

Derrick Holloway's Death: A County Reacts

BY JOHN SISSON

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss.--Last Jan. 13, it snowed almost six inches in Marshall County. In a little house in the Marianna community, Mrs. Ida Wilkins watched as death came to her two-year-old grandson, Derrick Holloway.

Osborne Bell, the county coroner, said an autopsy showed that Derrick had died of exposure, and that he had been suffering from malnutrition and a lung infection. But a nurse in the Head Start program said Derrick died of worms.

When Billy Marsh of the Brittenum Funeral Home came out that night to pick up the body, the house was cold. "You couldn't tell it if there was a fire lit," he recalled last week. "It was just as cold inside as outside."

Derrick's eight brothers and sisters--ranging in age from five months to nine years--were huddled in two beds

without blankets, Marsh remembered: "The best they were doing, they were trying to keep warm." Their brother lay dead on the one other bed in the room.

Since last November, the Holloway children had been in the care of their 67-year-old grandmother, while their mother--Mrs. Dora Holloway, 23--was being treated in Memphis, Tenn., for her "spells."

John Edward Holloway had been separated from his wife for almost two years. But the day after Derrick died, they were both in Holly Springs making funeral arrangements. They were both arrested and charged with child neglect. After two weeks in jail, both are now free on \$1,000 bond.

"I'm hoping that they put him (Holloway) in the penitentiary for a few years," said Odell Wilson, a county supervisor and the owner of the land where Mrs. Holloway and the children were living. "Maybe they could give him some training."

The same people who want to see the parents in jail have

been trying to help the Holloway children.

Wilson brought the children food, clothing, shoes, and a load of wood, and then Sheriff Johnny Taylor had them taken to the Holly Springs hospital, where they were treated for malnutrition, frostbite, and worms.

But where was everyone before Derrick's death? Wilson said he helped Mrs. Holloway get on the food stamp program in March, 1967--she paid \$33 a month for \$90 worth of stamps. In April, said Mrs. Holloway, a welfare worker visited her, and she received her first welfare check in May. She was getting \$72 a month.

But as the birth of her ninth child approached, Mrs. Holloway's spells got worse and worse. The hospital in Holly Springs gave her some pills, she said, but they didn't seem to help. In October, after the birth, said Wilson, Mrs. Holloway shot a man. The former sheriff, "Flick" Ash, released her on the condition that she go to Memphis for treatment.

The Holloway children also needed treatment. The Head

Start nurses knew that one of the children, Georgia Lee, had worms, but they had no money to do anything about it. The Head Start office said 75% of the children in the program have worms. Now the county health department says it is going to write to Jackson, to see if medicine for treating worms is available.

In September, a Head Start social worker visited the Holloways and reported: "This family needs help at once. The house is not fit to live in." But the Holloway family continued to live in that house.

After that, Mrs. Holloway was in Memphis most of the time, though she returned nearly every week to buy groceries for the children.

In December, the food stamp program came to an end in Marshall County. The county said it could no longer afford the program.

During the two weeks before Derrick's death, Mrs. Holloway said, she couldn't come down from Memphis. Three days before Derrick died, his grandmother went to the store with Ellis Davis, a neighbor, and bought rice, bread, margarine, and medicine. The family had been without food the previous day. Then came the snow, and Derrick's death.

Mrs. Holloway said the sheriff told her after her arrest, "You are in a hell of a tight right now."

To some people, the case is clear. "You can sum it up in one word," said Mrs. Patty Wilson, the supervisor's wife. "The money was there, but where the food and groceries went, nobody knows."

To others, it is not so clear. They wonder why the Holloway children did not get help before it was too late.

No Plugs Near, Fire Kills Lady

DEMOPOLIS, Ala.--"The closest plug is three long blocks away," said Richard Irving. He was describing the fire that took one lady's life and completely destroyed a house two weeks ago in the Capitol St. area of Demopolis.

Since the nearest fire-plug was so far away, Irving said, the fire department did not make it to the scene until the house was almost burned down.

"If we don't get a plug in this area--around 300 Front Ave. and Capitol St.--the results will be disastrous," he said. "These wooden shacks are like paper." About 50 people gathered outside the flaming house and did what they could to help, neighbors recalled. A family with three children was rescued from one side of the house, but no one could reach the 82-year-old lady who lived by herself on the other side of the small one-story building.

The cause of the fire is listed as unknown.

Plans For CR Drive

BY EMILY ISRAEL

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.--"Look, King Johnson, us is hungry, and we ain't got enough to feed our kids," said Albert Turner.

That, he told a meeting of the Tuscaloosa Citizens for Action Committee, is a message SCLC will take to Washington next April in its poor people's



protest. The protest will try to enforce the right to eat and live decent," according to Turner.

Turner, state SCLC director, told the people what they might have to say and do if they decide to participate in the non-violent protest.

"It will not be a march, but a protest," he said. "We are going to Washington because that is where the money is." Poor people will be "like flies on the elephant's back," he added. "We're going to get where his tail won't reach us, and stay there--don't know how long."

"The USA is a pressure nation," Turner said--it will act only when it is forced to.

"The nation and Congress in 1965 (when the Voting Rights Act was passed) were no different than they are now," he said.

Turner closed his talk with words of caution for those who might join the protest.

"Messing with the economic power is the most dangerous thing you can do in America," he said. "But I asked myself, wouldn't I rather go to Washington and die a fast death, than to stay in Alabama and die slowly, starving to death?"

A state-wide meeting was held last Saturday in the Berean Baptist Church in Marion, to make plans for Alabama's role in the Washington protest. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., SCLC president, is scheduled to speak in Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery this Thursday and Friday.

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TEN CENTS

Athletics Set-Up Also Challenged

Montgomery Schools Hit On Buses and Faculties

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. and attorney Fred D. Gray turned a federal-court hearing last Friday into a day-long attack on the Montgomery County school system.

The U. S. Justice Department had asked for the hearing, so it could object to the plans for Jefferson Davis High School, scheduled to open next September.

But before the hearing was over, Gray had challenged the way the schools route their buses, assign their teachers, and run their athletic programs. And Judge Johnson had warned county Schools Superintendent Walter McKee that things would have to change:

"I've gone along with this transition business for a good long while."

Gray and Justice Department lawyer Frank D. Allen Jr. said Jeff Davis and two new elementary schools are being built in the middle of white neighborhoods, and the county is not planning to provide bus transportation to any of them.

This way, the lawyers argued, the schools are sure to be mostly white.

For the current school year, Gray pointed out, Negro students in the southeast part of the county could choose to attend any school in the system. But if they wanted bus transportation, he said, the Negro elementary students were limited to two choices--Hayne-

ville Rd. (all-Negro) or Goode St. (formerly white, but now more than half Negro).

McKee testified that one of the new elementary schools will be built close to where many Negro students live, but no bus transportation will be available.

In other words, Gray charged, next year "children are going to run by this school on the way to Hayneville Rd., so they can get transportation."

The superintendent said buses will not be needed, because the new school is small and will be filled by children living close by.

"As a matter of fact," asked Gray, "isn't a new white subdivision going up where that school is going to be built?" And he added, why can't the new school be larger?

"Money is always a problem," McKee replied. But, Gray pointed out, money is also being spent on an addition to the all-Negro Hayneville Rd. school.

McKee testified that the school board thinks students living near Jeff Davis will fill it up, so that Negroes seeking to transfer from farther away "will be turned away because of distance."

Allen asked the superintendent why the board didn't make Jeff Davis larger, instead of building an addition to all-Negro George Washington Carver High. McKee said the addition will give Carver facilities it needs--like an auditorium, a band room, and space for an ROTC unit.

On the question of faculties, McKee admitted that all the people chosen so far for Jeff Davis--a principal, a principal's assistant, a band director, a football coach, and two assistant coaches--are white.

But the new principal, Jack Rutland, testified that there are "six or seven" Negroes on the list of 31 teachers he is considering for the high school.

McKee promised that all faculties in the system will be desegregated next fall. (The four high school faculties and a few others were integrated this year.)

"We have to be so careful," McKee said. "We're going to get this thing desegregated, and we're going to do it peacefully, and we're going to keep our school system."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 3)

Muslims Tell Students: Blacks In, Whites Out

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--Black people are on the way in and white people are on the way out, four visiting Black Muslims told an enthusiastic crowd of Tuskegee Institute students last Tuesday night.

"This is our time in history. This is our time to rule," said Bobby X.

"Pretty soon there won't be any white people left in the Western Hemisphere," added Minister David A. X. "Old boss is falling. There is no future for us in any tree falling off its own roots."

