



MRS. LOUISE ZANDERS

More Food for Hale, Marengo

BY ESTELLE FINE

SELMA, Ala. -- "I am sick after viewing the show on TV," a Northern lady wrote to the Southern Rural Research Project after seeing the television special "Hunger in America."

She was one of the hundreds of people who have written to the Selma-based SRRP, to ask how they can help the hungry people they saw on the TV show.

The SRRP staff had taken CBS cam-

Prichard March Halted

Pogue Cut In Arrest

BY JOHN SINGLETON

MOBILE, Ala.--Last week was the second time in two months that civil rights marchers faced bayonets and shotguns while demonstrating for equal job opportunities in Mobile County.

Jerry H. Pogue, a civil rights leader and community organizer, suffered cuts, burns, and bruises when he was arrested while carrying the United States flag in the march.

Pogue was one of 110 people arrested as they made an attempt to march to the



POGUE AFTER ARREST

Prichard City Hall, dramatizing discriminatory hiring practices in a city that is said to have a 60% Negro population.

The marchers had intended to cross a bridge not far from the starting point of the June 12 march. But as the march began, riot-control squads--made up of Mobile and Prichard policemen, sheriff's deputies, and auxiliary officers--sealed off the passage to the bridge.

Several times, the marchers changed their route without warning, and quickly cut down side streets, as hundreds of onlookers laughed and jeered at the policemen. Finally, the police formed a circle around the marchers, and warned them to disperse or face arrest.

There was no parade permit for the march, spearheaded by the Mobile County Civil Rights Movement. The Rev. A. R. Ray, president of the movement, said he had been promised a permit before the march by the Prichard city government and Mayor V. O. Capps.

Later, he said, the permit was refused, after two other civil rights leaders came to the mayor and told him there was no need for a march.

(At the first meeting with the mayor, Pogue said, he suggested that Capps lead the march. According to Pogue, Capps replied, "Well, Pogue, I think that's a mighty poor damn suggestion.")

The leaders of the march told everyone in it that they should leave if they weren't prepared to go to jail for at least a week. Two hundred fifty people--about half the group--then left.

The remaining marchers sat down, (CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 1)

eramen around Hale and Marengo counties when they were making the show. As a result, CBS has been directing inquiries about Alabama to SRRP and its director, Donald A. Jelinek.

TV stations that showed the program in Boston (Massachusetts), Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), Baltimore (Maryland), and Los Angeles (California) put SRRP's address in the local papers, so that viewers would know where to write. Checks and offers of help have come from these cities, and from practically every state in the union.

People seemed most touched by the plight of 14-year-old Charles Zanders of Faunsdale (Hale County). On the TV show, Dr. Ralph Wheeler asked Zanders how he felt when he couldn't pay the 25¢ cost of a school lunch, and had to sit and watch the other children as they ate.

"I feel ashamed," said Zanders. Now, enough money has come to SRRP to pay for lunches for Zanders and his ten brothers and sisters for an entire school year. One lady who wrote in sent \$1.25 for a week's lunches for Zanders. She said that was all she could afford.

In one school, the 170 students--grades seven through 12--voted to get up their own lunches for a day. They collected \$52.80, and sent it to SRRP.

Mrs. Louise Zanders, Charles' mother, said last week that she and her family didn't see the CBS program, because they don't have a television. But, she said, friends told her daughter about it at school.

Mrs. Zanders lives with her 11 children, her mother, and her husband in a four-room shack on the Hale-Marengo county line. She said they can't get welfare, because her husband won't leave her and her family.

Now, at least, her children will get lunch at school. "But," said Jelinek in a letter to the people who sent help, "perhaps even more important than the school lunch are the other two scanty and nutritionally-deficient meals which Charles and his ten brothers and sisters must share.

"Nor do we need to remind you that Charles Zanders is not the only child in Hale County, Ala., who cannot afford the federally 'subsidized' school lunch; nor the only child who must wake up each morning to a plate of peas, and go to bed at night after only a salty piece of 'fat back' and corn bread."

Jelinek said government food programs have failed to help thousands of hungry people in Hale and Marengo counties. In Hale County, he said, two-thirds of the 20,000 people are hungry, but only one-fourth can afford food stamps.

So, he said, he is going to use the money and food people are sending to improve on the job the government is doing.

On July 15, 16, and 17 in Linden, and on July 22 and 23 in Demopolis, Jelinek said, SRRP will "distribute high-protein and vitamin-rich foods to those persons in Marengo County who have had to 'make do' with the... surplus foods 'dumped' on them by the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

He said the food will be distributed while people are waiting in line for their usual surplus commodities--like yellow corn meal, rolled oats, flour, beans, and rice.

And, said Jelinek, on July 18 and 19 in Greensboro, SRRP will give out food to people who are too poor to buy food stamps that day, or who can't buy enough of them.

Already, he said, a group in Duluth, Minnesota, with the help of a food company, is sending 18,000 pounds of food. He said people can send money--or lists of food they wish to provide--to Project HELP, P. O. Box 956, Selma, Ala. 36701.

March 'Only the Beginning,' Abernathy Tells Washington

BY JOHN CREIGHTON

WASHINGTON, D. C.-- "Today--Solidarity Day--is not the end of the poor people's crusade," said the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy. "Today is really only the beginning. We are only just beginning to fight."

Abernathy spoke out from the Lincoln Memorial podium last Wednesday to the 60,000 marchers who came to Washington in support of the Poor People's Campaign.

Standing on the same spot where the slain Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed his dream for America to 200,000 people in 1963, Abernathy and a host of other speakers damned the nation for lying to its minorities and refusing to recognize their needs.

They said the country is manufacturing a nightmare world of violence and warfare amidst images of progress.

"The Voting Rights Act of 1965--which presented voting opportunities in over 900 counties--was implemented in fewer than 100," Abernathy pointed out. "The poverty program--meager though



REV. RALPH D. ABERNATHY

it was--was completely captured by the politicians... and anything they could not take over, they cut back.

"The promise of a Great Society was burned to ashes by the napalm in Viet Nam, and we watched the Johnson administration perform as the unwitting midwife at the birth of a sick society."

The demonstrators gathered around the Washington Monument at the start of a beautifully sunny day, and were entertained for two hours by first-rank

singers, actors, gospel stars, and comedians.

The march itself consisted of a leisurely flow of people along the 1,000 yards of grass between the monument and the Lincoln Memorial grounds.

Presidential candidates Hubert H. Humphrey (who was loudly booed when his presence was announced) and Eugene J. McCarthy, about 100 senators and representatives, and 2,000 residents of Resurrection City were among the crowd listening to the speakers.

Leading off the program was Sterling Tucker--the Washington Urban League executive who had only nine days to organize the march after Bayard Rustin, co-ordinator of the 1963 march, withdrew in a controversy over the campaign's goals.

"America, you mean well, I know you do," Tucker said. "But you are so busy being powerful and... perpetrating an unjust system, that you just don't have time for us...."

"And America, you are sacrificing humanity for efficiency.... America, my America, don't you understand? YOU did this to me. YOU crippled my children!"

