television at the opening of the Alabama legislature's special session.

At the governor's direction, the state went to court last Saturday, and obtained injunctions from state Circuit Judges T. Werth Thagard of Greenville, James A. Hare of Selma and Emmett F. Hildreth of Eutaw.

Legislature Remapping

BY ELLEN LAKE

MONTGOMERY--The bolterous, quarrelsome Alabama legislature met in special session to reapportion itself this week and proved that its members could agree on principles when they had to.

Under a federal court order to draw new state House and Senate districts, the legislators tacitly agreed:

1. That they'd better reapportion--or at least look as though they had tried--before some "federal officials" did the job.

2. That no district--even in the Black Belt--should be drawn so it has a majority of Negro voters.

3. That they should do their very best not to redistrict themselves out of a job.

The special reapportionment session resulted from a U.S. Supreme Court decision last year. The court ruled that election districts in each state must be roughly equal in population, so that each person's vote will have equal weight.

Like many other states, Alabama was ordered to readjust its election districts accordingly.

At present in the Alabama Senate, for example, the senator from Jefferson County represents nearly 635,000 people, while the one from the Clay-Cleburne-Coosa district represents only 34,000.

Throughout the legislative session ran a single theme: "We have to do it ourselves or the court's going to do it without us."

But one representative put it slightly differently. "We're going to approve a bill merely so that we can say we passed something. Then we can sit back and cuss the federal court."

A federal court hearing on reapportionment is scheduled for next Saturday.

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GOV. GEORGE WALLACE

Negroes Near Vote Majorities

In one month, federal registrars have made the Negro vote in six Black Belt counties almost as big as the white vote.

In five of the counties--Dallas, Hale, Marengo, and Perry--the number of Negroes on the federal registration lists is very close to the number of registered whites.

In Wilcox County, there are already more federally registered Negroes than white voters.

This is what white Southerners have feared since the days of Reconstruction. All six counties have more Negro than white citizens.

But Negro civil rights leaders in all six counties say there won't be another Reconstruction if they can help it.

"I've never been in favor of an all-white government," said Albert Gordon of Wilcox County. "Neither will I be for an all-Negro government."

"Since race has been such a conflict in the South, all facets of the community should be given a chance to represent the people," said the Rev. F.D. Reese, president of the Dallas County Voters' League.

"We don't want to change from one extreme to another," said the Rev. Arthur Days, president of the Hale County Improvement Association. "We just want to share in the government."

Next spring there will be elections for the sheriff's job, and several seats on the Greensboro city council and Hale County school board. Mr. Days said there will be enough Negroes registered

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Mobile Negroes Protest Registration Delay

BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

MOBILE--Last Monday afternoon at 4:30 p.m., the deputy sheriff at the registrar's office in Mobile pulled the door closed and announced to the 50 or 60 people still standing in line that they would have to come back in October, when the office would open for 100 days of registration.

Some of the people had been there since 9:30 a.m. in the morning.

Some were having the door closed in their faces for the third time since the office opened for registration the previous Tuesday.

But this time they didn't walk quietly out of the courthouse, as they had all done on the other days.

Just before the deputy closed the door, the Rev. A. Robert Ray, director of the Mobile County Movement, walked

along the line asking, "How many of you people want to stay here until you get registered?"

Almost everyone said they would stay as long as necessary.

They left about two hours later--but not because they had gotten registered, and not because they were ordered out.

Mr. Ray told them he had decided to seek a court injunction ordering the board to speed up registration. Mr. Ray said, "If the court decision is unfavorable, I'm going to call for a demonstration. I'll try to get 25,000 people out."

The crowd applauded that, and then they went home.

The same night, J. L. LeFlore, of the Alabama Conference for Social Justice, sent a telegram to the Attorney General in Washington, asking that federal voter examiners be sent to Mobile County.



REGISTRATION LINE IN MOBILE

Greenville Manufactures 'Freedom Suits'

BY HENRY CLAY MOORER

GREENVILLE--After the SCOPE project came to Greenville in June, SCLC worker R.B. Cottonreader told Miss Ruby Smith, a Greenville resident, about his idea for a suit made of overall cloth. He said the suit would someday be worn all over by black and white, and he asked Miss Smith to make a sample of the suit.

Cottonreader said the suit would be a symbol of freedom for all people, regardless of race, color or religion. He wore the suit Miss Smith made to the annual SCLC convention Aug. 9, in Birmingham.

In a meeting soon afterwards in Atlanta, the Rev. Martin Luther King ordered 100 suits from Cottonreader. One suit was to be for Dr. King and the rest for SCLC executives and field staff, who had liked the idea of this particular suit when they saw it in Birmingham.

Dr. King gave Cottonreader an insignia that he wanted put on all suits made. This insignia would be the sign of SCLC's struggle for freedom.

About 15 Greenville women are sewing these suits now. The work is divided up--some make coats, and some make pants.

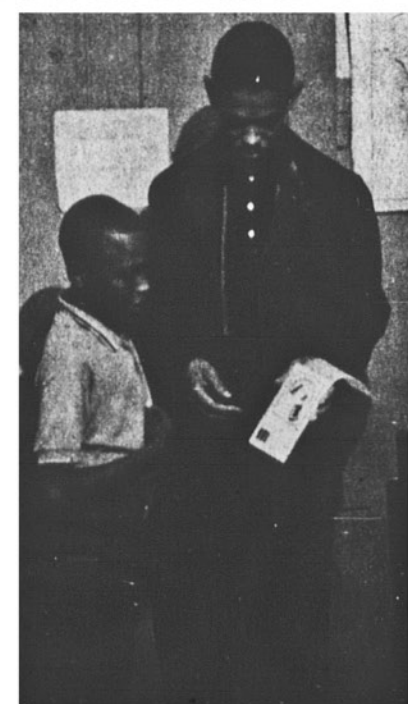
They work at home now, and the only machines are sewing machines that some of the women already own. The women earn just \$10 to \$15 a week.

But with the money they earn from the first order of 100 (the suits cost \$15 to \$18), Cottonreader and the women in Greenville want to start a suit-making cooperative. Cottonreader said "the making of these suits might be an opening for the first Negro factory in Alabama."

They are looking for a building now, and hope to purchase machinery.

If they can get the factory started, it will give full-time work to women who work as maids now, or who have no jobs, Cottonreader said.

After the discovery of the men's freedom suit, Sadie Pflifer and V. Simmons made a combination skirt and pants with the jacket for a women's suit.



COTTONREADER IN SUIT

Mr. LeFlore charged that the local registrars were not doing their job nearly so fast as they could if they wanted to. And, the telegram added, the registrars had refused additional clerical help offered to them by the county commissioners.

Registrar Gregory R. Evans said the help was refused because the board didn't have time to train new personnel before this registration session closed.

And, he added, there should be no need for additional clerks, but "these organizations are getting paid by the head for the number they drive through here."

Evans said that the board was doing the best it could, and had "no obligations whatsoever" to register everyone who came to the courthouse each registration day.

Mr. LeFlore's telegram told the Attorney General that unless federal examiners were sent, there "could develop an unpleasant situation, not desired by a vast majority of citizens in this area." Few Negroes here would disagree with that.

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Gone Are the Days

Thousands of years ago, the dinosaur was the most feared and respected animal in the world. It thundered and roared, and terrified everything it ran into--human and sub-human. Oh, it was great to be a dinosaur.

But then strange things began to happen to the dinosaur. The conditions he lived in started to change, and the other animals--especially man--began to think of new and better ways to do things, especially things like fighting dinosaurs.

Soon the dinosaur disappeared from the scene. Oh, to be sure, there were some glorious struggles, when the dinosaur fought for his life, bellowing and snarling and making an incredible fuss. But finally he lost out.

Gov. George Wallace these days reminds us of the dinosaur. He has had his moments of power, but times are changing too fast for him. And his fellow men in Alabama are finding new and better ways to handle our state's racial problems. These ways include understanding and reason--Wallace knows little of these.

The governor was thrashing wildly in his struggles last week, as the dinosaur undoubtedly did when his end came.

First, the governor obtained injunctions hampering the registration of voters by federal examiners. The governor used good legal strategy, suing friendly state officials rather than federal men. He is a smart man sometimes, and might survive if he'd only try to adapt. But like the dinosaur, he won't, or can't.