Minister Lewis Farrakhan said the war in Viet Nam is the beginning of the end: "The wars are not going to stop until (the white man's) power to rule is completely broken down."

The Muslims told their audience--some 500 Negroes and a scattering of whites--that black people must separate themselves from white people.

"The man has beat hell out of us all these years. But now he wants to snuggle up and be your friend," Farrakhan noted. "Now he's offering you his woman. (In the past), they would kill a black man in Alabama for looking under the skirt of a dress that was hanging on the line."

Farrakhan explained the apparent change in the white man's attitude: "He



MINISTER LEWIS FARRAKHAN

knows the ship is sinking--and he wants you to go down with him."

"Who are they (white people) for you to integrate with?" Farrakhan demanded. "The black man is the original man. The white man's father was a black scientist."

"The white man is not a natural man--he is a made man, a grafted man. He is like brown sugar put through a process until you get white sugar."

Farrakhan admitted that some people may wonder why "the white man rules, (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 3)

Hardaway Folks Complain About Phones

Long-Distance Call Over Creek

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

HARDAWAY, Ala.--"That next house over there, that's my aunt's house," said Roosevelt Harris, pointing across the creek nearby. "It ain't a quarter of a mile away. But if I wanted to call her, I'd have to call long-distance."

And so, said Harris, he isn't planning to get a telephone: "I'd like to have one--sure would--but not like that, I don't think that's a fair proposition."

Harris isn't only the farmer in Hardaway--a rural area in southwestern Macon County--who wants a telephone on the Tuskegee exchange instead of the Union Springs exchange.

Half a dozen families in the area said they feel the same way, and so do most of their neighbors.

"I always feel like we should be in Macon County, because that's where we stay," said Mrs. Martha Harris. "That's where my business is."

Several people also complained about the delay in getting telephone service. "The lines is here--right up to the house," said Mrs. Louise Lowe. "They say they would be back at such and such a time to hook it up. But that time has expired."



MRS. LOUISE LOWE

Mrs. Lowe said she wants a telephone badly enough to get one even if she does have to call long-distance to most of Macon County. But her husband, Raymond Lowe, shook his head. "I don't know if we can afford it," he said.

The problem, Harris said, is that the Cubahatchie Creek--which cuts through the center of Hardaway's Negro com-

munity--is the line between the Tuskegee exchange and the Union Springs exchange.

"It ought to be long-distance to Bullock County, since we don't live there," he said. "But it seems like (the telephone companies) got this territory divided up, and that's the way it is."

Robert M. Pirnie, president of the Union Springs Independent Telephone Company, said Harris is right. "Hardaway happens to be in our franchise area," Pirnie said. "The state Public Service Commission set up the boundaries in the 1930's."

Pirnie said he doesn't know why the boundaries cut through the middle of a community, but "that's a problem across the United States. You can cover the vast majority quite well, but there's always someone on the fringe area--fortunately, not many."

J. T. Waggoner, administrative assistant in the Public Service Commission's office in Montgomery, said "the boundaries are set up so people can get the cheapest rate possible."

What about the complaints? "You get that wherever a boundary is laid," he said. "We couldn't change it. It's a

property right. The franchise belongs to the telephone company."

Harris--the farmer who would have to call long-distance to his aunt a quarter of a mile away--said that's the kind of answer he expected. "I knew somebody like me wouldn't get it changed," he said, shrugging.

But F. W. Brice--district manager of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company for the area including the Tuskegee exchange--gave a different reply.

"I wouldn't say there's nothing they (the dissatisfied farmers) can do," Brice said. "If there's enough concerted interest--and if they really are a majority of the customers to be served--we would do what we could to look into it."

As for the delay in hooking up the phones in Hardaway, the president of the Union Springs company said that problem is almost solved.

"Those families which have requested service will have it in 60 to 90 days," Pirnie said. "They'll be able to call (at local rates) over an area of 900 square miles"--most of it in Bullock County.



REV. L. L. ANDERSON GREETING SUPPORTERS

2 Campaigns In Selma Election

BY BETH WILCOX

SELMA, Ala.--The all-Negro Dallas County Voters League (DCVL) and the Anderson-for-mayor campaign held separate meetings this week to plan for the last days of voter registration before the March 5 Democratic primary.

A list of eligible voters published this week showed 8,214 whites and 5,207 Negroes registered in the city. Everyone who registers this week will be able to vote March 5.

Supporters of the Rev. L. L. Anderson,

Poor Folks Join

JACKSON, Miss.--The Friends of the Children of Mississippi, the Child Development Group of Mississippi, and other anti-poverty groups have formed a new coalition--the Committee to Save the Children of Mississippi.

The new group will try to keep Head Start programs out of the hands of hostile local officials, and will try to get a fair share of federal money. Other members of the coalition include agencies from Sunflower, Bolivar, Panola, Tallahatchie, Holmes, and Washington counties, and the Tri-County Community Association.

son, the Negro candidate for mayor, met last Friday in the Tabernacle Baptist Church, where Anderson is pastor. Three of the six Negro candidates for City Council attended the meeting, and sat on the stage with Anderson. All six council candidates have been endorsed by DCVL, but Anderson has not been.

The Rev. James Webb, campaign manager for Anderson, formed committees from volunteers in the audience, to work on registration and organization for the campaign.

Then the Rev. C. A. Lett, candidate for the ward 2, place 2 council seat, read a notice asking everyone to be at the DCVL meeting Sunday in Brown's Chapel, "to organize ourselves to assist in registration."

Lett told the audience, "I wanted to know from Rev. Anderson if there is any conflict (in reading this notice about a DCVL meeting). He said definitely not, for we are all striving for the same thing."

The other two council candidates stuck mostly to campaign issues, with references to the need for unity.

"Through other meetings, I've heard we have new (Negro) police, deputies, and clerks downtown. This is purely tokenism," said Marius J. "Ace" Anderson, who is running for ward 5, place 2. "I would like to say vote for all the candidates--excluding none--from mayor on down to councilman."

The Rev. L. R. Harrison, candidate for ward 5, place 1 on the council, lashed out at the conditions in East Selma, which is part of ward 5. "People where I live are denied paved streets, sewers, and good housing," he said. Anderson, in his speech, referred to the DCVL's refusal to endorse him for mayor. "I find my greatest opponents are not white people, but Negroes," he said.

If elected, Anderson said, he will employ Negroes in City Hall.

At the DCVL meeting last Sunday night, people talked about ways to get people out to register. "We don't want you to have any excuse for not going up there to register," Lett remarked.

How many eligible Negroes are not registered to vote? "Che," a SNCC worker, said he had found 65 eligible but unregistered Negroes in one neighborhood where he was canvassing. But officials of both campaigns declined to guess at the total.

Miles in Run-Off

BATESVILLE, Miss.--Robert Miles, a Negro civil rights worker, will be in the Feb. 27 run-off election for Panola County beat 5 supervisor. Miles polled 897 votes, and James Travis, a white man, got 460 in last Tuesday's election.

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Table with 2 columns: City, Alabama and Phone Number. Includes entries for Birmingham, Helena, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma, Tuscaloosa, Tuskegee, Greenville, Grenada, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Marks, Meridian.

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Editorial Opinion

Man of the People?

Former Alabama Governor George C. Wallace took off his mask of indecision last week, and announced that he's running for President as "a man of the people."

In the first minute of a TV show last Monday, Wallace managed to condemn open-housing laws, school desegregation, and "lawlessness and disorder."

Wallace did scatter some of his shots elsewhere. For example, he suggested turning the war in Viet Nam over to the generals, so they can "win" it.

For the most part, however, Wallace is a one-issue candidate. And his TV show Monday night--"George Wallace and California--The Beginning"--proves that he's perfectly willing to distort any facts that get in his way.

Judging by the telecast, Wallace's California is a kind of Disneyland for racists, populated almost exclusively by working-class white people. In reality, the Los Angeles area--where Wallace spent most of his time and money--is home to thousands of Negroes and Mexican-Americans.

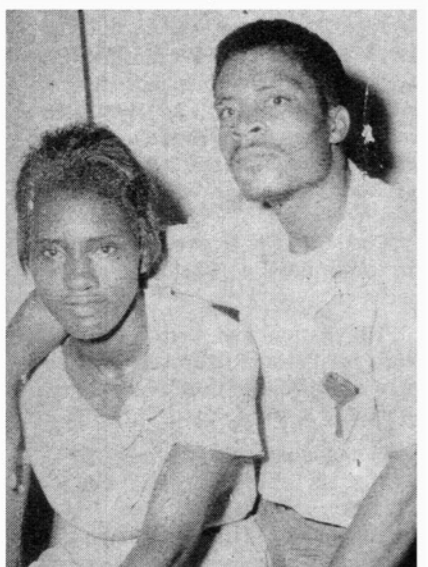
And California isn't the only state Wallace seems to be confused about. He whitewashes the Alabama story too. The truth is that his home state has been tragically crippled by the racism Wallace encourages.