In 1963, militant remarks were censored from the speeches. But on Wednesday, the accusations came thick and fast, as representatives of the campaign's Indian, Spanish-American, poor

white, Puerto Rican, and welfare-rights groups spoke to the marchers and a nation-wide television audience.

"Before this great multitude, I accuse the United States of slaughtering 60,000,000 buffaloes to drive the Indians into poverty and genocide," stated Reies Lopez Tijerina of the Spanish-American Alianza de Pueblos Libres.

"I accuse the U.S.A. of violating all the human rights of the people of the Southwest... 15,000,000 Spanish-Americans have been deprived of their culture, their property, their human rights."

Although there were no anti-war speeches as such, every statement referred to the "waste" or "evil" of Viet Nam. Mrs. Coretta Scott King drew repeated ovations as she took up her late husband's anti-war theme.

"We could create 400,000 new jobs with the money we would save if we stopped the war 14 minutes sooner," she said.

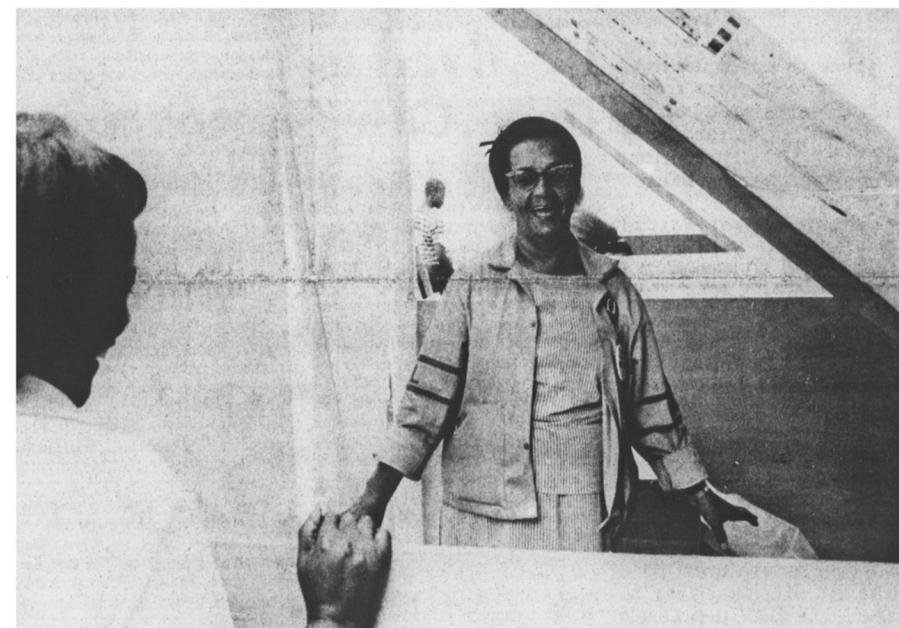
As Mrs. Rosa Parks--who started the Montgomery (Ala.) bus boycott--held the King children on her knee, Mrs. King read a telegram of support from Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, and repeated Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

The crowd cheered wildly when she said, "Women, if the soul of this nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul."

In his oration, Abernathy shrugged off the fact that the Resurrection City permit expires this Sunday.

He said the campaign will continue until no child goes hungry, no family lacks good housing, no men are without jobs or citizens without income, no human beings are deprived of health care, and no Americans are denied an education.

"There must be a national outcry (CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR, Col. 6)



BY JOHN SINGLETON

MOBILE, Ala.--Mrs. Dorothy P. Williams has returned from Washington, after spending almost a month in Resurrection City, home of the Poor People's Campaign. (Above is a picture of Mrs. Williams moving into her home in Resurrection City.)

On her return, Mrs. Williams said the civil rights movement is not like the old times, when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was alive.

The campaign is being taken over by young militants, and "the youngsters have no respect for their elders," Mrs. Williams said. "I once asked a young man to get me a chair, and he told me to get it myself."

Mrs. Williams said she felt many of the goals of the campaign were being accomplished, however, particularly in the framework of the welfare issue. She spoke favorably of such goals as free food stamps, higher aid payments, and federal control of the welfare system.

Negro Applicant Too Late in March

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

PHENIX CITY, Ala.--Miss Gloria Lockhart is the kind of student any college should be glad to get. She ranked fourth in her graduating class of 137 at South Girard High School this year. She scored high on college entrance tests.

But when she sent an application to Auburn University last winter, the university sent it back.

Miss Lockhart said she received a letter sometime in March--shortly after she applied--explaining that Auburn had already filled its freshman class for next September.

"I just accepted it," said Miss Lockhart, a pretty girl with a warm smile. "I didn't feel anything about it--not angry or anything."

Instead, she decided to go to Talladega College, where she plans to major in math. "I think it's a pretty good school," she explained. "I didn't feel that I had to go to a white school."

For Miss Lockhart, that's the end of it. But her grandfather, Albert L. Quinn--a long-time civil rights leader in

At Resurrection City, Mrs. Williams said, she made the suggestion that "anyone who doesn't live within the city should not have decision-making powers in reference to the activities of the campaign."

She said the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy and Hosea Williams of SCLC were "living in swanky Washington hotels, while the residents of the city were struggling in the mud."

"They would come through and walk around in the mud and show their faces, to let the people know they were still with them, and then go back to their hotels," she recalled. But, she said, she understood the leaders were making plans to move into the city.

The veteran Mobile civil rights leader observed that the poor whites and white volunteers at Resurrection City were more active than the black people in tasks like putting up buildings and unloading food trucks.

But whatever its faults, she said, if the campaign fails, it's going to hurt every Negro in America.

Who Next?

BY PRESLEY FRANKLIN

MARKS, Miss.--For three weeks, food and clothing have been sent into Quitman County by the SCLC staff, to be distributed to the poor.

The first truck-load that entered the county, a month ago, was to be distributed by the teachers. But people said the teachers shouldn't distribute the food and clothing, because they hadn't taken a prominent role in civil rights until recently.

Because of the people's wishes, the teachers bowed out and gave the job to W. P. Franklin, whose house was used in storing the food and clothing.

Franklin accepted the job, rather reluctantly, and proceeded to distribute the food to whoever came. But his method of giving it out drew some criticism from the poor. They said that the food and clothing weren't reaching all the poor people.

After the first truck-load, three more trucks brought food and clothing into Quitman County. Due to powerful persuasion by Franklin and an SCLC staff member working in Marks, the teachers were given the job of distributing the materials.

But the teachers again drew strong criticism from the poor.

After long deliberation on who (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 4)

Deadline Problem at Auburn U.

Russell County--feels differently.

"I don't think they should have turned her down at the time she turned in her application," he said. "I believe they've been taking students these three months."

"They just don't want to desegregate their institution, that's all," Quinn said. "There's nothing to keep her from going to Auburn but her color, I reckon--because I'm able to pay her tuition."

Quinn admitted that Auburn did accept a South Girard graduate two years ago. But, he said, "they should accept 20, 30, 50 Negroes with the amount they got now."

Some people at Auburn agree with Quinn. Late this spring, the Auburn Student Senate adopted a resolution urging the college administration to "take steps to welcome and encourage Negro students... and to attract qualified Negro faculty members and administrators."