Earlier in the week, there was an awful lot of bellowing in the capital, as the governor gave out his old war cry:

"When I stood in the doorway at the University of Alabama, I stood there to uphold the law, the Constitution of the United States . . . I warned that if authorities can get away with the breaking of the law, then lawlessness shall grow and beget more lawlessness . . ."

All that remains of the dinosaur now is his picture in one company's gasoline ads. Perhaps Gov. Wallace will be so fortunate. But he may go the way of the pterodactyl and the dodo bird. You hardly ever see them any more.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

What do you say to neighbors and friends whom words have hurt? "I'm sorry." No! I'm sorry is not enough. We do want to say that the wrong words were used, and the facts misconstrued by the Editor in this paper.

Damage has been done, and there are bad feelings in this community of Madison Park that will certainly impede progress in this area unless corrected.

I, Gretchen Madison Jenkins, with all sincerity can say that never have words, brutally phrased, done more damage.

We of this community have been striving to work together to build up, not a divided area, but a community of the people, by the people, and for the people.

We are striving for a community that will not only service, but grow, so that it will not only be a residential community, but one that will give through its institutions and organizations, such as the churches, schools, homes, community centers and parks, a good, sound foundation to our young and all residents of Madison Park--and later, even job opportunities.

There would have to be much good in a community this small that built and supports a Baptist church, a Methodist church, and a Church of Christ.

My daughter, Zona, has been very hurt because of the statement printed concerning her, and wants to explain her remarks and views:

I, Zona Jenkins, certainly did not mean for anyone to even get the impression that I feel that I am better than anyone. I am lonely at times because social activities are limited in our com-

munity. I will have to leave Madison Park to work as a social worker because we have limited job opportunities in Madison Park.

I did say there are few young men here who would be in my age bracket. I am 20 years old. Some of the young men of this category are in the service, some are married. Of the others, I know very few. Some are in school, some are not in school and do not work.

I did not use the word "BUM." You would have to know a person very well to know if he is a bum. I did not mean this at all.

As a resident of Madison Park, I the Rev. Solomon Seay, hope that this unfortunate misunderstanding will soon pass, and be forgotten. The SOUTHERN COURIER can serve a real purpose to this and other communities. There are divisive factors in every community. But no community is entirely without some ties that bind it together, however small they may be.

The news media has a responsibility to find the potential for community strength and unity. I believe the writers of the paper will find its real usefulness. I shall continue to read it. I hope Madison Park will also.

The future demands that we live closer together. Too long have we failed to live our best because we have lived each for himself. It is possible to continue to live as we have in the past, but we will not have a neighborhood nor a community in the midst of a great society. Arise, let us be going. The best lies ahead.

Gretchen Madison Jenkins
 Zona Jenkins
 Rev. Solomon Seay
 Montgomery

To the Editor:

Several months ago the civil rights movement came to Demopolis. Some of our main grievances were better jobs, equal pay, decent housing and, most of all, a better education for our children. A more better education for our children can be gained only through qualified teachers and a better atmosphere among the parents, teachers and students.

What we want, as any other human being, is to voice our choice about who shall serve over our children. In order to have first class citizenship, we must be able to recognize the needs of our voting system and our education system here in Demopolis.

We are asking for a better principal

of our colored school system here in Demopolis and qualified teachers so our children can't feel inferior to no race. In order to see progress, we must have younger teachers and younger principals who cooperate fully with our children.

I am a member of SCOPE, a new found freedom here in Demopolis. A freedom for equal rights and many opportunities which it offers. Our only hope for getting what we want -- to be fully recognized as a citizen -- is selective buying process. We must also picket to get across the message of being able to stand up for what we here in Demopolis believe in as being our Constitutional right.

Mrs. Lena Frost
 Demopolis

Sermon of the Week

Lesson for Us In 'Take Mark'



MOBILE--In the words "Take Mark" from II Timothy 4:11, the Rev. Massey Heltzel found two great lessons for the congregation Sunday at Mobile's Government Street Presbyterian Church. "Take Mark," the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "and bring him with thee; for he is profitable to me for the ministry."

The lessons, Dr. Heltzel said, are that "we can get rid of our miserable self-centeredness" and that "we can repent and rebuild and make a new start in Christian service."

Paul's behavior teaches us the first lesson, Dr. Heltzel said.

Mark went with Paul on their first missionary journey. But Mark soon decided to turn back. Paul was angry with him at first.

"Why would Paul or anyone else want one who had been a quitter?" Dr. Heltzel asked.

Yet, Paul later asked Timothy to bring him back. Paul had the wisdom to do this because he was aware of his own faults, said Dr. Heltzel.

"Being conscious of our own sins makes us humble and forgiving toward others," Dr. Heltzel said. Only this awareness allows us to "give those who have sinned, and those who have failed, a chance to rebuild their lives," he said. Mark's behavior teaches us the second lesson.

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Civil Rights Roundup

Southern Representatives Fight Home Rule Proposal for Capital

BY LAURA GODOFSKY

WASHINGTON--The residents of Washington may soon win an important voting rights victory.

If the Johnson administration triumphs next week, the District of Columbia will for the first time in its history be able to elect a mayor, a city council and a school board.

The nation's capital is currently governed by two congressional committees and a series of appointed officials. Its residents vote only for president and vice-president. They do not elect any senators, congressmen or city officials.

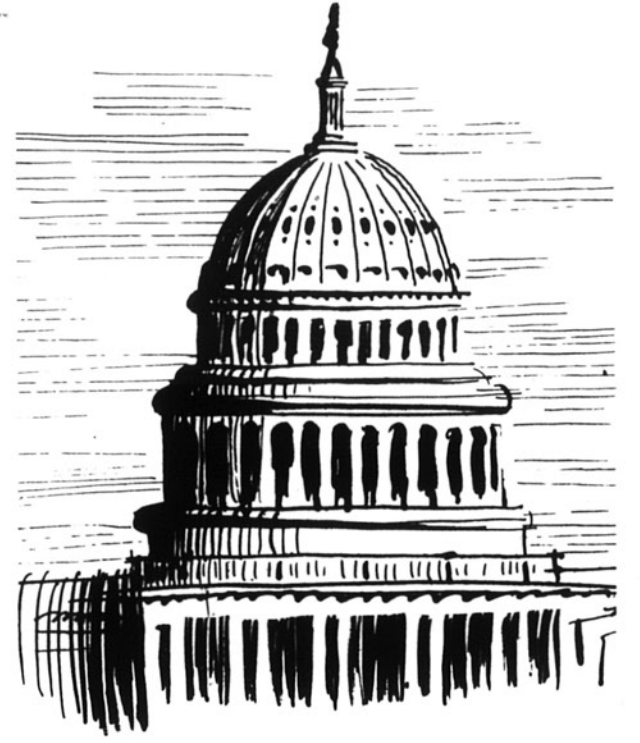
Bills to grant District of Columbia residents "home rule," or the right to elect their own local government, have been passed several times in the Senate, but never in the House.

The major stumbling block in the House has been the District Committee, which has always kept a home rule bill from coming to the floor for a vote.

This year, however, a rarely used tactic will bring the bill passed by the Senate to the House floor. A majority of the 435 congressmen have signed a discharge petition. This will enable the bill to come to the floor without having to get committee approval first.

There must be a two-week waiting period before the "home rule" bill can be considered. This means that official House consideration of home rule cannot begin until Sept. 27. At that time, the House will adopt rules for debating the bill. Then, on Sept. 30, it is expected to debate and pass the bill.

Opponents of home rule are using the two-week waiting period to bring out a different bill. Their bill would give most of the city to the state of Maryland. The only part of Washington left would be the areas with govern-



ment buildings, like the Capitol and the White House.

This bill is strongly opposed by the Johnson Administration, which has promised the entire District of Columbia home rule. The bill is even opposed by the state of Maryland, which doesn't want to annex Washington.

A successful Administration attempt to prevent this bill from coming up last Monday led to one of the longest House meetings on record, dragged out by a series of stalling tactics.

There are several reasons why home rule has been such a controversial issue. One is that many members of the House's District Committee are from the South. They reportedly do not want to turn control of the city over to a population that is more than half Negro.

The second is that some committee members do not want to give up their power over the city. They are said to have enjoyed sharing the job of being mayor.

Another reason is that a number of congressmen sincerely fear that home rule might lead to action against the best interests of the federal government.