Whatever it may do to the rest of the nation, Wallace's presidential campaign has already been a disaster for Alabama. It has inflamed racial hatred, and turned attention--and money--away from the state's most desperate needs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editors: I want you to put an ad in the paper for me. We stay in some Slum House, and they aren't fit for no body to stay in, not with a Family. The Bathroom is on the Back Porch, and the Porch is Fall Down.

(The Southern Courier has been having money troubles, and we recently sent out a fund-raising letter to many of our friends and subscribers. Here are some of the replies we have received.--THE EDITOR)



To the Editor: I reseeve your kind letter and was glad to here from you and I am very sorry.

Dear Friend, I sent you \$2 on the First day of this month Feb. 1 First day 1968. I hope I can reseeve my newspaper for six months.

Do I have to pay more right now? I love to read this paper very much. Think you.

Mrs. Clara Redding
Ozark, Ala.

(The letters ask for a donation from people who feel they can afford it. Whether you give or not, your subscription will continue.--THE EDITOR)

dren. That why I want this ad in The Paper.

And you can tell The rent Man and all He will say is I want my rent money, And we don't have no Where Else to stay Because it ain't no Where Else to stay.

My name is Dave McCullar. And here are my Picture If you need it. We can't get Help from the Welfare. So please put this ad in The paper for me, Dave McCullar (1102 Rebecca Ave.) Hattiesburg, Miss.

I commend the good work you are doing. I've spent most of my life in the Deep South studying the situations, as I taught in a mission school for Negroes. Therefore, what your news center is doing is very encouraging to me.

Only one criticism do I have of your paper. That is, I feel it is unwise to patronize these PALMISTS. They may have money to pay you, but didn't they get it from poor, ignorant persons! (One of your advertisers) is a disgrace to Negroes and all Americans. Scrip-

4 Muslims Speak

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

if the black man was supreme" at an earlier time in history. The answer, he said, is that several thousand years ago, "the (black) man went to sleep."

David A. X urged black people "to forge a united front" and "buy some of this earth, first with money and second with blood, if that's what it takes."

In the black state prophesied by Elijah Muhammad, spiritual leader of the Muslims, there will be freedom, justice, and equality, said Bobby X.

He ridiculed white people for picturing Jesus "with long golden curls." "Jesus was a Muslim," said Bobby X. "He was teaching freedom, justice, and equality. He was a black man."

But the Muslims rejected the Christian idea of heaven and hell. "If there's a hell worse than this one for the American Negro, it will have to do until the real one comes along," said Minister Herman Rassoul.

And heaven, he said, will come on earth when black people get together. "Swing low, sweet Cadillac," Rassoul said. "We want real things--no pie in the sky after we die."

The Muslims suggested that civil rights leaders are going in the wrong direction. "We have been led and misled," said Rassoul. "We have even had people come and get you to go marching for freedom."

When demonstrators are arrested for trying to integrate a restaurant, he said, someone holds a rally to raise enough money to get them out of jail so they can march again--and be arrested again.

"The same money that made the ball would buy you a restaurant ten times finer than that one," said Rassoul.

David A. X said black people have no time to "throw stones" or "go popping off about what we are going to do to white people."

And Farrakhan attacked white people for "sprinkling" themselves around on black campuses like Tuskegee Institute. "What are you here for?" he shouted, as the students applauded. "You're a little late, don't you think?"

Death for Robbery Not 'Cruel,' Court Rules

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- It is not "cruel and unusual punishment" to sentence a man to death for robbery, the Alabama Supreme Court said last week. By a vote of 4 to 3, the court refused to set aside five death sentences imposed on Edward Boykin, a 27-year-old Negro from Mobile.

In one of the cases--a \$373 hold-up of a drug store--the evidence showed that a young girl was shot in the leg.

However, the court observed in its ruling, Boykin's "argument is that the punishment of death is disproportionate to the crime, because (Boykin) killed no person in committing the offense."

Justice James S. Coleman Jr., who

After Airing Comment on Police

Popular DJ Loses Job

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
MONTGOMERY, Ala.--Radio station WRMA fired its popular religious disk jockey, Ralph Featherstone, last week, after a civil rights leader criticized the Montgomery police department on Featherstone's show.

On Feb. 8, a group of people from Montgomery and Prattville met with station officials to protest the firing.

While the hour-long meeting went on, Featherstone explained what had happened.

Earlier in the year, he said, Montgomery Police Chief Drue Lackey invited Negroes to apply for jobs as policemen.

Why Don't More Kids Go to White Schools?

BY CHARLEY THOMAS
ALEXANDER CITY, Ala. -- Negro students here have the opportunity to go to formerly all-white Benjamin Russell High School. Why don't more of them take it?

"Well," said one Negro student who still goes to Laurel High, "it's kinda like J. B. (James Brown) said--without an education, you might as well be dead. But over at Russell, while GETTING an education, you might as well be dead."

It's not that Negro students haven't been invited. Before the current school year began, many parents received letters from the school board, asking them to send their children to the newly-desegregated schools.

And the students know that the white schools are better equipped, and have better-trained faculties and more extra-curricular activities (and also stricter rules and regulations). But the students are very reluctant to leave Laurel.

"I like Laurel High," said one girl. "Why should I leave? This is our school, and we're going to keep it, and we should let them keep theirs."

"We're building a school here, a great school, and we're right in the middle of it. And we're not going to leave Laurel unfinished. You know, it's sorta like that old saying about changing horses in the middle of the stream--you

just shouldn't do it." On the other hand, there is Gene Tuck, who transferred from Laurel to Benjamin Russell in his senior year. At Laurel, he played second string on the "B" basketball team.

"All of a sudden," Featherstone recalled, "the station said it was a controversial matter--it was against their policy. If the truth is spoken, it's a

controversy all of a sudden, depending on who it's against."

After the meeting, some people charged that the station fired Featherstone because new owners may be taking over soon, and because WRMA has recently been sued for libel. "Ralph was dismissed for letting me speak the truth," said Barnett.

But Zenas Sears of Atlanta, Ga., the white man who now owns the station, denied these charges.

"We have tried to present a liberal point of view--to reflect the opinion and thought of the Negro community," said Sears. But statements like Barnett's, he said, "belong on the newscast." For some time, he said, "Ralph has been boffin' this," and Barnett's remarks were "the last straw."

Sears said the station has tentatively been sold to the Tri-Cities chain, whose owners "don't know Ralph Featherstone from a hole in the ground."

"I never had a man do a religious or gospel program as well as Ralph did--when he did it properly," said Sears.

A meeting was scheduled for the night of Feb. 8, to plan a protest against WRMA. But Featherstone accepted a job with a station in Indianapolis, Indiana, and the meeting was never held.



Union Springs, Ala.

Rufus C. Huffman, a Bullock County civil rights leader, left this week for New York City. He will spend three months at New York University's Center for Human Relations Studies, on the second half of a grant from the Ford Foundation's Leadership Fellows Program. As one of 20 Fellows from three Southern states, Huffman studied visual



RUFUS C. HUFFMAN

aids and teaching methods at the Robert B. Lewis Science Studio and Education Innovation Center in Aspen, Colorado, last fall. After returning to Alabama, he demonstrated new techniques before a large audience of educators--including Bullock County Schools Superintendent Edward M. Lindbloom and Macon County Schools Superintendent Joe C. Wilson. He also supervised construction of a vacuum-forming machine at Notasulga High School. The machine was given to South Highland Elementary School in Union Springs, where Huffman has been a teacher for several years.

Eric Williams, the defendant, faces trial next month in Mobile County Circuit Court. He is charged with burglary, and with raping a white woman.

Vernon Z. Crawford, Williams' lawyer, asked a four-judge panel here for permission to examine the state's evidence against Williams before the trial. The victim has identified Williams by describing an unusual belt he allegedly wore, Crawford said, and "we have had no opportunity to know what this belt looks like."

The lawyer said he needs to see the belt and some other physical evidence "in order to prepare a proper defense," and to "prevent surprises."