In particular, the resolution said, the college should regularly contact "Negro students of outstanding scholastic

ability"--students like Miss Lockhart.

Why, then, did the university turn her down? "I can assure you there is no discrimination," said W. Bert Hitchcock, assistant director of admissions. The problem, he explained, is that Auburn has limited housing space for girls.

"As a matter of fact, we had to revoke about 50 acceptances," he said. "We accepted no freshman girls who applied after Feb. 5."

Since the Auburn University Bulletin says the deadline is only three weeks before the opening of school, the 1,000 freshman girls who were accepted must have had some other way of knowing they had to apply a lot earlier.

"It's in the admissions brochure we send out," Hitchcock said. "We state we have to reserve the right to establish an earlier deadline. All the colored schools receive our memo."

But he admitted that college counselors at Negro high schools may not really understand what the fine print means. "Colored students and teach-

ers just don't know it's necessary to apply in advance to such a large school," he said. "It's common knowledge among the whites."

Quinn--Miss Lockhart's grandfather--said he isn't satisfied with the university's explanation. "If they'd just accepted her," he said, "Auburn's not a long way to go, not but 35 miles. She could drive back and forth every day, just as cheap as board."

Hitchcock said Miss Lockhart might have been accepted as a commuter--if she had followed up the original refusal with another letter of application.

Isn't that placing the burden on the student--instead of on the college, which is under a federal-court desegregation order?

"We have an obligation" to educate Negro students, Hitchcock agreed. But, he said, there aren't enough admissions officials to visit every Negro--or white--high school, encourage applicants, and explain the procedures.

And one reason why Auburn hasn't (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 4)

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Table with 2 columns: City, Phone Number. Lists various cities like Alexander City, Birmingham, Helena, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma, Tuscaloosa, Tuskegee, Greenville, Jackson, Marks, Meridian.

Editorial Opinion

Law and Order

In the last few months--and especially since the second Kennedy assassination--the voices of a great many people have been raised on behalf of law and order.

There is something dangerously wrong with this analysis of American history. Violence--from the days of the frontier to the present--is an American tradition.

The mighty corporations which now control most of this country's unimaginable wealth were built up by methods that had little to do with law and order.

In the hands of irresponsible businessmen (and sometimes, government officials), the wonders of technology have ravaged the face of America. Huge rivers and lakes are so polluted by industrial wastes that fish cannot live in them and people cannot drink the water.

If Eiseley is to be proven wrong, there must be a new definition of "law and order." We must realize that demonstrations in the streets are not a threat but a challenge.

Many of the problems facing America--and the South--today can be traced to "legal" and "orderly" exploitation of natural resources--including people.

But in reality, it has been the men in power who have obeyed only the laws they like. In Alabama, the U. S. Justice Department has tardily filed suit against no less than eight state agencies for racial discrimination in hiring practices.

If there is a "breakdown" of law and order in America, the racists, the businessmen, the industrial giants, and their supporters in government offices are the people most responsible for it.

And further, they block the path toward the kind of "social legislation" that is so desperately needed to save America from itself. While people wrangle over feeding the hungry--surely the most obvious responsibility of a wealthy nation--population here and around the world continues to outrun the supply of food.

In a report last weekend, William L. Taylor, director of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, described the kind of law and order we need. "Congress," he said, "must recognize in law that every American citizen is entitled to certain basic necessities as a matter of right."

These needs are serious and urgent. If they are not met--and met soon--they will continue to turn national attention away from the equally serious and urgent problems which loom ahead--production of food to support life on this planet, conservation of the natural resources we have left, and avoidance of wars that could truly destroy the world.

Church Segregation Called 'Surprising'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"It's very surprising to me," said Joe Geker of Ghana, moments after the door to Tuskegee Methodist Church had been slammed in his face for the second Sunday in a row.

Geker and Billy Miller, a Tuskegee Institute student from Mobile, were mostly silent as they stood on the church steps in the hot summer sunshine.

A lady explained that the group--some four or five white people--had tried to enter the church, bringing Geker and Miller as their guests.

The white people refused to give their names. "They'll think we're doing this for publicity," the woman explained, "but we're doing it for Christ."

As the group stood on the steps, several white worshippers approached them. "The door is locked--you'll have to go in the back," the white lady said over and over.

Most of the church members listened with expressionless faces, and then went around to the other door. But one couple announced, "We don't go in the back," climbed into their car, and drove away.

And another white woman came around the church to tell the group that

U.S. Trial In Dope Case?

BY ROBERT E. SMITH

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--The lawyer for SWAFCA field advisor Percy Johnson is trying to convince a federal judge that Johnson cannot get a fair trial in Lowndes County, where he is charged with possession of marijuana.

Johnson, who owns a farm in north-west Lowndes County, was arrested March 22, and charged with possessing up to \$20,000 worth of the drug. He has denied the charge. SWAFCA (the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association) has long been opposed by officials in Lowndes and other counties.

Attorney Solomon S. Seay, defending Johnson, has tried to get the case removed to federal court. "There is a pattern of racial discrimination in jury selection in Lowndes County," Seay said this week. "Johnson would be denied a fair trial because of his SWAFCA activities, and because Hayneville is hostile to members of the Negro race."

Seay argued these points last Wednesday before U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr.

He admitted that the Lowndes County jury list has plenty of Negroes on it, as a result of an order by Judge Johnson in 1966. But, he said, the Lowndes jury commission disqualifies many Negroes on the list because they cannot read or write. (State law says such persons may be chosen for juries, if otherwise qualified.)

Leslie Hall, assistant state attorney general, said Seay could have asked for the trial to be held in a court outside of Lowndes County. He asked the judge to let the case "go through its normal course" in state courts.



INTEGRATED GROUP STANDS OUTSIDE LOCKED CHURCH DOOR

she had tried--unsuccessfully--to walk through a line of about five men guarding the front door on the inside.

As sounds of singing came from inside the church, the bi-racial group decided to leave. "They may have won the battle, but they're going to lose the war," predicted one man.

"They have a weak church--a divided church," said Miller, the Tuskegee Institute student. "It can't stand like that."

Why won't the all-white Methodist church admit Negro worshippers? J. E. Bridges, chairman of the board of stewards, said "that was strictly a decision based on the vote of the board about three years ago."

The only way the decision can be reversed, he said, is "if someone puts a motion from the floor."

Bridges refused to say what he thinks about the matter. "I have a personal opinion," he said, "but I have no intention of imposing it on anyone."

The United Methodist Church also has

Auburn

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) actively sought Negro students, he said, is that many of them can't meet standard admission requirements.

"In my opinion, we are punishing the Negro students because they are less well prepared," he said. "But there is a question of how we're going to bridge the gap."

Some members of the Auburn Student Senate--although not a majority--suggested that the university offer a special training program. Hitchcock said, however, that he doesn't think Auburn should "step down from the university level--where this has been tried, it didn't work out so well."

But Quinn said Alabama needs leadership to promote racial equality, and the universities should provide some of it.

"There comes a time when you got to be together," he said. "There comes that time. It's bad not to know that all peoples are human."