Others consider home rule a violation of the Constitution, which gives Congress exclusive control over the seat of the government.

But those favoring home rule say there is no reason to think residents of the nation's capital would do anything to hinder the federal government. And, they add, the constitutional provision was not meant to apply to local government, but only to federal matters.

NAACP Meets In Birmingham

BY JAMES SMITH

BIRMINGHAM--"Negroes must get into the technological revolution," roared the Rev. Kelly M. Alexander, of North Carolina, in a keynote address for the "little convention" of the NAACP.

"No more can you depend on the good white community to give you the handouts that you got under segregation," he told the NAACP delegates in L. R. Hall Auditorium.

The audience of 320 delegates from 32 states and scores of interested whites and Negroes broke into enthusiastic applause.

The delegates heard this idea over and over during last weekend's convention. Prominent speakers from all over the country came here to show that "the NAACP is glad to be back in Alabama," and to help the local branches attack new problems.

The guest speakers emphasized the initiative and responsibility needed for Negroes to become "first-class citizens" in America.

The recent riots in Los Angeles were also a frequent topic of discussion.

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Alabama Opinion

Negro Kids Criticize Their Schools

BY CARRIE DANIELS

EUTAW--As a student, I feel it's a good thing that the schools are being integrated, because the Negro schools are handicapping us both physically and mentally.

Greene County's Negro schools don't have enough classrooms, teachers, or facilities.

The schools are charging laboratory fees when there is no laboratory. I think that if we are going to pay a laboratory fee, it's only fair for us to use one. If

the board of education won't put one at Carver in Eutaw, I think we should go where there is one.

The schools are inadequate in preparing us for the future. They are teaching us yesterday's skill. That's no good because you can't get tomorrow's job with yesterday's skill.

BY ROSIE MAE JACKSON

ROCKVILLE--The children in the Christian Valley School have no textbooks to work with.

No blackboards, no water, no desks to work at, no place to sit, no place to eat, no inside bathroom.

They need heating systems and teachers.

They have only three teachers, with pupils from the first through the eighth grades. Each teacher has three grades.

And above all, they need a building. The walls have holes in them. It could be taken for anything but a school. It looks like a bull pen to me.

BY STUDENTS OF LOWER PEACH TREE HIGH SCHOOL

LOWER PEACH TREE--Some years ago our parents were advised to buy some land on which would be built a high school. Our parents gave fish fries and Saturday night jukes and bought the land and decided it to the state and county. A school building was built for us which was not as good as some people's BARNES. The condition of the building is bad:

1. The floor is of cement, hard to keep clean.
2. The walls are unpainted.
3. No science room.
4. No gym.
5. No library.
6. No suitable toilet facilities.
7. No place to wash hands for lunch.
8. No decent drinking fountain.
9. Two of our classrooms have no heater at all.
10. The grounds need landscaping, it looks like a sawmill.
11. We have poor bus service, they are always broken down.
12. Classrooms are overcrowded.

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The World of Books

'Who's the Nigger?' Asks Dick Gregory

BY VIOLA BRADFORD

"Dear Momma--Wherever you are, if ever you hear the word 'nigger' again, remember they are advertising my book."

Richard Claxton Gregory, commonly known as Dick Gregory, writes his autobiography, "Nigger," in a comical and sad way that is most unusual.

For instance, here is how he sums up his childhood life in one paragraph at the beginning of the 224-page book:

"Richard Claxton Gregory was born on Columbus Day, 1932. A welfare case. You've seen him on every street corner in America. You knew he had rhythm by the way he snapped his cloth while he shined your shoes. Happy little black boy, the way he grinned and picked your quarter out of the air. Then he ran off and bought himself a Twinkie Cupcake, a bottle of Pepsi-Cola, and a pocketful of caramels.

"You didn't know that was his dinner. And you never followed him home."

In reading the book, you can see a picture of him as a child, as he describes so well his family, school and community life.

The things that Gregory does and says are so unbelievable and encouraging,

Such as in the part of the book called "Not Poor, Just Broke":

"Like a lot of Negro kids, we never would have made it without our Momma. When there was no fatback to go with the beans, no socks to go with the shoes, no hope with tomorrow, she'd smile and say, 'We ain't poor, we're just broke.' Poor is a state of mind you never grow out of, but being broke is just a temporary condition."

Sometimes Gregory was confronted with insulting remarks about how poor he was, and questions like: "How many sleep in your bed?"

Dick would answer jokingly, "Other night I crawled through one of them rat holes in the kitchen. Would you believe it, them rats were sleeping six to a bed just like us."

He doesn't talk about poverty only when he writes about his childhood, but also when he tells about his days at Sumner High School in St. Louis and Southern Illinois University.

The part of the book called "...And they didn't even have what I wanted" tells of Dick's married life and his introduction to show business--being a funny man. He entertained in many night clubs. His jokes had to be good. Some weren't and some were: "Just my luck,

bought a suit with two pairs of pants today ... burnt a hole in the jacket."

He tells how he once put a drunken heckler down gently: "Man, I'd rather be your slave than to be your liver."

Later he writes of his experiences with civil rights activities. He made speeches, and led marches and voter registration attempts. He spent time in jails, and yet he continually jokes:

"When I drink I think I'm Polish. One night I got so drunk I moved out of my own neighborhood ...

"I went down South to a restaurant and order a chicken. About that time these three cousins come in, you know the ones I mean, Ku, Kluck, and Klan, and they say: 'Boy, we're gonna do to you.'"

"About then the waitress brought my chicken: 'Remember, boy, anything you do to that chicken, we're gonna do to you.'"

"So I put down my knife and fork, and I picked up the chicken and I kissed it."

Times weren't always bright and assuring for Dick. When death came to his son, he received a long-distance call from a white woman who said, "Mister Gregory?"

"Yes ma'am."

"I just heard on the radio your son

died, and let me tell you it serves you right. I'm real glad that happened, you coming down here where you don't belong and stirring up all ..."

"I'm glad too. I had five million dollars worth of insurance on him."

There was a long silence, and then the caller said, "I'm sorry, please forgive me."

"WHO'S THE NIGGER?"

At the end of the book, Gregory quotes from his speeches:

"Every white man in America knows we are Americans, Negroes, and some know our name. So when he calls us a nigger, he's calling us something we are not, something that exists only in his mind. So if nigger exists only in his mind, who's the nigger? ... If I call the Bible a bicycle, I'm the sick one."

His final words are:

"And now we're ready to change a system where a white man can destroy a black man with a single word--Nigger."

"When we're through, Momma, there won't be any niggers any more."

I recommend this book to those of you who are looking for excitement, accounts of civil rights activities, the life of Dick Gregory, or just plain old enjoyment.



Mending fishing nets

MOBILE--When the wind blows south in Mobile, you can smell the ocean. And you know the ocean must be near when you're standing downtown and notice a 400-foot ship slipping by just two blocks away or meet a group of men wearing strange clothes and speaking an even stranger language.

These ships and their crews dock along the riverfront to unload cargoes from all over the world and then to reload for the return voyage. Almost 2,000 transport ships enter the port of Mobile every year. Last year, they carried over 20,000,000 tons of cargo.

The little fishing boats based in Mobile don't bring in nearly as many tons. But this doesn't matter if you just want some fresh shrimp for dinner. You can go down to the docks and buy a bagful for only 39 cents a pound.

