

THE STUDENT VOICE

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Brutality Hearing Held In Capital

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A public hearing on Mississippi will be conducted here June 8.

The hearing, sponsored by the Mississippi Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), will be held at the National Theater. Testimony will be heard from Mississippians who are victims of various kinds of reprisal, discrimination, police or unofficial brutality, before a panel of distinguished persons.

The panel includes authors Michael Harrington, James Baldwin, Paul Goodman, Lorraine Hansberry, and Joseph Heller; educator Harold Taylor; Judge Justine Polier; and Gresham Sykes of the American Sociological Association. Testimony will also be heard from Robert Coles, research psychiatrist at Harvard University, and others who will speak about the necessity for presidential action in Mississippi.

According to SNCC communications director Julian Bond who is coordinating the hearing, Mississippians are being brought to Washington to testify since the U.S. Civil Rights Commission has never conducted a hearing in the state.

MISS. NEGRO VOTE CURTAILED IN CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY



Rev. John Camuron votes in Congressional primary in Hattiesburg. Rev. Cameron was a candidate for the Democratic House seat in the 5th Congressional District.

JACKSON, MISS. - Clever timing and scant publicity combined to help a newly passed state law curtail the number of votes cast for Mississippi's four Negro candidates who ran for nomination to U.S. Congress in the June 2 Democratic primary.

Only 6.6 percent of Mississippi's voting age Negroes are registered to vote - about 25,000. Four hundred thousand are eligible.

Incomplete election figures showed that 4,314 votes from across the state were returned for Victoria Jackson Gray who ran against Sen. John C. Stennis for the Senatorial nomination.

One thousand one hundred-ninety ballots were cast for James Houston who ran for the Congressional nomination in the 3rd District, and the Rev. John Cameron received 1,071 votes in the 5th District.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, who opposed Rep. Jamie Whitten in the 2nd district, composed mainly of the Delta, received 389 votes. Most of the Delta's counties are located in the so-called Black Belt where a majority of the population is Negro.

None of the candidates, who were backed by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, expected to win. But all of them hoped to conduct active campaigns to educate the state's voters and the nation to unconstitutional denial of the vote to Mississippi's Negro and lower class whites.

The candidates also sought to raise political issues obscured by the campaigns of candidates seeking election on the basis of who will most ardently uphold segregation.

A newly passed bill which appears to comply with the 24th Amendment added to the obvious hurdles Negro candidates would have to getting nominated.

On June 1, the night before the primary election, U.S. District Judge Harold Cox issued a re-

FLASH!

FLASH!

FLASH!

Riders Throw Bomb At Freedom House

CANTON, MISS. - A bomb thrown from an automobile exploded outside the Canton Freedom House early Monday morning.

The bomb, thrown at the house, bounced off, rolled 20 feet away and exploded. The windows in the house were shattered. No one was injured. There were two people in the house at the time of the bombing, 1:30 A.M.

Later that night somebody called the Freedom House and asked "How many did we get?"

The Freedom House has been under constant harassment from callers for the last few weeks."

Over 50 people were arrested and a Negro youth was beaten

unconscious during a Freedom Day, here, May 29.

Canton, located in the 4th Congressional District, has been the site of a concentrated voter registration drive by the Council of Federated Organizations, a coalition of major civil rights groups in Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI PREPARES FOR SUMMER PROJECT

JACKSON, MISS. - As civil rights workers complete plans for the Mississippi Summer Project, the state has been tightening legislative screws to halt as many phases of the project as possible.

As a Mississippi newspaper put it, there is a "statewide movement to erect a bulwark against anticipated racial demonstrations in Mississippi this coming summer." Part of this bulwark has been the recent enactment of six new laws aimed at the project by the state legislature.

An AP story in the Jackson Daily News April 20 explained that the Mississippi legislature's program of "quietly arming the state for an expected invasion"

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BACKGROUND NEWS-

LEGAL BARRIERS TO GREET WORKERS

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by civil rights workers had received little notice because state solons "do not discuss racial bills on the floor and give only a minimum of explanation." The reason, the AP story continued, was that state legislators were fearful such speeches would be used by the Federal government in civil rights cases to show the intent of the law was to maintain segregation and was therefore unconstitutional.