MARKS FOOD

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

should give out the materials, the preachers were picked. Already the preachers are getting strong criticism from the poor people.

No method seems good enough to satisfy the minds and stomachs of the poor.

an opinion--a national policy forbidding racial discrimination. W. Kenneth Goodson, bishop of the Birmingham Area (Alabama and West Florida) reminded Bridges of that policy in a telephone call early last Sunday morning.

"I said I hoped they would admit anyone who came to worship," Bishop Goodson recalled this week. "My office will attempt to use every persuasive power that we have."

But, he went on, "all I can use is moral persuasion. I'm doing all I can. I have no troops. I have no enforcement officers."

"I would hope the Tuskegee Methodists are Methodist Christians, and will come to see that the national policy is the policy all Methodist Christians should follow."



Mobile, Ala.

Black and white Mobile families gathered at the McGill Institute auditorium June 9 to pay their respects to the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy. The Rev. F. J. Foley, a white priest and instructor at Spring Hill College, gave a talk on "What He Stood For." Kennedy could have lived a life of luxury, Foley said, but the senator "was concerned with the problems of the poor and the disenfranchised." The Rev. Ray Dawson, a Negro minister, said all men must be prepared to give their lives for their obligations, and "the end for all men is the same--rich or poor, strong or weak, lettered or ignorant."

Richmond, Va.

Nine Negroes were elected to city councils in eight Virginia towns on June 11. In Portsmouth, two Negroes were elected--Dr. James W. Holley, who led the field, and Raymond Turner, who ran fourth. William Dyson Hobson, a garage owner, defeated Mayor E. E. Stone for a seat on the Martinsville council, and led the ticket in the process.

Huntsville, Ala.

The Peoples Center For Human

Why Did Job End?

BY JOHN SINGLETON

MOBILE, Ala.--Mrs. Benita Davis, a case-worker for the Mobile Area Community Action Committee (MACAC), was given a hand-delivered, unstamped letter by one of her co-workers last week.

The letter said, "You were employed on a temporary basis. This is to inform you that your service with this agency must be terminated effective June 14, 1968. We sincerely appreciate your assistance and hope that you can find permanent employment soon." It was signed by Norman Davis, director of MACAC.

About a month ago, a picture of Mrs. Davis--standing next to the Rev. Thomas McAboy, a Negro who is running for city councilman in Prichard--appeared in the Mobile Beacon.

The following week, a correction was run in the Beacon, saying the picture was not of a political nature, as had been stated before.

Mrs. Davis said she was at a meeting that night to talk to three young ladies who were to be screened for employment at Ross Jewelers. She said she was not there to endorse candidates, as the picture was taken by mistake.

Mrs. Davis said MACAC Director Davis showed her a copy of the paper that indicated she was endorsing candidates (which is against the rules of most government agencies).

At a civic meeting last week, Mrs. Davis told 300 people she felt she had been unfairly dismissed.

The next day, she was escorted to the MACAC headquarters by David Jacobs, director of case work for the Neighborhood Organized Workers. Jacobs said his three objections to the termination of Mrs. Davis' job were:

"First, the procedure in which it was done--the unsealed, hand-delivered letter. Second, MACAC reports there is lack of funds, yet federal programs are supposed to be appropriated on an annual basis, and as of now Mrs. Davis is the only one, to my knowledge, to have been terminated. Third, others are still (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 4)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The United States of America may be committing suicide--not just collectively, but all of us as individuals, because the cause of all our nation's problems begins with each of us.

There is among humans such a thing as basic morality. Over the centuries it is continually re-discovered and re-phrased. The reason is that it is, at basis, common sense--the most natural way for men to live together successfully. In fact, it may be the ONLY way for people to live together successfully.

It's called, in our culture, the golden rule--"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It carries with it the implication that each act of ours will become universal behavior. By acting we endorse that action. We can SAY many things, but what we DO tells the world what we want done.

If the golden rule is the foundation of a sane, decent society of people, the reverse seems to be the case in America today--"Do unto others as they do unto you, or as you think they're doing to you, or as you think they might do to you, or as you think they could conceivably do to you."

What people are doing, in effect, is demanding that the other fellow be

moral, decent, sane FIRST: "If you'll be good, then I'll be good--but not before." The inherent problem is that the other fellow is always saying the same to you. Why? Because you've demonstrated by action that that is how you want him to behave.

When we act in a certain way (carrying weapons, for example), we endorse that action, and invite our friends to follow it (and also carry weapons). But we also compel our enemies to follow it (for "self-defense"--they see us with a gun, so they get one)...

Any of us can only indirectly and imperfectly and incompletely control the acts of other people. But our control over our own actions is almost absolute.

If each of our actions is to become universal, we must insure that our acts are peaceful and decent. Humanity starts with us as individuals.

If we act properly, we remove the reason for others to do anything but likewise. If I do not carry a gun, others have no lawful reason to carry guns in my neighborhood. If they continue to carry weapons without reason, they distinguish themselves as criminals rather than decent men.

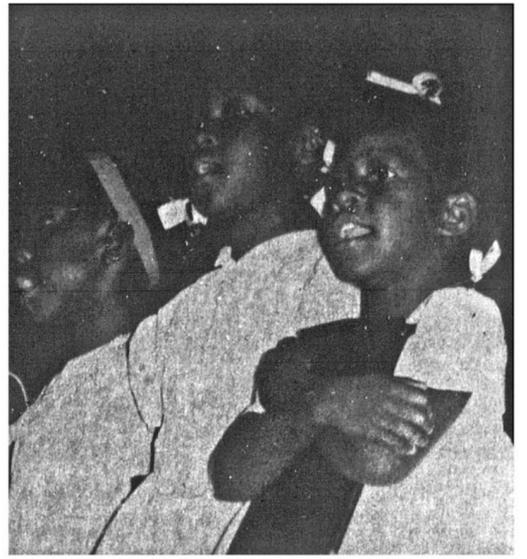
This is the effect of the golden rule--to separate the criminals from the decent men... But the decent men must act as decent men if they are to be recognized. In America today, it is difficult to tell any of us from criminals, which makes it very difficult to catch criminals...

The killers of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King were trying to act for all of us--as were the rioters in Watts, Newark, Chicago, etc., as were the police in Watts, Newark, Chicago, etc. But beyond condemning their actions--which is only words--we must ACT FOR THEM ourselves, by behaving as they should.

For if action is an endorsement for others to act, then killing is a request to be killed. Unless we control OURSELVES, then America is committing suicide.

James H. Poppler East Meadow, Long Island, New York

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



Gospel Show in B'ham

'I've Got Good Religion!'

BY SANDRA COLVIN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--"Lord, I've got it in my feet, I've got it in my feet. I've got it in my head, I've got it in my head. I've got good religion. Yes, Lord, I've got good religion!"

A predominantly-black crowd of about 2,000 people from all over Alabama clapped their hands and patted their feet as they witnessed a state-wide gospel talent show here last Sunday.

Some--"moved by the Holy Ghost"--got up out of their seats and began to jump and move all around in Birmingham's large city auditorium.