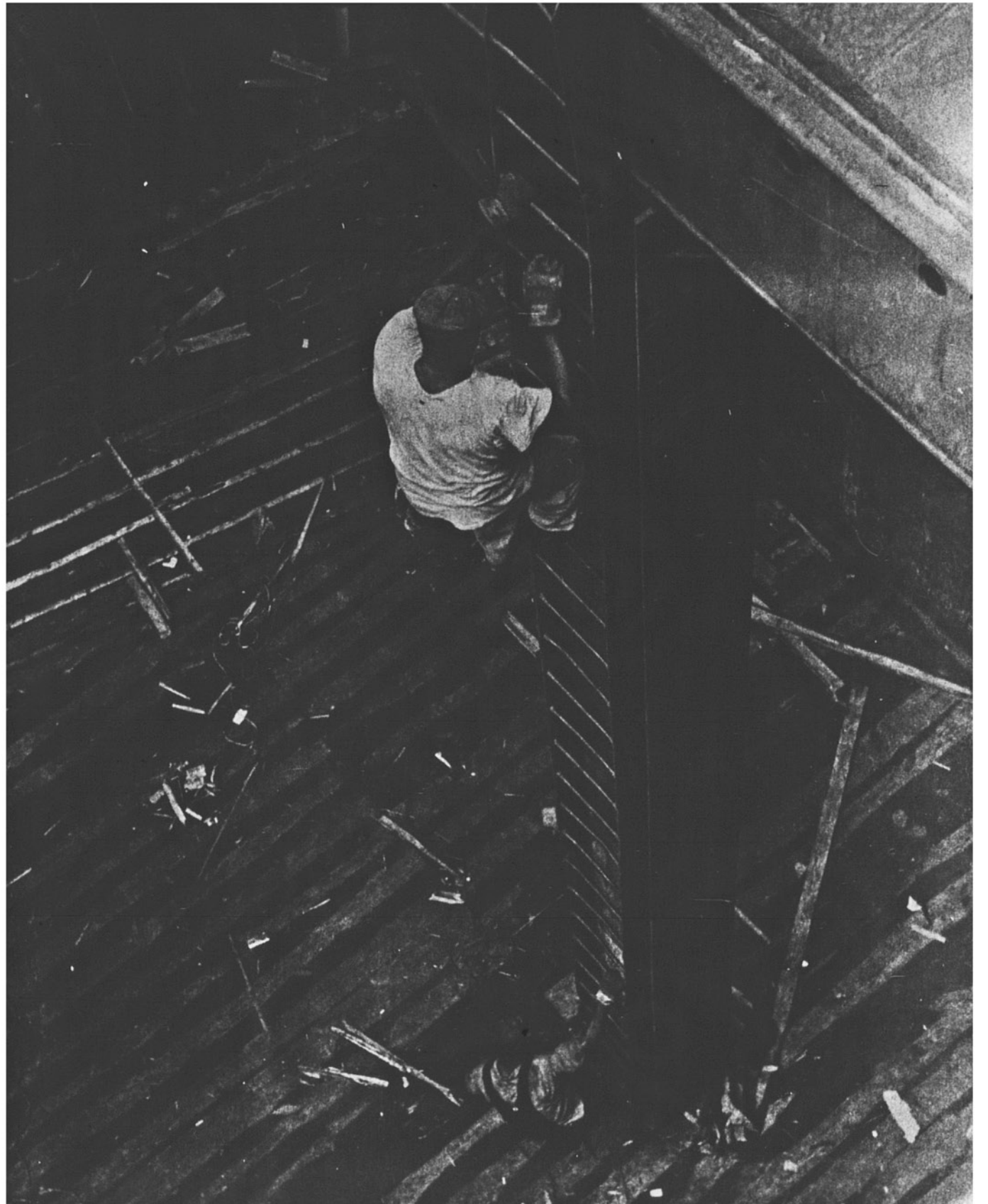


A long way from Tokyo

Photographs by David R. Underhill



Shrimpboat Rickey waits for Hurricane Betsy



Down into the ship's hold

Along the Mobile Docks



Longshoremen at work on the docks



French seamen repairing a winch used to haul cargo aboard ship

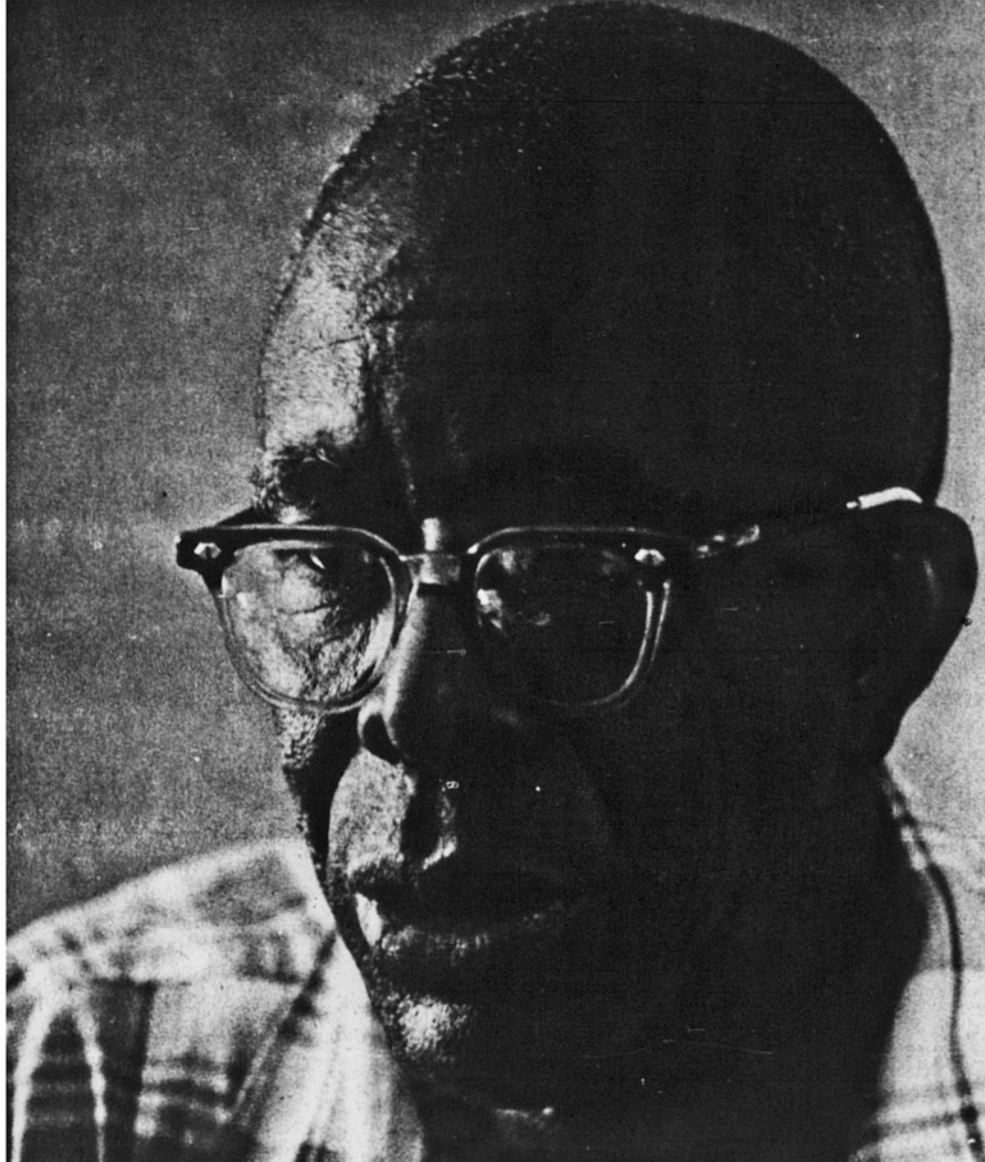
E. D. NIXON: A Lost Leader

TEXT BY ELLEN LAKE; PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES H. PEPPLER

MONTGOMERY--E.D. Nixon is a leader who has lost his followers.

Ten years ago he was the undisputed head of the Negro community in Montgomery and a leader in civil rights. Today he devotes most of his time to his job as assistant secretary of the Elks Club. He did not participate in the demonstrations here last spring.

"I'd have done just like Wallace during the Selma march--to turn down King and others when they came to talk to him," he says. "They all sat outside and lambasted him with all his friends sitting there, and then appointed a committee to talk to him. You just don't do things that way."



E.D. NIXON -- "I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WORTHWHILE IN THE PAST SIX YEARS"

As he talks, Nixon stares off into the distance, as though he were looking into the past. He can recall conversations ten and 20 years past. His heroes--Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Aubrey Williams--are the heroes of a past generation.

Nixon is a large and powerfully-built man, At 66, his face is free of wrinkles, except for the deep creases in his cheeks.

When he was young, his family was poor, and he had to go to work when he was 14 years old. His first opportunity to speak out came in the 1920's when he got a job as a Pullman porter and joined the union.

"The white man in this town always destroyed a Negro leader by threats or intimidation or by taking his job," he says now. "I had a job protected by organized labor. I don't pin flowers on myself, but I had the courage to fight for things I thought were right."