In Mobile, a spokesman for the district attorney's office explained the state's opposition: "If we allowed them to inspect the evidence, they might alter it or accidentally destroy its validity in court. It is the property of the state, and will be shown to the defense at the time of trial."

However, no one from the district attorney's office appeared at the Supreme Court hearing in Montgomery.

The judges noted that there are no Alabama laws or court decisions requiring the state to let the defense see the evidence before the trial.

But if the court didn't allow it, argued Justice Peiham J. Merrill, the U.S. Supreme Court probably would. "He (Crawford) ought to be allowed to examine the evidence," Merrill said, and the other judges agreed.

Afterwards, Crawford said he was surprised and pleased, because the state Supreme Court has usually been unfriendly to criminal defendants, and the ruling gives new rights to people accused of crimes. Crawford is scheduled to inspect the evidence next Wednesday.

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Union Springs, Ala.

Rufus C. Huffman, a Bullock County civil rights leader, left this week for New York City. He will spend three months at New York University's Center for Human Relations Studies, on the second half of a grant from the Ford Foundation's Leadership Fellows Program. As one of 20 Fellows from three Southern states, Huffman studied visual

Baseball star Willie Mays--who was born and raised across the street from Miles College--was back in Birmingham last week. Mayor George Seibels' Council on Youth Opportunity brought the San Francisco Giant slugger to help publicize a program aimed at finding jobs for 20,000 young people this summer. On Feb. 8, Mays spoke to 1,000 Negro teen-agers at the Collegeville Housing Project. "You're the young generation," he told them. "If you really want to get a job and get ahead, you've got to start working for it now. You've got to get education."

Northport, Ala.

The Tuscaloosa County Health Department--allied with the Tuscaloosa Opportunity Program's Operation Outreach, and the County Home Visitation Team--went into the Northport community center Feb. 7 to give shots against polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, and smallpox. Robert Hasson, a coordinator for Operation Outreach, began the community immunization program four months ago.

Birmingham, Ala.

Mrs. Rosa Walker won the \$35 first prize last Monday in the Alabama Christian Movement's annual membership contest. At the weekly meeting in the Thirdgood CME Church, Mrs. Desta Brooks won \$25 for second prize, Miss N. B. Andrews won \$15 for third, Melvin Johnson \$10 for fourth, and Mrs. Hattie Herndon, Mrs. Lela Baylor, Arthur H. Murphy, and Mrs. Fannie Lewis \$5 for honorable mention. Mrs. Lucinda B. Robey, principal of Dudley Elementary School, was the guest speaker. She was a last-minute substitute for the Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth, president of the Christian Movement, who was ill.

Montgomery, Ala.

Mrs. A. G. Gaston, director of the Booker T. Washington Business College in Birmingham, has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of the Alabama State College Foundation, Inc. The board held its first meeting Feb. 4 on the college campus. Other trustees present were Dr. William H. Benson of Chicago, Illinois, elected vice-chairman; Leotis Peterman of Montgomery, elected secretary-treasurer; Levi Watkins, president of the college; and Mrs. Bessie S. Estell of Birmingham, Attorney Thomas W. Gray of Cleveland, Ohio, is also a member of the board.

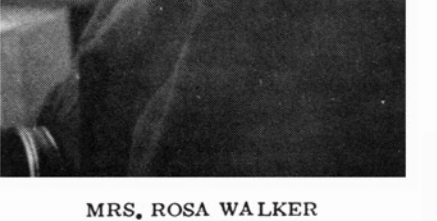
The foundation was organized last year to encourage, receive, and administer gifts for the benefit of the college.

Bessemer, Ala.

The Bessemer Voters League celebrated its 19th anniversary last Friday night with a dinner at the Dunbar school. Awards were presented for outstanding work in voter registration. There were no speeches, but everyone was happy.

Atlanta, Ga.

On Feb. 1, Julius Lester, a SNCC field secretary, was visited at his home by two federal agents, who demanded that he surrender his passport because of a trip last year to Cuba. When Lester refused to surrender his passport, he was informed that his passport is no good, and that he can be prosecuted if