Using almost every type of musical instrument to aid them, the participants tried to give their best performances, in order to win the cash awards and trophies that went with high ratings from the judges.

Some folks went home before the long parade of performers had finished, but other people continued to enter the comfortable auditorium as the show went on. The program began at 3 p.m., and was not completed until 1 a.m. Monday morning.

While the groups waited for the judges to tally the points, some participants from past years added new touches to the program by singing more "good gospel music."

Miss Shirley Caesar--an evangelist who has traveled all over the country during the past year, and who is a past participant in the search-for-talent contest--was awarded a gold record for her "outstanding work for the Lord."

Later, Miss Caesar invited everyone to "pray with me for about 15 minutes." The slender young woman had been praying only for a short time before the whole auditorium began to respond to her soulful prayer.

From nowhere, people stood up and clapped, and some shouted and sang out their own praises.

And when Miss Caesar was lifted down from the platform and moved around the floor of the auditorium calling out praises to the Lord, practically everyone in the auditorium got out of their seats and followed her.

For those who had only come to witness the talent show, this change of pace proved to be something of a bewilderment. The expressions these people wore on their faces ranged from shock to fear.

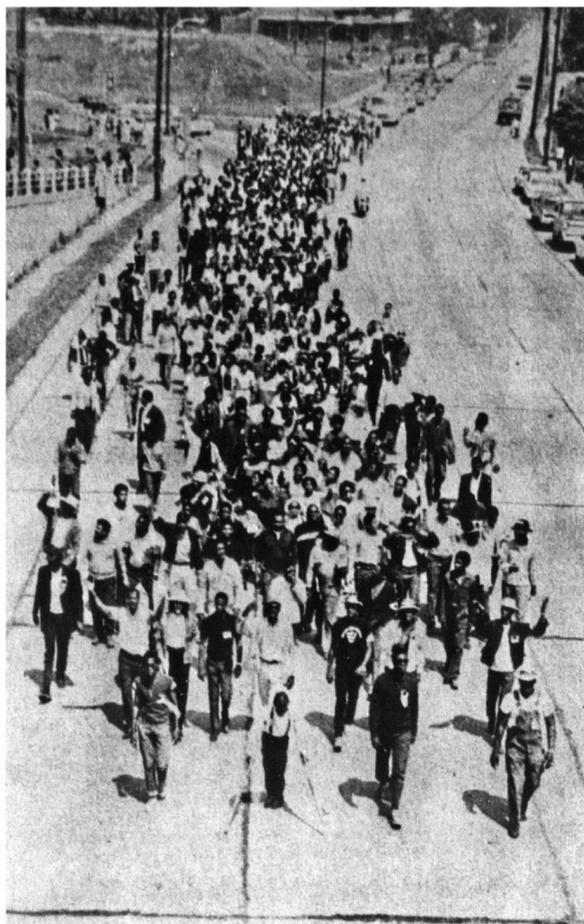
At about 12:45 a.m., the moment that everyone had been waiting for arrived. The auditorium became very quiet, as the people listened to hear the winners.

First place in the solo division went to Billy the Blind Boy. The Phillips Specials won first prize in the female vocalist groups, while six little boys who call themselves the Birmingham Spirituals took first honors among the male groups.



Photos by Kenneth Lumpkin & Melvin Todd





MARCHING THROUGH VIRGINIA

Poor People from Black Belt Discover

Virginia Is a Lot Like Home

BY BOB LABAREE
 WAVERLY, Va.--When the Poor People's Campaign marched through Waverly last month, people from Alabama and Mississippi might have thought for a moment that they were back home again in the Black Belt.

On either side of the marchers, black mothers with babies in their arms watched curiously from the porches of unpainted shanties. Ragged black children scampered bare-foot after the marchers. From the door of a hut no bigger than a tool shed, an old man stared with sightless eyes.

At the head of the procession, Negro leaders from Waverly pointed out the many homes which have no running water or indoor toilets. Some houses are still without electric lights, they said, and the marchers could see for themselves that the streets are no more than dirt paths.

The procession rounded a bend and entered an area where people own the houses they live in. Most of the homes are in good repair and have lawns and picket fences.

But it was explained that many of these homes--owned by Negroes--have no sewers and lights. "And they pay taxes like everybody else," Roland Parham, a Waverly resident, said bitterly.

In the white folks' part of town, he

said, all the services are available. There are other grievances, too--less visible ones--which SCLC named in a five-page statement handed out during the march.

"In spite of its potential wealth," the statement said, "Sussex County (where Waverly is located) is one of the most impoverished counties in the nation."

A private citizens group which investigated hunger in the United States said many people in Sussex County are starving or seriously under-fed, the statement went on, but still no poverty program has been brought in.

SCLC also complained of an inadequate welfare system, discriminatory employment practices, low wages, and poor schools.

Negro leaders in Waverly blame many of the problems on one man--State Senator Garland Gray, a member of the Virginia Legislature since 1942 and the owner of the slum dwellings the march passed by.

In Waverly--a town of about 2,000 people--everything belongs to Senator Gray, the leaders said. He owns the lumberyard (the town's main industry), the bank, and much private property.

Cary Stronach of SCLC estimated that Gray owns a total of 68,000 acres of Sussex County land. He inherited much of it from several generations of wealthy ancestors, and bought the rest.

The SCLC statement called Gray an "incompetent old man who rules the community with an iron hand," and claimed that "his insistence on controlling everything has stifled initiative on

the part of both whites and blacks."

"I was born here and my daddy died here working on his place," said Leon Adkins, a high school teacher now living in a town nearby. "He (Gray) keeps all other industry out--you can't start a business in this town without going through him. And he even controls who teaches in the schools."

Adkins recalled that, several years ago, he graduated from college and applied for a teaching position in a Waverly high school, but was turned down. "They just want transient people," he explained. "Anybody who's raised here and gets an education and comes back, might want to change things. They want to keep people moving so they won't cause any trouble."

Stronach said he knows from experience that similar obstacles confront anyone who wants to enter politics.

On two occasions in the past, he said, SCLC leaders were arrested when they tried to run for office. "They paid some Negro to say that I threatened his life, and then arrested me," said Stronach, a white man.

Stronach also criticized Senator Gray's record as a legislator. "He's supported all the most reactionary

ills," the SCLC leader said.

When Negroes first began sitting-in at Virginia lunch counters, Gray supported an anti-sit-in law. He also introduced a bill to sterilize all un-wed mothers.

But Gray opposed a bill to lower the work week for state hospital employees to 40 hours.

Parham--one of the Negro leaders--said, however, that some improvements have taken place in Waverly in the three years since the Sussex County Improvement Association was formed.

As a result of the association's efforts, he said, some streets have been paved and more Negro homes have electricity.

There have been desegregation campaigns, too, even though Parham could count only four Negroes who attended traditionally white schools last year.

And last July, he said, voter registration drives paid off in the election of a Negro sheriff's deputy.

"We have criticized Waverly sharply," SCLC said in the final paragraph of its statement. "But we do so not out of spite, but out of love, for if we did not love this town we would not criticize it. . . . We would simply abandon it."