As he fought for Negro gains, he became one of the most important men in the community. He was president of the Brotherhood of Pullman Porters of Montgomery, and head of the local NAACP for five years. He organized the Montgomery Voters League, and during World War II he managed to get a Negro USO club established in Montgomery. In 1954, he ran for Democratic ward committeeman against a white man, and lost by only 31 votes.

Fall from power

Ironically, it was a protest he did much to start--the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955--that led to Nixon's fall from power. Mrs. Rosa Parks, the Negro seamstress who refused to give up her bus seat to a white man, was Nixon's secretary in the NAACP. When she was arrested, he persuaded her to let her case be used to test Alabama's segregation law.

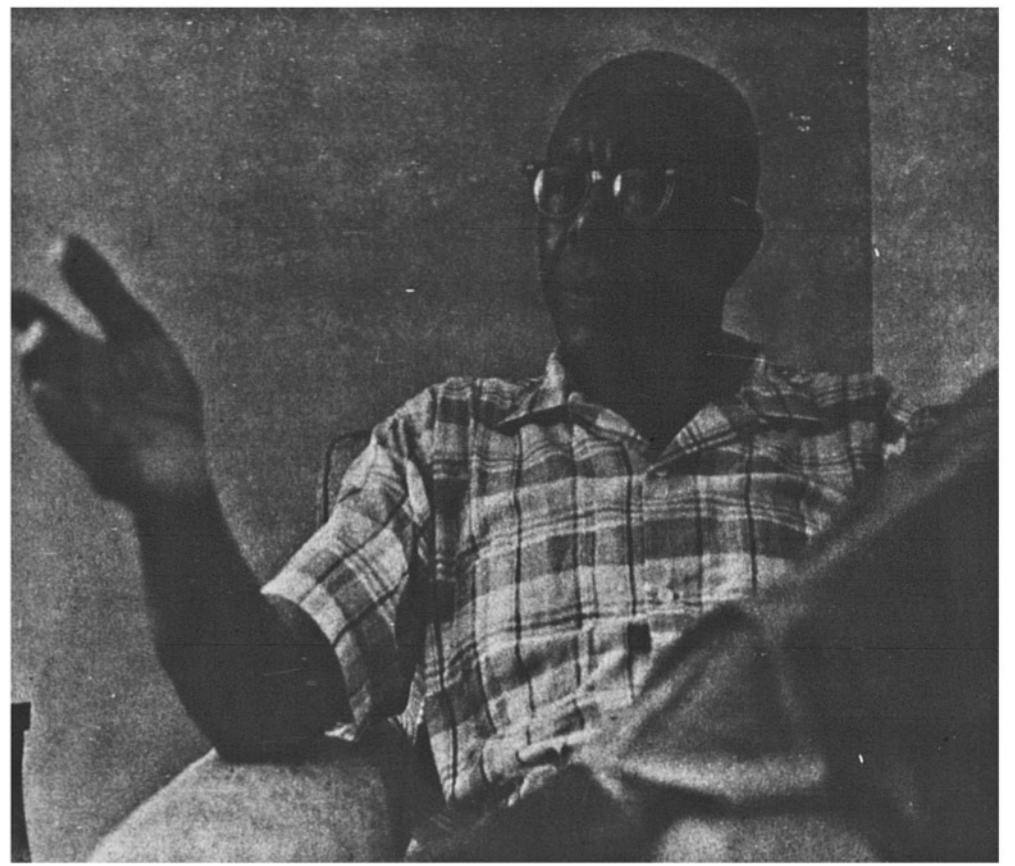
"I felt we had a good case and we ought to do something about it," he says. So he suggested that the Negroes of Montgomery boycott the buses.

"Almost anything I said at that time was law and gospel," he says. "Most people in Montgomery followed my lead."

When the leaders of the Montgomery NAACP met to form a new organization, the Montgomery Improvement Association, Nixon says, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy suggested that Nixon serve as president.

"But I thought we should have someone who was in town all the time. Since my job as Pullman porter kept me out of town a lot, I suggested Rev. (Martin Luther) King for the job. "He went on from there."

As the boycott continued, Nixon began to feel he was being mistreated by his followers.



"During all the time of the protest, I was one of the few lay peoples working. When I went around the country and stayed off my job, I lost time and didn't get paid. People just didn't treat me like they did the ministers. The ministers kept being paid but the people forgot about me.

"After the boycott I began to be pushed to the back. When I saw what was happening, I just resigned." With that, Nixon retired from the movement.

In ten years on the sidelines, Nixon has saved up a lot of bitterness. He focuses much of it on Dr. King, and he constantly compares himself with the young man who took his place in the movement.

But if Nixon is bitter, he is not a beaten man. Although he has lost his followers, he remains convinced of his importance to the civil rights movement.

"I hooked King up"

"Rev. King is a big man," he says. "But maybe he didn't ever stop to think that I selected him for his position. Most people think he came in and organized the whole boycott, but that's not true. I hooked King up."

To the former union head, Dr. King is too middle-class to be a leader of the masses. "I think a laborer is closer to the people than an educated man like a preacher. Rev. King has

never been down in the alleys; he has never been with the people here. He is with the people who can do for themselves. King feels that what he's doing for the big man, he's also doing for the little man.

The common touch

"But you've got to have the common touch, I'm concerned about helping the man who's never had any help."

In the past ten years Nixon has not gone along with the changes in the civil rights movement. For him, the courtroom and the negotiating table are still the main roads to progress.

"You can demonstrate all day, all night, and all the next week, and it doesn't change a single law until you go to court," he says.

He feels that children especially should be kept from demonstrating: "We Negroes are too far behind now for the children to be missing school. We need trade schools all over the country to fill in for the time they've lost during demonstrations."

But more than tactical differences separate Nixon and the movement--the spirit, too, has left him.

"I haven't done anything worthwhile in the last six or seven years," he says. "I don't want to be doing things at my own expense. "I can't afford it."

Mississippi Negroes Begin Farm, Sewing Cooperatives

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN H. YOUNG

JACKSON (Miss.)--First they were slaves. Then, for a century they were sharecroppers and domestic workers. But today in several parts of Mississippi Negroes are declaring their economic emancipation from whites and are banding together to go into business for themselves.

The means: cooperatives, organizations of people who agree to work, buy or sell together so as to be stronger as a group than any one would be alone.

The reason: "We want people to see that Negroes aren't lazy," the president of a sewing cooperative said. "They say we won't do anything, but what can you do when there's no jobs. People want to work, and this is the best way: when you're working with each other for each other."

The cooperatives that are popping up in Mississippi grew out of the civil rights movement. Most of the Mississippians now involved first learned about co-ops in freedom school classes or from civil rights workers who came to their town. And the movement has helped to breed a new self-confidence essential for being one's own boss.

Plans for more

So far only a few cooperatives are actually operating in Mississippi, but there are plans for more. The biggest non-farm co-op is the Madison County Sewing Firm in Canton, Miss.

The sewing cooperative got started last winter when several Negro women got laid off their jobs at the American Tent Company when they registered to vote. Casting around for something to do, they decided to put their sewing

skills to use by starting their own business.

"We wanted to get people out of white people's kitchens," explained Mrs. Idona Leavey, vice-president of the firm.

With the advice of a local minister and several civil rights workers the women set up a cooperative, modeled after a format they found in a book about cooperatives.

Like all co-ops, the sewing firm runs on the principle that each member has only one vote, no matter how many shares he owns. (This is its main difference from a regular corporation, where the man who owns the most shares has the most influence.) All the shares belong to the women who work at the firm, and they vote on everything, from contracts to salary.

The firm actually began operating this summer in a cinder block building just outside of town. Most of the money to get it started and its 16 electric sewing machines were sent



MEMBERS OF THE MADISON COUNTY (MISS.) SEWING FIRM AT WORK

down from New York.

Sixteen women were hired to run the machines. The founders decided to give preference to people who worked as domestic servants, those who were fired because of participating in civil rights, and those who were especially poor.

The big break

Their big break came when they got a contract from the Head Start program in Mississippi to make clothes for the children. With this contract, each worker was paid \$60 per week, of which half was given back to the firm for maintenance. Throughout the summer, the machines hummed, and 6000 smocks came pouring forth.

Now, however, the sewing firm is in trouble. When the Head Start contract was completed, the women got no other large contracts. They have had a few small orders--12 shirts for a local man, 10 handbags for a New Jersey woman, a dress for a SNCC worker--but these are all.