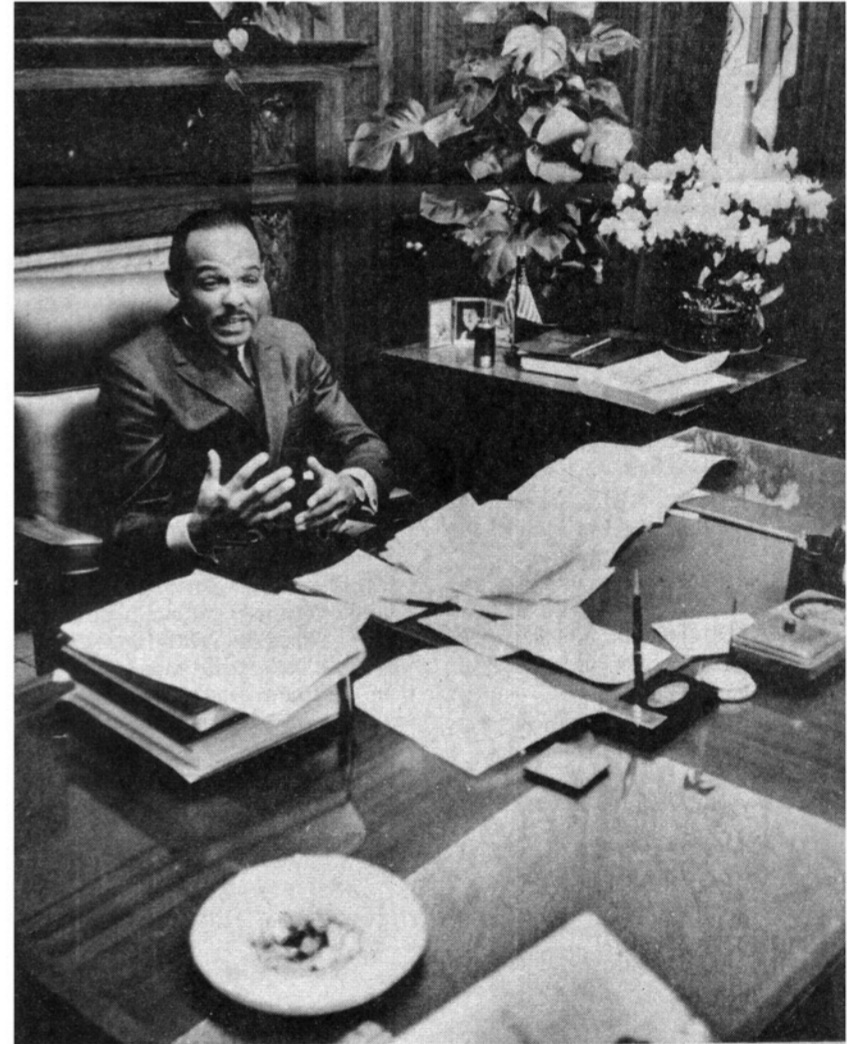
MRS. ROSA WALKER



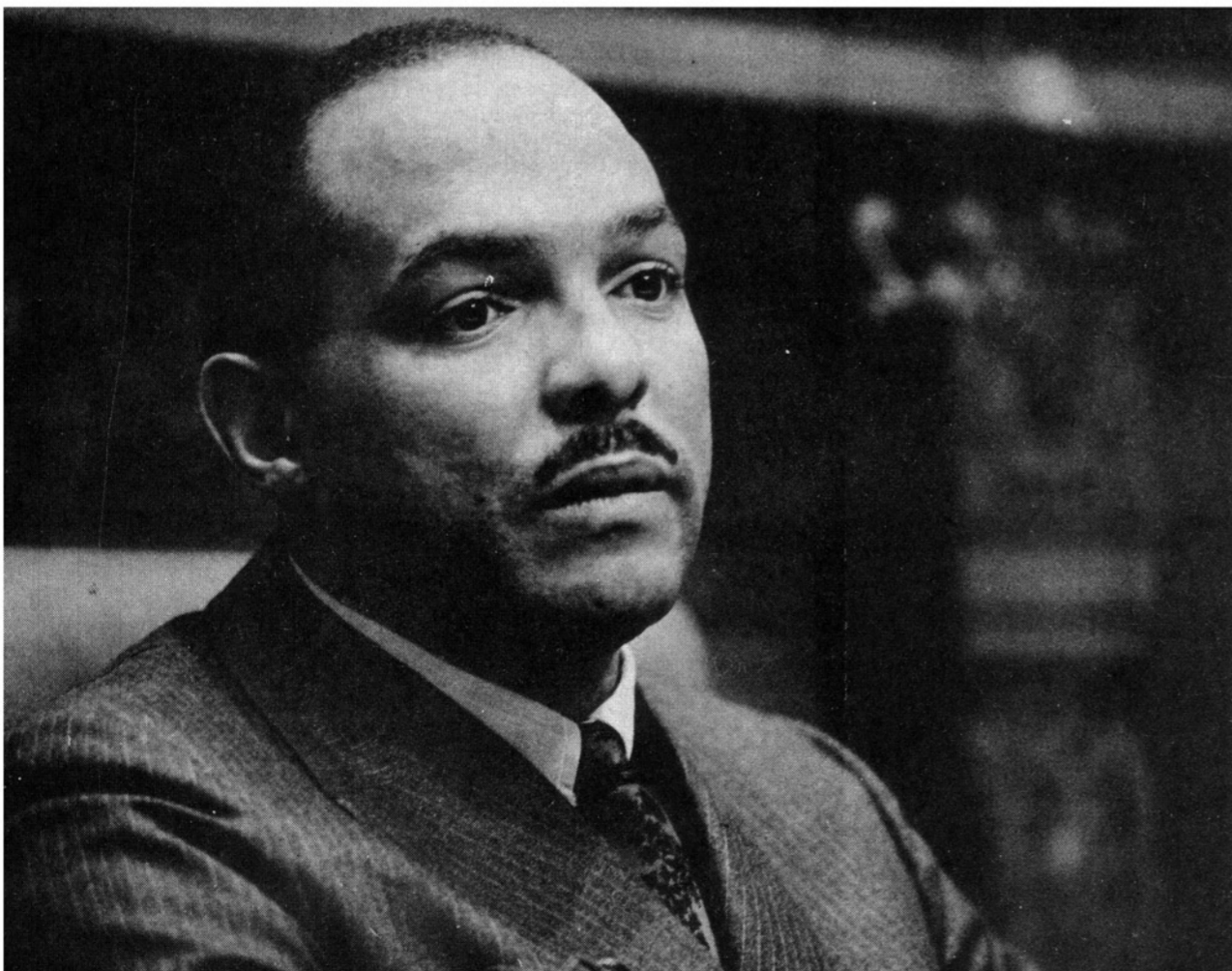
Carl B. Stokes

The Mayor of Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Ohio--Carl Burton Stokes: born June 21, 1927; then (in order) newsboy, high school drop-out, foundry worker, soldier, 1947 high school graduate, college student, investigator for the state liquor control board, dining-car waiter, Municipal Court probation officer, law school graduate, lawyer, assistant city prosecutor in 1958, member of the Ohio House of Representatives for three terms; elected mayor of Cleveland, Nov. 7, 1967.



Photos by Jim Pepler



Guyot and Freedom Democrats Work Up From the Grass Roots

BY ESTELLE FINE

JACKSON, Miss.--On August 6, 1964--toward the end of Freedom Summer in Mississippi--a group of people met in Jackson to form a political party. Some of them were civil rights workers who had come South for the Summer Project. Many were local black people, who hoped to carry on after the visitors had gone home.

That convention marked the formal beginning of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (FDP). The people at the meeting put together a state-wide party structure. They elected an executive committee, and delegates and alternates to the National Democratic Convention.

They also elected a chairman--Lawrence T. Guyot Jr., then 25 years old.

Since that time, Guyot and other FDP staff members have worked full-time--without salary--organizing voter registration drives, political workshops, boycotts, community action groups, and election campaigns.

Now the FDP is leading the drive to elect Charles Evers, state field secretary of the NAACP, to the U. S. House seat formerly held by Governor John Bell Williams. And Guyot is Evers' campaign manager.

During a not-very-successful boycott of the Jackson city buses in the late 1950's, Guyot delivered his first civil rights speech.

He joined SNCC when Bob Moses came to Mississippi. In 1960, Guyot took part in SNCC workshops--learning how to give speeches, persuade people to work, and conduct election drives.

Pretty soon, he was taking part in civil rights demonstrations around the state. He was arrested in Greenwood in 1962.

As a \$10-a-week SNCC worker, Guyot helped organize the Summer Project in 1964. Looking back on it now, he says the effort was worthwhile.

"The project shattered a number of myths about the South," he said. "It proved that it was possible for whites to come in to organize--and remain alive."

"It was also an involvement of the 'true Americans.' I mean Mississippi is no abnormality--it is a part of the United States. Those people who came in invested their lives in Mississippi."

Then came the convention in Jackson, and the founding of the FDP. With others, Guyot made plans "to attempt to wrest power from the lily-white Mississippi Democratic Party."

But when the FDP delegation went to Atlantic City, New Jersey--where the National Democratic Convention was held--Guyot didn't go along. He was in jail.

Rather than forfeit a \$700 bond put up by local people in Hattiesburg, Guyot began serving a 30-day jail sentence just three days before the national convention began.

The FDP failed to unseat Mississippi's all-white delegation to the Democratic National Convention. Many organizers returned home, bitter about their first venture into politics. Some left the FDP to work for the Child Development Group of Mississippi (CDGM), the state-wide, mostly-black Head Start program.

But the FDP kept on fighting. In January, 1965, it sent a delegation to Washington, D. C., asking the U. S. Congress to deny seats to Mississippi's elected representatives.

"In effect, FDP was challenging the constitutionality of the government of Mississippi," Guyot said. The attempt failed. By a vote of 249 to 178, Congress seated the white Mississippians.

But the FDP has had some notable successes. In 1965, it filed--and won--a law-suit calling for the reapportionment of the Mississippi Legislature. In the elections last November, 16 FDP-backed candi-

dates won public office.

One of the winners was Robert G. Clark of Holmes County, the first Negro elected to the state Legislature since Reconstruction.

The FDP has sometimes differed with other Mississippi civil rights groups, Guyot says about CDGM, "It is a bit unfortunate that those who are presently involved in CDGM have forgotten the very political nature of its origin."

Guyot has also disagreed with NAACP state director Charles Evers. Nevertheless, Guyot is working to elect Evers to the U. S. Congress.

"Voting for Mr. Evers is a blow against racism," Guyot explained. "There are and have been differences in policy and technique between the MFDP and the NAACP--but we are supporting the candidate, not the state nor the national NAACP."

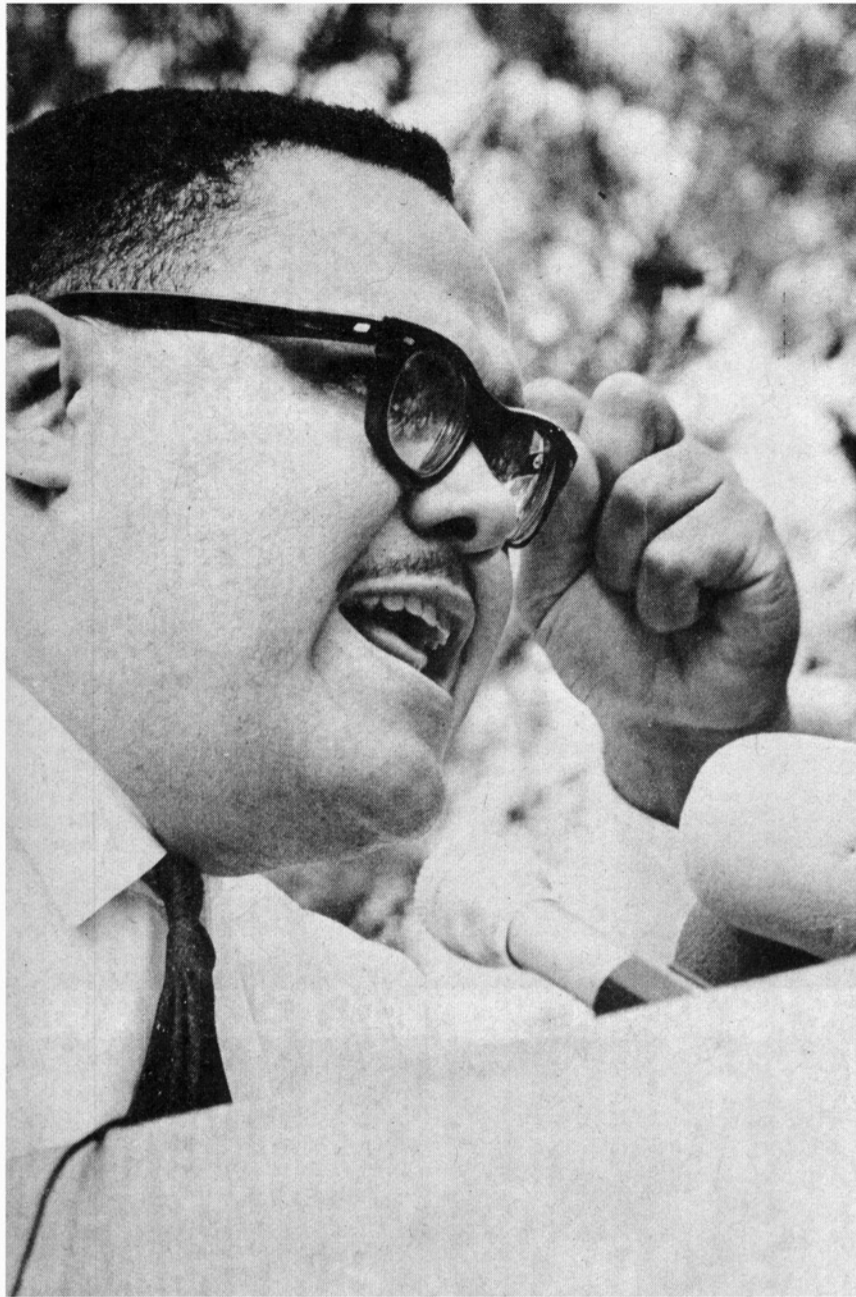
"We believe that Mr. Evers can be supported by FDP members in good conscience, since he has fought on many local issues with us and he has supported many programs the MFDP has fought for," Guyot said.