While the Kids Shoot Pool, Demonstrations Go On

BY SANDRA COLVIN

WASHINGTON, D. C.--The wooden tents of Resurrection City are lined up in several columns. Outside the tents, there is only a small area where the mud has not already covered the grass. Many of the paths leading to the tents are really mud puddles, and the mud is often half a foot deep.

In one place where a little grass has held out against the sea of mud, there are pool tables. The little kids stand back and watch the bigger ones take turns shooting.

Most of these games are very silent, and rarely does anyone exclaim over defeat or victory. It's just something to do.

Newsmen are a common sight at Resurrection City, and black reporters are usually well-received by the people there.

As a black newsman walks around the camp-ground, sloshing through the mud, some of the people may "accidentally" cause him to fall. When he stands up, he may find that his expensive shoes and clothing are covered with thick red mud.

"Sorry," come the meek voices of the people responsible for the unfortunate "accident." If the black reporter replies, "That's okay, man, anybody can slip out here in all this mud," then he gets a smile from his newly-acquired friends.

As he walks away, he may hear somebody say, "Hey, you know, that black reporter is okay."

Demonstrations are a part of the daily lives of the participants in SCLC's Poor People's Campaign. On Wednesday, May 29, a group visited the U. S. Su-

preme Court. About 200 people greeted the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy and other members of the delegation as they came down the steps. The people waiting outside were of all ages and many colors, ranging from black through brown and red to white.

They all had one thing in common. They were all poor people who had come to the nation's capital "to tell it like it is" and "to collect what's mine." Abernathy--president of SCLC since the assassination last April of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.--looked very tired as he addressed the crowd of campaign participants, newsmen, and other spectators.

"Today the Poor People's Campaign moved into another phase," he said. "We came in support of our red-skinned Indian brothers. We are protesting the injustice that has been inflicted upon them."

Abernathy said he and the rest of the delegation went into the Supreme Court building to present a petition. But, he said, they did not succeed.

The only person available to receive the list of demands was the clerk of the court, Abernathy explained. Because the clerk is "incompetent" and not qualified to deal with the problems, Abernathy said, "we did not present our petition to him."

"We are together," Abernathy told his listeners. "White, black, brown--we are all with our Indian brothers, because this was their land before it was ours and they only want the right to fish, and we will fish with them."

Abernathy said that decisions on what to demand for the American Indians "were made by the Indian brothers, and we backed them up 100% as we will do from now on."

The question of how long SCLC's Poor People's Campaign will go on has been asked throughout the entire country. Abernathy answered the question here

on the Supreme Court building steps. "We intend to be in Washington until all these problems are solved," he said, referring to the demands made by the various groups participating in the campaign.

Then one of the Indian leaders spoke. He called for the release of "political prisoners" who "are the victims of American injustice."

About the Author



Miss Sandra Colvin (above) of Montgomery, Ala., a student at Alabama State College, spent several days in Washington, D. C., with the Poor People's Campaign. In this article, she tells what life was like in Resurrection City during her visit, and describes some of the demonstrations she observed.

Amid loud applause, he said, "We have just come out of a meeting with a group representing an organized conspiracy called the Supreme Court."

The Indians will be governed by the laws of their Indian forefathers, he said, and "not by phony laws made for corporations."

Miles Horton, a white man from Apalachia, said "We must change this system which produces poverty, and create a system that makes poverty a

part of ancient history."

Earlier in the day, it was reported that rocks were being thrown through the windows of the Supreme Court building by some of the SCLC marchers waiting outside. Abernathy spoke to the crowd about the incident.

"I've heard that rocks were being thrown at this building today," he said. "I've heard that the press threw them, that the police threw them, and I have heard that the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) threw them."

Although he didn't know who had thrown the rocks, Abernathy said, "I do know that nobody in our group threw them, and if there are rocks being thrown, then they are the rocks of justice--and they will be thrown until the walls of injustice come tumbling down."

The SCLC leader repeatedly charged that America is deliberately destroying many groups of people throughout the nation. "When you deny people the basic necessity of life--food--that is genocide," said Abernathy.

While the delegation was inside meeting with the government officials, the crowd outside passed the time in different ways. Some people splashed and played in the pools in front of the building.

More than 100 city policemen, many of them carrying billy clubs, mingled with the crowd. Other officers stood along the door to the building, and a line of policemen also formed along the sidewalk.

Most of the policemen were white, although a black face could occasionally be seen among them. The black officers had billy clubs also.

Occasionally, one of the black campaigners would look at a black policeman and ask in a serious voice, "Brother, you're not going to beat me, are you?"

Often there would be no change in the policeman's facial expression--just an impersonal stare. At other times, the black cop would simply smile.

A group of young blacks and whites stood around the flagpole. A young white woman climbed up on a cement pillar, and lowered the flag to half-mast. Two men--one black and one white--moved over to the pole and began to raise the flag again.

But before they could finish, they were grabbed by policemen. All three people were arrested. As the woman was being led away by police officers, one of them struck her.

Earlier that same day, a black campaigner--identified only as "Arthur"--dropped dead in the restaurant at the U. S. Department of Agriculture building.

On the Sunday following the young man's death, about 2,000 people marched silently to the Department of Agriculture. The demonstration, led by Hosea Williams, was a very brief one.

Williams told the crowd they must continue to struggle for freedom for all men, because "there is a conspiracy going on in this country, and remember that they killed Dr. King for this campaign."

"Millions of dollars worth of food that little black and white babies could eat are dumped into the Atlantic Ocean every year to feed the fish," Williams charged.



BUILDER ROOFS A WOODEN TENT

He told the policemen on hand that "we will bleed until every drop of blood drops from our bodies." Then he urged them to throw down their guns and billy clubs and "join the fight for freedom."

At the front of the line, some demonstrators carried a crudely-made casket, to dramatize Arthur's death.

"Arthur's mother tried to get him to stay at home and not join the Poor People's Campaign, because he was ill," Williams recalled. "He knew he was not well, but he told his mother, 'If Martin Luther King could give his life for freedom, then surely I can give mine.'"

Then, pointing to the Agriculture building, Williams said, "You are a murderer."

Before the march, Lou Rawls and his band performed at Resurrection City. Although it rained during the outdoor show, everyone stayed to listen and clap their hands to the sound of "soul music."

As the rain came down--and later, as the Poor People's Campaign faced internal problems of organization, leadership, and co-operation--some participants left. But others stayed on, saying, "We'll be here. The mud won't make us move away."

60,000 March

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

against leadership which refuses to act in the best interests of all the people," said Abernathy. "And we will stay in Washington and fight until the nation rises up and demands real assurance that our needs will be met."

"But we will fight non-violently. I will not sink so low as to imitate the very worst of white Western violence. The United States government is the leader of the violent movement in the world."

"They believe in fire-power, but Ralph Abernathy will rely on soul power!"



REV. RALPH D. ABERNATHY AND MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING VISIT RESURRECTION CITY



RESURRECTION CITY STREET SCENE

(Photos by Gideon Ben-Barak)

On Central Ala. Discrimination

Commission Asks Action

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
MONTGOMERY, Ala.--In 15 angry letters, the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights has asked government agencies to do something about the instances of racial discrimination it uncovered during its hearings here last month.