As a result, wages have been cut to \$15 a week, and even then the firm had to get a loan to keep going. Four of the workers quit.

The firm's future is uncertain. Before it can break into the highly competitive commercial clothing market, it will have to produce fast enough to meet the going rates. This means buying another \$10,000 worth of heavy sewing machinery.

The big problem is where to get this money. This week, Mrs. Maggie Douglas, the firm's

president, will go to Washington to see about a federal small business loan. Unless she can get it, the firm may not survive.

But right now, the women are determined to make a go of it. The Tent Company has offered to rehire several of the women, "but we're not going," Mrs. Douglas said.

"We're staying here, and if we fall, we'll fall hard."

One reason the Madison County Sewing Firm has lasted this long is the loan it got from an organization called the Poor People's Corporation. Begun by a Mississippi SNCC worker, to give poor people more control of their own affairs, the organization gives loans and advice to poor people who want to begin cooperatives.

Dues: 25 cents a year

Any poor person can become a member; the dues are 25 cents a year. Money is raised from private donations, largely from the North. It is spent according to a vote of the 200 members at meetings held several times each year.

At the first meeting eight groups applied for loans. Most of them planned to make things like leather pouches or belts, which require little machinery and employ skills local people either have or can easily learn.

Another kind of cooperative which the Poor People's Corporation supports is the agricultural co-op. The problem in farming is not to make more jobs but to make the existing jobs pay better. Cooperatives do this by letting

farmers pay less for the things they need or giving them more for what they sell.

Mississippi now has co-ops doing both. In Madison County a group of farmers have joined together to cut expenses. By buying fertilizer in bulk loads, they each pay less for their own share.

Government Aid

These farmers also plan to save money by setting up their own cotton gin. They have been promised a Farmers Home Administration loan by the federal government for this project. This is one of the big advantages of a cooperative: it often can get government help denied to individual farmers.

A sellers' cooperative was set up this year in Panola County, Miss. A group of okra farmers decided that the middle man who bought their crop from them was taking too big a cut. He was giving them only four cents per pound, while he made up to ten cents per pound at the market in Memphis, Tenn. So, these farmers decided to process and sell the okra cooperatively. The result: this year they got five and one-half cents per pound.

There are clearly limits to what the Mississippi cooperatives can do. They have limited skills, money, and managerial know-how, and they will have to fight the white politicians much of the way. But they show that Negroes are now taking some healthy steps--assuming new risks in business so that they can be their own bosses.



SPEAKER FROM THE NATIONAL SHARECROPPERS FUND DISCUSSES FARM COOPERATIVES

Arrests Follow Ball Game

BY JASPER SNIPES

EUFULA--All that the crowd was expecting was a Friday night football game between Opelika High School and T. V. McClure of Eufaula. But before the evening ended:

They had seen five people arrested, and two others injured;

They had been sprayed with tear gas by Eufaula police;

And many of them had gotten into the act, by throwing bottles and bricks at policemen and at the T. V. McClure High School building.

By last Monday, people were being arrested for protesting the arrest of other people, who in turn were protesting the arrest of the five people Friday night.

Early in last Friday's game, seven T. V. McClure students and another demonstrator began picketing outside the stadium. They carried signs protesting poor equipment at the high school, such as old typewriters and worn football uniforms.

Bryant Foster, principal of T. V. McClure, was inside the stadium watching the game. When he heard about the picketers, Foster came out, tore up their signs and told them to leave the campus.

News of Foster's order was carried to a mass meeting at nearby Eufaula Academy. The meeting let out, and everyone went over to see what was happening at the stadium. They gathered at the gate where Foster had ordered the picketers to leave, and they began to sing freedom songs.

Many people at the game heard their singing and came outside to join.

After the football game turned into a freedom sing, 35 Eufaula policemen and deputized white citizens drove to the stadium.

They arrested five people--SCOPE worker Larry Butler, SNCC worker

THINK AND GRIN

Bill: Did you hear about the accident at the army camp?

Jim: No, what happened?

Bill: A jeep ran over a popcorn box and killed two kernels.

Label on a package of vegetables: Caution--Squash, Do Not Crush.

Billy: Who's the oldest settler in the West?

Milly: I don't know. Who?

Billy: The sun.

Prosecutor to girl named June during a courtroom trial: You tell 'em, June, and don't July.

Mother: James, you've been fighting again. You lost two of your front teeth.
James: Oh no, I haven't, Mother. I have them in my pocket.

Jim: Why does Bob call his jalopy "baby"?

Joe: Because it never goes anywhere without a rattle.

Dickie: Why does a milkman use a white horse?

Nickle: I don't know. Why?
Dickie: To pull his wagon.

This is a new section of your paper. If you like this section and would like it to continue or would like to send in jokes of your own, please write:

Arlam Carr Jr.
120 South Hall Street
Montgomery, Ala. 36104

POOR SCHOOLS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

13. We have to make our own fires and sweep our own floors daily.

14. Poor classroom facilities.

We, as students, are saying that unless we do something about this condition now, our children will be going to school under these same conditions. Therefore, you can see why we are protesting and why we want our parents to become registered voters.

(This was originally a letter, written last March during a boycott of Wilcox County high schools. A Lower Peach Tree High School student gave the letter to W. J. Jones, who was then chairman of the Wilcox County school board. There was never any reply to the letter. Lower Peach Tree students say they still have these grievances.)

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Scott Smith, Nelson Smith Sr., Nelson Smith Jr., and Willie J. Smith.

Miss Mary D. Palmore was struck by a policeman. She was taken to a hospital, but released an hour later. Ernest Thomas, a spectator at the game and at the singing outside, was also struck.

After Miss Palmore was hit, a few people in the crowd began to throw bricks and bottles at the police. The police responded by tossing tear gas. More bricks and bottles were thrown.

Many of the large windows of the nearby T. V. McClure high school building were broken. As much as 40 per cent of the equipment in the school was damaged.

Trial was held Monday for the five

Wallace Hits U.S. in Talk

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

whom the federals have handed out a certificate. You cannot require identification. You cannot require witnesses to an "X" mark.

"The certificate can be passed from hand to hand and from person to person, and it entitles the holder to vote. These certificates can be bought and sold."

In his suit, Wallace said local registrars will not be able to "purge" voting lists of the names submitted by federal examiners.

Civil rights leaders said they would go on trying to get people to register, despite the injunctions.

"This will have no bearing on our continued effort to urge people to register," said the Rev. F. D. Reese, president of the Dallas County Voters League.

Said the Rev. Arthur Days, head of the Hale County Improvement Association:

"Wallace is up for election next year. If Negroes are registered, it will be definitely strike-out for his coming back into office."

In his Sept. 9 speech, Wallace lambasted the U.S. Supreme Court, the Congress and the President.

Of the Supreme Court, he said, "I am firmly convinced that the present United States Supreme Court is the most revolutionary force in this nation today...."

"It is running the country by injunction, and instilling fear into the heart of every man by the threat of imprisonment...."

About Congress: "Congress has legislated the abominable Civil Rights Act of 1964 which destroys more personal freedoms than any act of Congress in the long history of this nation."

"It has also enacted an unbelievable voting law.... The law passed by Congress has every major provision of the bill prepared by the communists in 1955."

About President Johnson: "When a President of the United States goes on nation-wide television and sings the song of the communist street marchers and their poor dupes 'We Shall Overcome,' he should have finished the meaning of what these organized, lawless armies intend to overcome."

"For they mean, 'We shall overcome local school boards, local law enforcement, state legislatures... We shall overcome city governments and the structure of the separate states... We shall overcome civilization established by the will of the people and place over them the will of a central tyranny.'"

The speech was widely viewed as the kick-off of the governor's bid for a second term. He will have to change the state constitution to succeed himself as governor, and he may call another special session after this one to do just that.

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who had been arrested. Nelson Smith Sr.'s case was continued, and Nelson Smith Jr.'s was transferred to juvenile court. Willie J. Smith was fined \$100 and costs for disorderly conduct.

Larry Butler and Scott Smith were found guilty on three counts--disorderly conduct, refusing to leave an unlawful assembly and resisting arrest. On each conviction they were fined \$100 and sentenced to six months in jail.

Their lawyer, Solomon S. Seay Jr., said they would post \$300 bond and appeal the ruling.