Whether Evers wins or loses the special election on Feb. 27, Guyot and the FDP will continue working.

And this summer, FDP will hold another state-wide convention. The members will choose a new set of officers to serve for the next four years. They will also elect delegates to send to the National Democratic Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

Guyot sees the FDP as something new in American politics. "Its concern has always been to deal with the problems where they are found," he said. "This does not go along with the traditional kind of political leadership that rules from the top."

"We are more concerned with creating a process of politics that produces leaders--local, grass-roots leaders--rather than a party ruled by a personality or a small group of personalities."



LAWRENCE T. GUYOT JR.

Runs for U.S. Congress

NAACP Head Charles Evers Says, 'I Am My Own Man'

BY MERTIS RUBIN

FAYETTE, Miss.--Charles Evers, state field secretary of the NAACP, is probably the best-known civil rights leader in Mississippi.

Some people admire him as a tough, effective political organizer. In his home territory--Southwest Mississippi--ten Negroes were elected to office last year.

Some people--especially "black power" spokesmen--don't think so much of Evers. They say he isn't militant enough.

Now, Evers is running for the U. S. House seat vacated by Mississippi's new governor, John Bell Williams. On Feb. 27, the voters of the 12 counties in the Third District will decide whether to send Evers to Congress.

The district is about 60% white, and Evers is appealing for white votes as well as Negro votes. He says poor whites--like poor blacks--haven't gotten what they need from Mississippi's past white legislators.

Who is Evers? Where did he come from? How did he get to where he is today?

Evers was born 45 years ago in Decatur, the Newton County seat. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Evers. He had a younger brother named Medgar.

"We never had any trouble with the white folk," Evers recalls now. "My parents were sort of old landmarks in the county. All the white people knew and respected them as long as they stayed in their place."

But Charles and Medgar Evers had their own ideas about what "their place" was. "White boys used to have paper routes through the Negro section," Evers said. "Medgar and I wanted to sell papers too, so we went down to see the man--and he said we couldn't, because the white boys sold them."

"We told him if we can't sell (the papers), they better not come in our community. Then we got our little gang together. When the (white) boys came by, we would take their papers and stomp them into the ground. They soon stopped selling them in our section."

Then, said Evers, he and Medgar started selling Jet magazine. "At that time, they almost lynched you if they caught you with a Jet, or any book pub-

lished by a black press. People would go into a back room and lock the door, just to read a Jet."

Sitting in his office in Fayette, Evers smiled as he recalled his childhood. "I could talk for hours about what Medgar and I used to do," he said.

"The only school for Negroes in Decatur at that time was a small one-room shack. Because of this, and my folks were able to afford to send us, Medgar and I went to Newton Vocational High School ten miles away from home."

World War II interrupted Evers' education. After serving in the Army, he finished high school at the Alcorn Laboratory High School in Lorman. Later, he earned a bachelor's degree in social science and physical education at Alcorn A&M College.

Shortly after graduating from college, Evers taught school in Noxubee County. But he resigned after a year and a half. He says the schools superintendent and local school board pressured him to leave.

"School-teaching was never a job for me," Evers said. "I could never accept the type of teacher they wanted--the Negro principal had to report to the white superintendent, thus the white superintendent told the Negro principal what to do."

"I've never been able to subject myself to do everything a white--or black--man said. I am a man of my own."

Evers held a number of other jobs before he purchased a hotel and a funeral home in Philadelphia in the mid-1950's. When he came to Philadelphia, Evers bought a spot advertisement from the local radio station, WHOC.

"The person they had announcing wasn't doing a good job," Evers recalled. "I told the manager this. He asked me what I wanted him to do about it."

"I told him to get somebody else. I said I could beat that myself. Then he asked me if I wanted the job."

Evers thought the station manager was kidding, but a couple of days later the man called and told him the job was his.

Over the years, Charles and Medgar Evers had worked for the NAACP, selling memberships and organizing local chapters in Mississippi. Around the time Charles Evers began his career as a disk jockey for WHOC, the national NAACP office decided to hire a Mississippi state director.

"The job only paid \$3,000 a year, and at that time I was making more than



CHARLES EVERS

that," Evers said. "I told Medgar if he took the job, I would back him financially."

As Medgar Evers began turning the NAACP into a state-wide organization, Charles Evers continued working for the Philadelphia radio station and operating his businesses.

But a few years later, Evers was sued by a local white woman after an automobile accident. He lost the case--and nearly all his assets. He left Mississippi and went to Chicago, Illinois.

Medgar Evers continued as state director of the NAACP until June, 1963, when he was killed by a sniper's bullet. Shortly afterward, Charles took over the job.

Some people say that Charles Evers was appointed "as a tribute to Medgar." But state NAACP president Aaron Henry says the NAACP leaders selected Evers because they thought he could do the job the way it should be done.

Since then, Evers has launched a number of boycotts--and in many cases, opened new jobs to local Negroes. He has organized civil rights activity throughout Southwest Mississippi.

And he has become a nationally-known rights leader. His office wall is lined with keys to cities all over the United States, newspaper clippings about his activities, pictures of him and New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy, a letter of invitation from President Johnson, and a letter of congratulation from Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey.

"I believe in organizing on a local level," Evers says. "I try to find some local person who I can discuss community matters with, and work through them. I don't believe in keeping anything from my people."

In going from county to county, Evers said, "I travel alone, because I've got this crazy feeling if I go with guards, people will say, 'Sure, Mr. Evers says all these things--but he's got guards.'" Although he has received many threatening letters and phone calls, Evers said, he isn't afraid.



GUYOT (LEFT) AND EVERS (RIGHT) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE

"Medgar and I always believed in predestination, that God gave man a certain number of days to live, and no matter what, when his time comes, he's going to die. So I put my rifle on the floor of my truck or car, and a .38 pistol on the seat."

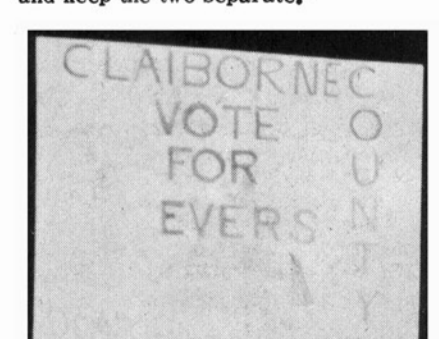
Evers has been married for 20 years. Despite his travels and speaking engagements, he still finds time for his wife and four daughters.

The NAACP and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (FDP) have not always gotten along with each other. But Evers says the differences are not significant.

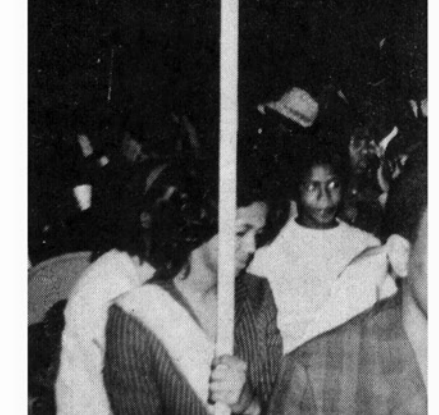
"Everybody can't agree," he remarked. "My wife and I disagree sometimes, but we don't get a divorce because of it."