WILLIAM L. TAYLOR

William L. Taylor, the commission's staff director, charged in one letter that segregation still exists in Alabama's trade schools.

"Students continue to be bussed to trade schools outside of their county even though there is a trade school in their county," Taylor said.

And, Taylor said, the director of Tus-

Garbage Men

Go on Strike

MOBILE, Ala.--"We want to be recognized as men," said sanitation worker Cleophas Tate, as he left the picket line for a break.

Picket lines were set up Tuesday morning at city offices, after 50 Negro garbage collectors did not answer roll call and walked off their jobs on Monday.

The workers are seeking recognition as a union, and are asking to be reclassified from garbage collectors to sanitation engineers.

On Tuesday, picketers carried signs like those seen during the Memphis, Tenn., garbage strike--saying "No Recognition, No Work," "Union Justice Now," and "I Am a Man."

City Commissioner Lambert C. Mims warned the workers at a meeting several weeks ago that they would lose their jobs if they staged a strike or walk-out.

But, said Taylor, just seven of the 75 employees who have completed the program are Negroes, and no Negroes were among the ten trainees last February.

Finally, the commission criticized federal programs that are supposed to be helping farmers and small businessmen.

The Cooperative Extension Service operates "in a racially discriminatory manner in Alabama," Taylor told Orville Freeman, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture.

In a letter to Robert C. Moot, administrator of the Small Business Administration, Taylor sharply attacked the SBA's Birmingham regional director, Paul Brunson, for arranging and participating in segregated public-information meetings.

On Nov. 14, 1967, Taylor said, the SBA held an informational meeting for Macon and Bullock counties at the Union Springs Country Club--where Negroes could not attend.

Taylor said he is concerned about the "negative effect" such conduct has on Negroes' confidence in SBA programs.

The commission's preliminary reports--released last Friday--made it clear that the 15 letters merely skimmed the surface of alleged eco-

nomie discrimination in central Alabama.

Taylor said the commission concluded that "government is not intervening effectively at any point to provide people who have been victims of slavery and discrimination with an opportunity to lead decent and productive lives."

One apparent government response was a suit filed last week by the Justice Department, charging eight state agencies with discrimination in employment.

It was also announced this week that the Farmers Home Administration is going ahead with an \$850,000 loan to SWAFCA (the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association).

Mrs. Davis' Job

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO) employed, and Mrs. Davis had acquired seniority."

Norman Davis was out of town, Jacobs said, but he talked with Assistant Director Andrew Curtis, who told him Mrs. Davis was hired only on a temporary basis because of lack of funds.

Jacobs said his group will continue its efforts to have Mrs. Davis re-hired. But at the moment, Mrs. Davis is unemployed, with four children and a home to pay for.



FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tusculumbia-Sheffield, Auburn-Opelika-Tuskegee, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa.

WOMEN'S DAY--The New St. James Baptist Church will hold its annual Women's Day observance Sunday, June 23, in the church at 600 N. Fourth Ave., Birmingham, Ala.

WORLD AFFAIRS CONFERENCE--John D. Jernegan, recent U. S. Ambassador to Algeria, will be the featured speaker at the Southern Conference on World Affairs this Friday through Sunday, June 21-23, at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss.

CARD OF THANKS--In loving memory of our late husband and father, Mr. Oscar Lee of Ensley, Ala., we wish to thank the staff of the Lloyd Noland Hospital--especially Doctors Goral and Holt and Nurse Smith, and all the employees that work in the Heart Station and Section A on the fourth floor--for their kindness. Thanks also to the Rev. F. N. Nixon, pastor, and the members of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, and to our neighbors and friends. Mrs. Varle P. Lee and Rudolph Lee.

WELFARE RECIPIENTS--Welfare recipients and other poor people seeking to defend themselves against injustices in the welfare system--and to change that system--have organized into the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO).

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--"Is the Universe, including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force?" This question is the topic of the Lesson-Sermon to be read in all Christian Science churches Sunday, June 23.

ARTS SEMINAR--The Alabama Art League will hold a Seminar on the Visual Arts Friday through Sunday, June 28-30, at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Ala.

ART EXHIBIT--A display of Japanese prints and lithography by Hans Bhalla and Tamami Shima is being shown from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until June 30 in the College Art Gallery in Kilby Hall, on the Alabama State College campus in Montgomery, Ala.

TRAINING JOBS FOR VETERANS--Government agencies can now hire Viet Nam-era veterans for jobs under special, non-competitive "transitional appointments."

VETERANS' PENSIONS--Needy veterans with war-time service who are 65 or older may qualify for a Veterans Administration disability pension without proving that they have a specific disability.

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

HOME LOANS--A new law permits the Veterans Administration to guarantee 60% of a home loan for an unremarried serviceman's widow.

Personally Yours... answers questions about Junior Miss etiquette, grooming and interests. Q. Another long dreary summer coming up! I'm too young to work and too old (and bored!) not to plan something. What can I do to fill up those long empty days? A. Summer can be a real drag without something to do.

Lesajoyce Price Says: I am ten years old, and I'm in the fifth grade at Center St. School in Birmingham. I'm a member of the New Hope Baptist Church, and an usher for the Alabama Christian Movement. I have been selling The Southern Courier for the past three years. I enjoy selling the paper.

Prof. Val Palmist, Crystal & Psychic Reader WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU WISH TO KNOW!! Would You like to know? Who and when you should marry? How to always get your wish? Why you are so unlucky? How to make a person at distance think of you? How to restore lost nature? See me!

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Welfare Workshop in Miss.

'Got to Know the Rules'

BY PERRY WALKER

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss.--"An immense amount of work must be done on the welfare system before it gives people justice," Jim Lewis of the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee said last week.

Lewis was speaking to community and social workers, social service directors, and representatives of various North Mississippi anti-poverty programs, who gathered at Rust College June 8 for the first of a projected series of welfare workshops.

The workshop, sponsored by North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS), was designed to familiarize social workers with the welfare system--how it works and how it doesn't work, what's wrong with it, and how it can be controlled and changed.

Lewis condemned welfare categories as "useless." He said each welfare applicant "has to prove that he fits the category--often a long struggle." And then, he said, the welfare system gives only 26% of the minimum amount needed for subsistence.

The Mississippi Legislature, Lewis said, has appropriated the same amount of money for welfare for the past ten years, so that "the state is actually giving out less for welfare now than it was ten years ago."

Solomon Gort, project director for the Delta Ministry in west Tallahatchie

'Huntsville Is No Different'

BY JOEL ROSEN

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.--"Huntsville is no different from any other place as far as segregation is concerned," said Mrs. Ann Phillips.

Mrs. Phillips was speaking of a Memorial Day incident in which her son and a friend, Maurice Sanders, were refused admission to two roller skating rinks in Huntsville.

The two Negro youths, and their chaperone, Miss Tia Juana Crump, were denied admission to the Rainbow Skating Rink and Carter's Skateland because, as representatives of the managements told them, "We are not integrated."