Last Saturday morning six picketers, protesting the arrests and beatings of the night before, were themselves arrested at the Eufaula courthouse. They were charged with failure to leave an unlawful assembly.

When Monday arrived, almost no one showed up for school at T. V. McClure. Glass from shattered windows was scattered all over the building, so classes could not be held, even for those students who faithfully did come.

A hundred students, members of the Youth Center, spent the day off in a protest demonstration. Singing freedom songs, they marched to the courthouse to protest the weekend's arrests.

Three of these demonstrators--William Johnson, Willie Massey, and James Robertson--were arrested and charged with contempt of court.

Judge Jack Wallace was holding a session inside the courthouse at the time of the march. It was charged that Johnson, Massey, and Robertson were in contempt of Judge Wallace's court for marching during the session.

Judge Wallace tried the three immediately and found them guilty. He fined each of them \$50, and sentenced them to three days in jail.

Negro Voters

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

by then "to fare a good balance."

He said there would be Negro candidates.

"We would like to win," said Mr. Days, "but if we lose we would like to share in the local government. If we can't get the sheriff, then give us deputy sheriff. If we can't get two on the council, then give us one."

Mr. Days said the recent civil rights revolution has been a "training period" for members of both races. "Sure, there will be some die-hards in the white community," he said, "but the better-thinking people have received training during this revolution which will enable us to work together harmoniously."

Mississippi Challenge

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Late Sunday the buses arrived in Washington, and we met the other people who had come from all over Mississippi for the Congressional Challenge.

Monday morning we went out to visit Congressmen--to tell our stories.

I went with a group to talk to Congressman Clement Zablocki from Wisconsin. He kept trying to avoid us. The secretary said he would be busy all day.

But later on I saw him coming down the hall, and I cornered him. Finally he agreed to listen to us, but for "just a moment." Others in the group came over and surrounded him and started throwing questions at him:

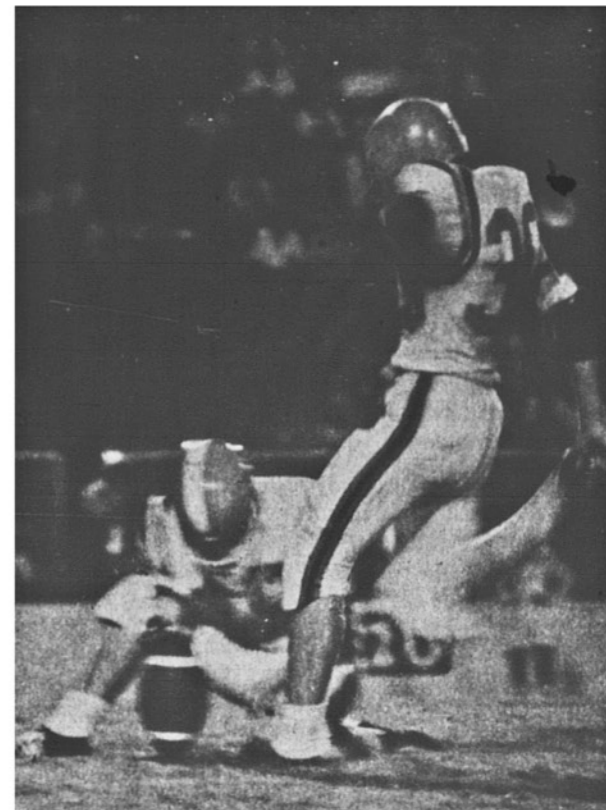
"What do you think of the Challenge? How are you going to vote?"

He answered that he hadn't read all the evidence yet.

He didn't seem to be listening when people told him that no Negroes had been permitted on the ballot from which the Mississippi congressmen were elected



LANIER'S PETE WILSON (10) TRIES A PASS



PARRISH'S MARVIN JONES (30) MISSES FIELD GOAL

Selma Nips Lanier, 6-0 ; Carver, Booker T. Win

BY DAVID TOAL AND HENRY GOSHA

MONTGOMERY--Underdog Parrish of Selma scored early and held on for a 6-0 victory over Lanier of Montgomery in the high school game of the week.

In other Montgomery contests, Carver High and Booker T. Washington won their first games by lopsided scores. Carver beat its neighbor St. Jude 31 to 0, and Booker T. smashed Laurel High of Alexander City 49 to 0.

In the first quarter of the Lanier-Parrish clash last Friday night in Cramton Bowl, Selma's Wayne Vardama leaped through the line to score from half a yard out.

Marvin Jones' extra-point kick went wide, and though nobody knew it then, that was the end of the scoring.

The second quarter almost showed signs of excitement when Parrish threatened to score again. They got as close as the nine-yard line, but wound up missing a field-goal try from the 11.

Lanier's only threat during the first half began with halfback David Prickett's 35-yard run from the Poets' 20 to the Parrish 45. Two plays later a pass from Pete Wilson to Jimmy Lowden

carried Lanier to the Parrish 18.

But Lanier ran out of gas on the 15. During the last ten minutes of the game, Lanier finally began to move.

Lanier pushed toward Parrish's goal line. When it looked as though the Poets had been stopped, Parrish fumbled the ball right back again, and Lanier recovered on the Parrish 35.

However, a Lanier running play lost 17 yards, and that was that.

Carver started slowly last Friday night in Hornet Stadium, but the Wolverines' superior conditioning showed up in the second half.

As the contest ended, Carver was scoring almost every time it got the ball.

Carver's Hilliard Brooks made two flashy TD runs of 18 and 37 yards.

The Washington High School Yellow Jackets jumped off to a triumphant grid season by walling the Laurel High Hornets of Alexander City to the tune of 49 to 0 last Saturday night in Cramton Bowl.

The Yellow Jackets' scoring started early in the first quarter, when quarterback Samuel Harris tossed the pigskin to Richard Moncrief, who scrambled over from the 23-yard line. Edward Nuckles booted the extra point.

The Jackets controlled the ball from then on to the end of the game.

Booker T.'s high-stepping band, under the direction of Farrel Duncombe, performed with gusto during the half-time show.

"Papa's Got A Brand New Bag" brought the spectators to their feet with a thunderous applause, as the band members and majorettes did some of the latest dances. The band received encore after encore upon the rendition of "Boot Leg."



SERMON OF THE WEEK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

and lesson, said Dr. Heltzel, for he did decide to rebuild his life.

Mark's repentance and "Paul's bigness" allowed Paul to say, at last, "Take Mark."

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New Selma Group Aids With Medical Problems

SELMA--Local Negroes here are busy organizing a community-action group to help the Negro community deal with its medical and health care problems.

The group, which is called the Association for the Improvement of Medical Service (AIMS), is probably the first of its kind in the Alabama Black Belt.

It was started about a month ago, when the Medical Committee for Human Rights, a group of Northern doctors based in Selma, sponsored several meetings in the Negro community to discuss medical problems.

"We knew there was a problem in the community," said Mrs. Emma Johnson, acting chairman of AIMS, "but we didn't know what the community could do to help solve it. The meetings were where we saw the possibility of a group like this being formed."

AIMS already has about ten active workers, some with medical training. As soon as it can get completely organized, Mrs. Johnson said, AIMS hopes to:

1. Advise Negroes on how to take advantage of available public health facilities.
2. Press for improved and increased health facilities available to Negroes.
3. Investigate and file complaints on any discrimination in public health care.
4. Provide medical information and advice to the Negro community.

AIMS has already taken action in two areas.

AIMS workers were concerned about poor Negroes who weren't getting free lunches at school. So they distributed free-lunch applications for parents to send to the Selma schools.

At Hudson High School alone, about 200 students brought forms to school. They were given a letter to take home.

It said, "We are sorry that we do not have sufficient federal funds or local funds to furnish more free lunches than we are now serving," and was signed by the school principal.

AIMS now hopes to appeal to U.S. Agriculture Department officials for more money for the lunch program.

AIMS has also helped local Negroes make appointments for free dental care in the Dallas County Health Clinic, the first time Negroes have ever gone to the dental clinic.

"They always thought the clinic was for whites only," Mrs. Johnson said.

"We just had to tell them it was for Negroes too."

AIMS will start working toward all its goals after a final organizational meeting on Sept. 21 at 8 p.m., at the Green Street Baptist Church in Selma.

Mrs. Johnson said she hoped the entire Negro community will join AIMS in its work.