"I admire FDP," he said. "I work very close with them whenever I can." But, he went on, "We're different from FDP because we're a civil rights organization. They're a political organization."

"We need an organization that's going to stick to politics and leave civil rights up to us. We'll work with them from a political standpoint, and they can work with us from a civil rights standpoint, and keep the two separate."



EVERS RALLY IN JACKSON



One recent example of co-operation between the NAACP and the FDP is Evers' attempt to win a seat in the U.S. Congress. Lawrence T. Guyot Jr., chairman of the FDP, is Evers' campaign manager.

But for the most part, Evers said, the NAACP and the FDP can do more by sticking to their own jobs. "You can't get nowhere against a white man in Mississippi if you're trying to play too many sides," he explained.

"You're not going to be effective if you're going to be a political, civil rights, and economical organization. You should concentrate on one and be good at that one. FDP should be the political mouth for Negroes in Mississippi, but you can't do that trying to march, boycott, and picket."

Nevertheless, said Evers, "in order to get what the white man has, we (Negroes) have got to unite. The white man has the Democratic and Republican parties. In counties where we dominate, we should go in and take over that party."

Black-power leaders have criticized Evers for this view, saying that black people should form their own political parties. Evers replies that after Negroes are in control of an established party, "you can name it what you want. But for God's sake, go through the local party--where all your money comes--and take over precinct by precinct."

Evers said the FDP's "greatest contribution" came at the National Democratic Convention in 1964, when the party's integrated delegation challenged the regular Mississippi Democratic Party's all-white delegation.

"They made it impossible for any state to send a white delegation to the national convention, and say they represent the Negroes of that state," Evers said.

"They've also awakened me to the importance of political life. We can't win by going out and burning and bombing. Who controls the Army, Navy, Air Force, and National Guards? The white man does--so we can't win by shooting."

Evers is more optimistic about the current state of the civil rights movement than many leaders. "We're moving towards economical and political security," he said. "We're trying to become a part of the political mainstream, to utilize things we've marched, picketed, and died for."



EVERS LEADS A DEMONSTRATION IN JACKSON

Hungry Children In Birmingham

BY BOB LABAREE
 BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--For more than a month now, Birmingham has been worrying about hungry children in its schools. Around Christmas, surveys showed that almost 8,000 children in Birmingham and Jefferson County schools were going without lunches every day, because they couldn't afford them.

According to the surveys, more than 2,000 of these children come from nine of the poorest schools in the city system--and all but one of these schools are predominantly Negro. Of the 14 Jefferson County schools which were considered to be in "desperate" need of help in feeding children, only three are white.

Federal lunch programs are already feeling about 1,700 city children, and last week another 1,500 Birmingham

Lady Charges Police Beating

BY EDWARD RUDOLPH
 GRENADA, Miss.--Negro policeman Roosevelt Bennett has been accused of beating up a Negro lady while arresting her. The lady, Mrs. Hattie Ray, was convicted of being drunk and disorderly and resisting arrest.

Mrs. Ray testified in municipal court that the beating occurred when she was arrested in Dixon's Cafe. Mrs. Ray said she asked a friend, Mrs. Ada Hinds, for some beer, but Mrs. Hinds refused.

Then, said Mrs. Ray, "Officer Bennett come and say, 'Let's go.' I told him I wasn't going nowhere. He then pulled me and drug me through the kitchen." A struggle followed, she said.

Bennett testified that Mrs. Ray refused to be arrested, and hit and kicked him. Mrs. Hinds backed up his testimony.

But outside of court, other people who saw the incident said that wasn't the way it happened. They would not go and testify, however.

"If I did," explained one person, "when I went in a cafe and drink a beer, I would have trouble with the policemen. I don't want no trouble."

Mrs. Ray was fined \$25 on the drunkenness charge, and \$29 for resisting arrest.

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 19, in the Shady Grove Baptist Church, 3444 31st Way N., Collegeville, the Rev. L. J. Rogers, pastor.

Montgomery Schools

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)
 But the superintendent said that "up to this point," teachers are being assigned across racial lines only after they agree to it.

"Have you read the court order?" Judge Johnson asked McKee. If a teacher refuses an assignment to a school of the opposite race, the judge went on, "you don't want that teacher in your system, do you?"

"We have some," McKee answered. "This will be a good chance to get rid of them," Johnson snapped.

But it was the matter of athletics that produced the most excitement of the day.

white schools.

"How can they decide before the students select the school?" Johnson demanded. McKee said the decision isn't definite.

"How can you select a coach before the students have selected the school?" Johnson insisted. "Why didn't you select a Negro assistant coach or two?"

McKee replied that this is a period of transition, and that all the faculties will be desegregated next fall.

"We're going farther than that," the judge said sternly. "We're going to desegregate some athletic programs." He said he might make both the Negro and white athletic associations defendants in the case, if necessary.

"We let any child at any school go out for any form of athletics he desires," McKee testified. And, he added, "we had one (football) game this year when there were six members of the opposing race on a team from Tuscaloosa that we (one of the white schools) played."

But Gray brought out that the Jeff Davis coaching staff is all-white, and that all its scheduled opponents in football are traditionally-white schools.

And McKee testified that "I'm sure they (Jeff Davis) plan to be a member" of the Alabama High School Athletic Association, which includes only the

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Announcements

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED--The Montgomery Head Start needs all the volunteer help it can get to work in the classrooms. Men, women, and teen-agers (minimum age 16) can all be of use. Volunteers will assist as teacher's aides and cook's helpers, and will take children on field trips in the area. A volunteer can choose his or her own hours between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on a convenient day Monday through Friday. Transportation and lunch will be furnished. If you are available, apply to the Rev. F. W. McKinney, volunteer director at 419 Madison, call 263-3474, or go to the nearest Head Start center.

MONTGOMERY REGISTRATION--The Montgomery County Board of Registrars will be in session to receive applications for voter registration during January and February as follows: Jan. 29 (all precincts), 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the courthouse; Jan. 30 (precincts 5W and 5E), 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Capitol Heights Community Center; Jan. 31 (5E and 5W), 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Goodwyn Community Center; Feb. 6 (21), 10-11 a.m., Mt. Meigs Post Office; Feb. 6 (17), 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Pike Rd. School; Feb. 6 (20), 1:30-2:30 p.m., Catholic High School; Feb. 7 (15-1 and 15-2), 10-11 a.m., Ramer School; Feb. 7 (14), 11:15 a.m.-noon, Hicks Store, Dublin; Feb. 7 (13), 12:30-1:30 p.m., Pine Level School; Feb. 7 (12), 2-2:45 p.m., Teasley's Mill; Feb. 12 (all precincts), 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the courthouse; Feb. 13 (23N and 23S), 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Cloverdale Community Center; Feb. 14 (23S and 23N), 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Floyd Community Center; Feb. 26 (7W and 7E), 9 a.m.-noon, S. McDonough St. Fire Station; Feb. 26 (7E and 7W), 1-3:30 p.m., Highland Ave. Fire Station; Feb. 27 (16), 10-11 a.m., Fred Sellers Store, Fleta; Feb. 27 (10), 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Pintala School; Feb. 27 (9), 1-2 p.m., McGehee & Davis Store, Hope Hall. The board will meet at the courthouse Feb. 5 and 19 for the purpose of registering Montgomery County citizens in the armed services, Merchant Marine, Red Cross, and affiliated organizations who are stationed outside the county. Under the law, only those persons who live in a precinct will be registered when the board is in that precinct. Barbara R. Dent, chairman; Bettie P. Neel and D. H. Guy, members.

CERAMIC SHOW--The Ceramic Hobbyists Guild of Greater Birmingham, Ala., will sponsor a ceramic show Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 24 and 25, in the Industrial Arts Building on the State Fair Grounds. Anyone may enter the show competition, but only pieces made of clay or glass will be accepted. Entries will be received in the Industrial Arts Building from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, and will be judged Friday, Feb. 23. The show will be open to the public from 1 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

MEMORIAL RALLY--A memorial for Jimmie Lee Jackson will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, in the National Guard Armory, Marion, Ala.

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Montgomery invite you to their weekly fireside at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at 3222 Santee Dr. in Montgomery. For transportation, call 265-4394. Meet Baha'ullah.

CERAMIC EXHIBIT--The public is invited to view the ceramic works of Amos White, a graduate of Alabama State College. The exhibition is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until Feb. 28, in Kilby Hall, Alabama State College, Montgomery, Ala.