"As liberal as Huntsville is supposed to be, we can't go to some places for recreation. If they are so concerned with keeping kids off the street during the summer, situations like this cannot exist," said Miss Crump, a student at Alabama A&M College.

According to a local spokesman for the U. S. Department of Justice, it is doubtful whether situations like this are covered by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Although both rinks have snack facilities, their type of service would not classify them as having a restaurant serving the public, he said.

When asked to comment on the situation, Mayor Glenn Hearn discounted it as "trivial." He said, though, that he would speak to the owners of the two rinks to see just what can be done.

March

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) and demanded to be picked up and put into the paddy-wagons. Two Negro policemen were sent in, but the people said they wanted white policemen.

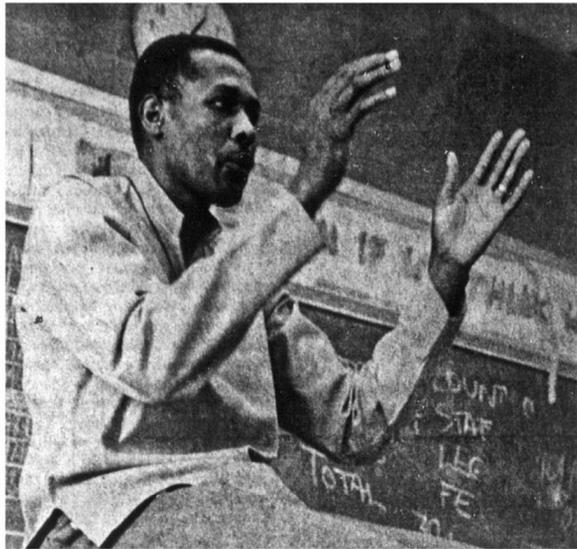
As the arrests continued, two small officers tried to lift Pogue, who weighs more than 240 pounds. When they couldn't lift him, about five more policemen came and started dragging him away. A scuffle began, as the march marshals tried to protect Pogue.

When the civil rights leader would not release his flag, he was clubbed several times, gassed in the face and eyes, and crammed into a crowded paddy-wagon. Tear gas was then shot into the paddy-wagon, as people screamed, "Oh Lord, don't let 'em kill us now."

A yellow bus made two trips to the jail with prisoners. The Rev. Ray Dawson hollered from a window of the bus, "All you Uncle Tom preachers out there who didn't go to jail... better be out of town when I get back."

The police department said Pogue's head injuries were from the eagle on his flag-staff falling on his head. He received X-rays and stitches at Mobile General Hospital.

Advertisement for Mrs. Lena Frost of Demopolis, Ala., who sells 600-1,000 Southern Couriers every week in Marengo and south Greene counties. Includes a small portrait of her.



SOLOMON GORT AT WELFARE WORKSHOP

County, stressed the need for everyone to "know the system" in order to bring about change--not only in welfare, but in other agencies as well.

"You've got to know the rules," he said, "and you've got to know what services each agency offers. If I've got a problem, I need to know which organization can do THIS for me, and which agency can do THAT for me."

Gort further stressed that, in each agency, "I need to know ALL levels, so if I can't get satisfaction from this man, I can complain to his boss--and if I don't get it from him, I'll go to his boss."

Michael Trister, assistant director of NMRLS, outlined the strategic use of fair hearings as a means to force change in the welfare system.

Each fair hearing puts the welfare office to a lot of trouble and expense, he said, and a lot of hearings in one office can bring it to the attention of higher officials.

Trister also said that each individual has the right to determine where the hearing will be held--it doesn't have to be in the welfare office.

"We should start asking for hearings in the home," said Trister. "Make

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.

them bring their tape recorders and microphones out where there is no water and no electricity, and THEN let them try to deny need."

Many welfare workers complained that people in the welfare offices are discourteous, that landowners threaten them with trespassing when they come to see their clients, and that hospitals charge high fees for admitting and releasing poverty patients.

"Let them know that you know the rules," said Gort, "and they'll have to abide by them. Go into that office with a rule-book in your hand if you have to--sometimes that will scare them into being nice."

BY BOB LABAREE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. -- For the past three months, Mrs. Ophelia Holmes has been complaining to police officials and the FBI about what happened to her 19-year-old son, Clifford, on the night of March 3.

While she and her family watched, she says, two Birmingham policemen handcuffed and beat her son and his friend, Jerry Tillman, before arresting them for being drunk, resisting arrest, and failing to obey an officer.

The police claim the boys were injured when they resisted arrest.

After conducting an investigation, the FBI said it had sent its findings--along with the family statements and pictures of Holmes' wounds--to the U.S. Justice Department in Washington.

And in April, the police ended their investigation with the conclusion that there was "insufficient evidence" to support Mrs. Holmes' complaint.

The police added, though, that the case could be re-opened any time in the light of new evidence. And Mrs. Holmes' complaint also received the attention of Mayor George Seibels.

But this week, Mrs. Holmes said she was through with complaining.

"I've gone about as far as I can with the case, but I can't go farther," she said. "We just ain't got the money."

The end came last Friday night, she said, when her son was fined \$50 and costs for just one of the charges--refusing to obey an officer. The other two

charges were dropped.

"First he's beat, now he's fined for it. That's double punishment," said Mrs. Holmes.

All along, the family had said that if Holmes was convicted, they would take the case "as far as it'll go."

Last Friday, though, the family's lawyer, George Rogers, told them that if they wanted to appeal, they would have to pay for an appeal bond. "The least we would end up paying would be \$66," Mrs. Holmes recalled.

In addition, there would be the cost of a lawyer, she went on--Rogers said he would need \$300 to stay with the case.

"We just can't afford all that," she said. "We're breaking our backs already to pay for everything else."

"Everything else," she said, includes the cost of treating her son's wounds, the bail bond, the lawyer's fee, and the fine--in all, nearly \$300.

Another lawyer's fee of \$1,500 from

a former case still isn't paid off either, she added.

"It looks like you can't take a step without it costing you something," she said. "It looks like some kind of racket. You gotta go to white people to buy white people."

Family members insisted that they aren't continuing with the case just because they can't afford to--not because they're afraid.

"They can't do nothin' to you but kill you, and they're doin' that already," said Mrs. Holmes.

But, she said, she and her son also feel that nothing they can do will make any difference.

"If I thought it would do any good, I'd go anywhere in this country to speak out," she said. "But it won't. The folks got everything and they know it, and there ain't anything Negroes can do."

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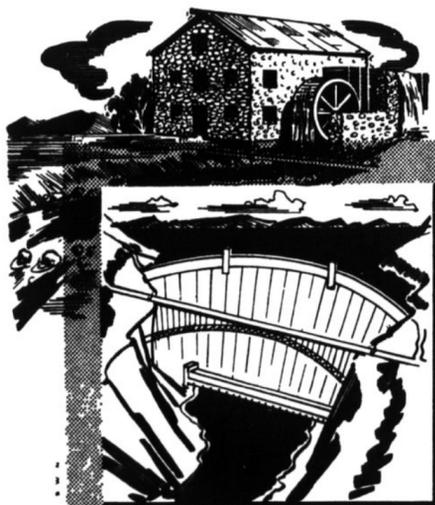
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