Wilkins, Others Stress Initiative

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)
NAACP executive director Roy Wilkins said Saturday night that "in Watts the whole story of the Negro in America is wrapped up."

Speaking at the First Annual Human Rights Dinner, he charged Negroes moving out of the rural South to the urban centers of the North and West are taken advantage of by whites who can prey on their lack of experience in city life.

Yet, Wilkins and his colleagues also insisted that things were getting better all the time. They said Negroes must begin looking for opportunities and not let themselves be stopped in the struggle for full rights.

On the other hand, Negroes were urged not to become complacent or apathetic, now that the new laws have been passed and "the wall is down," said the Rev. Alexander:

"Paying the cost (of first-class citizenship) will mean that Negro businessmen will have to stand on their own feet in this competitive world, on the basis of the services which they render to the consumer and of the capacity of the Negro manager to operate a sound enterprise."

And in order to compete in the white business world, speakers said, Negroes will have to make use of every opportunity for education.

"Keep your eyes on the Federal Aid to Education Bill," Wilkins advised his audience. "There is \$1 billion coming to the poor. Make yourself a nuisance about these school funds."

"You will never make it in this world --and neither will your children--without an education."

Theodore Berry, of the Office of Economic Opportunity, pointed out that Alabama is eligible for \$12,000,000 in community-action funds. "If you don't take advantage of it . . . it will go down the drain. And the next year Congress will remember that Alabama wasn't interested in taking it," he said.

Widows Can Now Get Benefits From Social Security at Age 60

If you are a widow whose husband worked under social security, you can start getting social security benefits when you are 60.

Up to now, a widow could not start to get benefits until she was 62, unless she was taking care of a dependent child who was receiving survivors' benefits.

To apply, you have to go to your local social security office and fill out an application. You will need proof of your age (a birth certificate if you have one), your marriage certificate, and, if you have been divorced, a divorce certificate.

If you choose to start monthly benefits when you are 60, you will receive a smaller payment every month than if you wait until you are 62. This is to make up for the longer time you will be getting benefits.

For example, if your husband's average income was \$3,600 a year and you start getting social security payments when you are 60, you will receive \$80.50 a month.

If you wait until you're 61, you will get \$86.70 every month. And if you don't start until you're 62, you will get \$92.80



each month.

Women who work and earn more than \$1,200 a year cannot collect full benefits.

If there are months before you are 62 when you do not receive a full payment because you have earned more than \$100, your payments will be higher after you are 62, to make up the difference.

Reapportionment

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Any plan passed by the legislature would probably be ruled on by the court.

Although there was little open reference to the growing numbers of Negro voters, the senators clearly had them in mind during their deliberation this week.

"This plan is designed to minimize the problems that the southern part of Alabama has that the northern part doesn't," a senator said of one proposal.

"If we of northern Alabama have to put up with a few inconveniences to help out southern Alabama, I'm prepared."

Most of the senators favored a constitutional amendment designed to make sure that no Negroes would be elected to the all-white Senate.

This plan, proposed by Senator Roscoe O. Roberts Jr., of Madison County, pairs the heavily Negro counties with predominantly white ones.

The result is that no senatorial district would have a majority of Negro voters, and only one would even have a majority of Negro residents.

Many senators felt that this plan, although obviously discriminatory, would stand up in federal court because it does create senatorial districts that are

equal in population.

Senator Roberts' plan has another quirk. He uses the 1964 census figures to figure out number of senators his own county deserves, while all other counties are based on the 1960 census.

"Madison is growing so fast, I thought we should use the most recent figures," he explained.

As a result, Madison gets an additional 56,000 people--and an extra senator.

The bill passed by the House of Representatives to reapportion its 105 more representatives to the very populous counties like Jefferson and Mobile. And it combines the 20 smallest counties into two-county districts, with one representative each.

Like the Roberts bill in the Senate, the House plan creates districts roughly equal in population. But at least two of the new House districts would have Negro voting majorities.

The Carlton Reese Singers

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THE SOUTHERN COURIER

Our first editorial:

A Paper for the People Read

The SOUTHERN COURIER is an independent newspaper. Our only responsibility is to our readers, the people of Alabama. And our chief concern is the crucial problems that confront Alabamians. We hope to provide accurate information about these problems, and to supply a means of communication for the people who are trying to solve them.

The SOUTHERN COURIER is independent of its advertisers, of politicians, of dogma, and of any particular group or organization. We will point out merits and demerits wherever we find them, treating whites and Negroes alike.

There are certain basic principles in which this newspaper believes. We believe that all men are entitled to the equal protection of the laws and to equal justice in the courts. We believe that all men are entitled to equal educational opportunities. We believe that the interests of all people are best served by a democratic system of government--and this means that all men, regardless of race, color, or creed, are entitled to the right to vote.

With these principles in mind, the SOUTHERN COURIER cannot ignore the fact that most of Alabama's Negroes are denied these basic equalities. Therefore we will publish information to help erase the injustices of segregation and prejudice.

Another major problem that Alabamians face is the change from a rural to an industrial economy. Such a change is painful, especially for those citizens who are forced to leave the land but cannot find their rightful place in the offices and factories of the cities. This, too is a problem which the SOUTHERN COURIER will examine.

Education and politics are also under new pressures in Alabama. While the state is trying to expand and improve its school system, only 101 Alabama Negroes attend school with whites. In politics, the state is beginning to show signs of two-party activity. This change also deserves our attention.

While the SOUTHERN COURIER tries to fulfill its responsibilities to its readers, we hope that you, the reader, will feel a responsibility towards us. This is a new paper, experimental in many ways. And part of the experiment is to create a newspaper that responds to the needs of its readers.

If you have ideas and criticisms that will help us produce a better paper, by all means write us a letter or tell your suggestion to your local SOUTHERN COURIER reporter or representative. If you know of a story that should be reported, let us know about it. Our only purpose is to serve you, and only you can tell us if we're doing the job.

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EUGENE PATTERSON, Editor

MONDAY, JULY 19, 1965

Eugene Patterson

An Admirable New Newspaper



A group of college students led by Harvard's Peter Cummings came South this summer to put out a weekly newspaper (at 68 Electric Ave. NW, Atlanta). They brought a hard discipline instead of easy conclusions and so their first issue of The Southern Courier will bore and disappoint those conditioned readers who take their civil rights nourishment from hallelujah pamphlets or hate sheets.

But their beginning is both admirable and remarkable. They actually are trying to see the racial revolution whole. They are writing it dispassionately and well. They are not trying to thread up a magazine or television story line, or race newspapers to the stereotyped crises. They are simply moving around, primarily in Alabama, and writing down what they see.

They have a good ear. "Tear out a sheet of paper from this book, Annie," (said a voting registrar in Margeno County).

"The 'Annie' made her glance up quickly. She started to speak but changed her mind. The registration went slowly on."

They let these things fall naturally into their stories, as naturally as any Southerner who is used to it. "Sheriff T. Wilmer Shields admitted using tear gas on his prisoners (inside the Linden, Ala., jail). 'I only used one or two squirts--just enough for them to raise hell about it,' the sheriff said."

They withhold judgments and leave it to readers to have their own feelings about the Lord's Day scene outside the Baptist church in Tuskegee. "On July 4, Miss Altonia Baker, 20, was slapped a number of times by a woman from the congregation" with whom she had tried to worship.

There was the quote from an elderly Negro, Miss Julia Knott, after a cotton-dusting airplane sprayed civil rights demonstrators standing in front of the First Baptist Church in Eutaw, Ala. The spray burned her skin "real bitter," she said.

Such scenes are reported incidentally. Those who see nothing newsworthy about this way of life can read right over them because they aren't pointed up by accusing fingers. These kids are simply reporting.

And David R. Underhill's report on the strike of cotton choppers in the Mississippi Delta is perhaps the best balanced thing yet written about it. He knows that even if the Negroes win the strike they will, "in the long run, probably be no better off" Machines are replacing them anyway.

But the planters don't like the suddenness of the change. "A union and \$1.25 per hour would turn the plantations into farms, the bosses into employers, and the darkies into independent men." And most of the Negroes hesitate "because they, like the planters, are afraid to lose their way of life . . . It shelters them from responsibilities that independent men must accept . . . It (the union) secure poverty . . . A union . . . is asking them to take the risk of being free men."