PHOTOGRAPHERS--The Southern Courier is now accepting applications for the position of staff photographer. Candidates should be willing and able to travel. They should have a driver's license, imagination, and ambition. Experience will be considered, but it is not a necessity. Salary: \$30 a week plus expenses. Write to Jim Peppeler, The Southern Courier, 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104.

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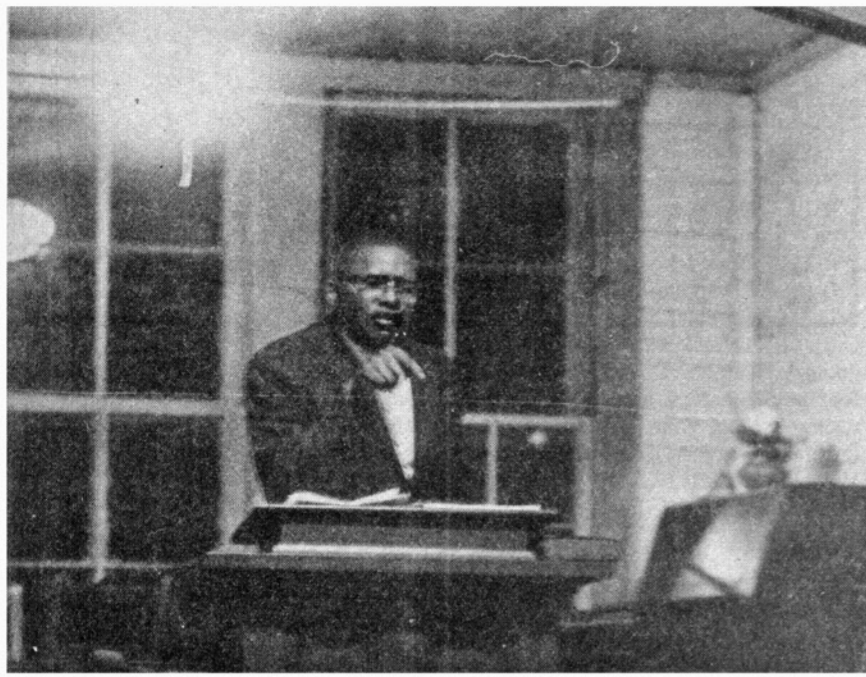
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FRED D. GRAY SPEAKS AT WEST MACON MEETING

Speaks to West Macon Group

Gray Says He'll Run Again

After Another Fight, WMIA Gets Machines

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
TUSKEGEE, Ala.--For a while last Monday morning, the February meeting of the Macon County Board of Revenue sounded like a re-play of the January meeting.

Once again, members of the all-Negro West Macon Improvement Association asked the bi-racial board to lend them ten voting machines for a rural voter-education project.

And once again--after an argument--the revenue commissioners agreed to do so.

The dispute was over a letter the revenue board had asked the WMIA leaders to sign, as a condition for borrowing the machines.

"We assume full liability and responsibility for any claims, damages, or liability that may arise from the time the voting machines leave the present storage areas until they are returned there," the letter said.

"We hereby individually and collectively agree to waive all exemptions of personal property allowed us under the constitution and laws of Alabama," Mrs. Consuello J. Harper, president of the WMIA, said the civic group couldn't sign the letter: "We are not able to get insured or bonded. We were just incorporated the first of January."

She also criticized the board for "this thing of putting material value above human value." Since 30% of the rural people in Macon County are "functional illiterates," she said, "they have a dire need to use the machines to practice on."

"We don't want to see our machines destroyed," added Otis Pinkard, head of the voter-education project. "We will protect them as far as humanly possible. But this (liability agreement) is extreme."

"The board of revenue has the responsibility to help create good citizenship. The board should be as interested in this thing as we are,"

But J. Allan Parker, chairman of the revenue board, objected. "You initially said you would be responsible for the machines," he said. "Now you are saying you don't want to be responsible."

"You say these people are functional illiterates. The board is concerned those same people might damage the machines."

After the WMIA members had left the meeting, Parker noted that the voter-education project has received a small

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
SHORTER, Ala.--Fred D. Gray--the Negro attorney who lost a close election for the Alabama House of Representatives in 1966--this week told an audience of cheering black people that he's going to try again.

"Every Southern state has a Negro in the Legislature except Alabama," he said. "The time is now."

After the Democratic primary run-off 20 months ago, Gray filed a law-suit challenging the results of his race for the state Legislature in Macon, Barbour, and Bullock counties.

The case has been winding its way through federal court ever since, and Gray admitted that it's been a long time. "The wheels of justice turn slow," he said. "But whatever the outcome, we must realize there is another election coming, there is another day--and that we believe Fred Gray is going to be the first Negro in the Legislature in the state of Alabama!"

As 75 members of the West Macon Improvement Association clapped and cheered, Gray said, "I am now appointing all of you as my campaign workers."

But, he warned, they face an uphill fight: "Very few of the white people in this community have changed their hearts. Those that have, have not enough influence to change their neighbors."

"We're gonna have to get every (Negro) registered," he said. "We're gonna have to be so well-organized that we can contact everyone in less than an hour. Getting 'em registered and re-identified isn't worth one cent if you

don't get 'em to the polls."

In his law-suit, Gray charged that he lost the election to a white man--State Representative William V. Neville Jr. of Eufaula--because of "voting irregularities."

But, Gray told the civic meeting last Sunday night, "we could have won if we had gotten the vote out. The election wasn't lost in Barbour County, it wasn't lost in Bullock County. It was lost in Macon."

Gray was defeated in the run-off by about 500 votes. Nearly all of Macon County's white adults went to the polls, but some 2,000 Negroes stayed home.

The attorney spoke to the West Macon Improvement Association in an effort to spur its voter-registration and education project. In its first month, the WMIA has registered more than 160 new voters.

But WMIA leaders said they aren't

satisfied. Robert Knight told his listeners they should continue to fight for racial equality on all fronts.

"I know of several places where they had these segregation signs tacked up," he said. "Lawyer Gray came in (with civil-rights law-suits) and took 'em down."

"Now they're tacking the signs back up in a lot of places. Why? Because we have not done our part,"

And Mrs. Consuello J. Harper, WMIA

president, said "the only place success comes before work is in the dictionary. We need to go on a diet to get fat with faith, courage, and understanding."

"We have black power in West Macon. We have the opportunity to do those things our foreparents prayed for behind the pots and in the fields. Truly, now is the time for black people. We must realize we are black and beautiful--and we have a lot to give to the world."

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.

grant. "They have money, but apparently they don't want to spend it for (voting machines)," he remarked, shaking his head.

But Commissioner W. R. Godfrey--a white man--said lending the machines would "serve a good purpose." And the board's two Negro members--the Rev. V. A. Edwards and Harold W. Webb--said they would agree to the loan, if the board had insurance covering damages to the machines.

"The agent said the same insurance that's on (the machines) now, would apply wherever they are," Parker replied.

The board then voted unanimously to allow the WMIA to borrow the voting machines until April 1--without signing a liability agreement.



Q. When it comes to oily skin advice-givers rarely consider the fact that school girls don't often get a chance to wash their faces at school. Besides, the soap in public washrooms is so strong! And -- who has time to re-apply make-up during the day? Any suggestions?

A. For starters -- morning and night at home -- use one of the antibacterial soaps. It need not be expensive complexion soap -- just one that contains bacteria-stopping ingredients. Apply with a good complexion brush and scrub for 3 to 5 minutes. Rinse, and follow with an astringent. For the hours you're away from home carry plenty of Kleenex purse pack facial tissues. During lunchtime, use these to blot off excess oil. This little trick will keep your face smooth and unshiny -- and saves re-applying make-up!

Q. Our new baby brother is adorable, but my sister Jane had to move into my room to make space for a nursery -- just when I was beginning to appreciate the one place I could be completely alone. She leaves her clothes wherever she takes them off, and she goes to bed at 8:00 p.m. What can I do?

A. Little sisters can really try your patience, but sometimes they can be surprisingly sensible. Begin by helping her clean up; then leave it up to her. Even five-year-olds like hints better than harangues. Ask your mother about investing in a room divider or movable partition. The arrangement isn't so

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Tuskegee Choir Sings

The Montgomery Tuskegee Alumni Club will sponsor a concert by the Tuskegee Institute Choir at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, in the City Auditorium, Montgomery, Ala. Admission will be 50¢ for students, \$1 for adults.

God Says:

The essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds; he whose words exceed his deeds, know verily that his death is better than his life.

Baha'u'llah

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