New Laws Passed

1. **RIOT CONTROL.** Authorizes cities to "pool" personnel, manpower and equipment, and in general, give "mutual assistance." Introduced in the state Senate as bill #1526, the measure as enacted and signed into law by Governor Paul B. Johnson, facilitates exchange of jail space as well as the pooling of city police forces.

It is assumed the city of Jackson will be prominent in assisting other cities in "riot control." In recent months the city has strengthened its police force and laid in an extra supply of gas masks, shotguns and helmets according to Jackson newspapers. A \$15,000 tank known locally as "Thompson's Tank" will be part of the equipment of "Allen's Army" - both namesakes of Jackson Mayor Allen Thompson.

2. **CURFEW.** Authorizes cities to "restrict the movements of individuals and groups" and to set curfew hours. (House bill #64.)

3. A law which **BOOSTS THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL** to almost double its present size gives state police full power in civil disorders as well as undercover investigations. Prior to the enactment, those officers were restricted to traffic law enforcement. The law has had special backing from the governor since he requested the legislation in a speech before a joint session of the state legislature March 3. The new law gives the governor personal power to send state police into areas, even over the heads of local law enforcement. Originally introduced in the House as bill #564, the controversial measure passed despite opposition from some state solons who feared it might be

used to control illegal liquor practices in this dry state.

In referring to the law which expands the patrol from 275 to 475 men a Greenville daily, the Delta Democrat-Times said, "A private army which can be used at the governor's own discretion is not a healthy kind of temptation to have around."

It was reported in January that every member of the state police then on the force had been trained in riot control techniques. Colonel T.B. Birdsong, commissioner of public safety, said these men in turn trained police and sheriff's officers across the state.



4. **ANTI-PICKETING.** Prohibits picketing of all public buildings, streets and sidewalks and other places belonging to the city, county and state. The maximum penalty on conviction is \$500 and / or six months in jail. The constitutionality of the new law is presently being tested in Federal court by 44 persons arrested in Hattiesburg April 10-11.

House bill #546 was introduced as an "emergency bill for Greenwood" March 25 - the same day as Greenwood's first Freedom Day - by a state representative from Forrest County where a Freedom Day was held in January. Picketing of the Forrest County courthouse has occurred almost daily since then.

5. **INCREASED PENALTIES.** Larger penalties may be assessed by municipal courts as a result of enactment of Senate bill #1517. Maximum fines by be raised from \$100 to \$300 in city courts and maximum jail terms from 30 to 90 days. This would apply to traffic violations which have been lodged with increasing frequency against rights workers as the

summer approaches.

6. **OUTLAWS DISTRIBUTION OF BOYCOTT LITERATURE.**

Senate bill #1545 was introduced by a state senator from Canton, where a boycott to pressure for an end to discriminatory practices by merchants and businesses has been underway since January. The new law provides for a maximum penalty of \$500 and / or six months in jail for printing or circulating materials concerning boycotts.

Rights workers maintain this law, and the anti-picket provision, are flagrantly unconstitutional.

State Legal Code

The state Sovereignty Commission - official watchdog agency to perpetuate segregation - has mailed a "handy" reference digest of statutes already on the books to law enforcement officers throughout the state with the suggestion that they be used to halt civil rights activity.

State code sections suggested by the state subsidized group for use in racial matters are the following:

- * Congregating and refusing to disperse when so ordered by a law officer (maximum fine \$200 and / or four months in jail),
- * Interfering with customers or the operation of restaurants stores, hotels and theaters (maximum fine \$500 and / or six months in jail),

- * Making false statements to Federal authorities-FBI, courts, Justice Department, Civil Rights Commission - about denial of constitutional rights by the state or its agents (maximum fine \$1,000 and / or six months in jail),

- * Encouraging another person to remain on the premises of another "when forbidden to do so" (maximum fine \$500 and / or six months in jail).

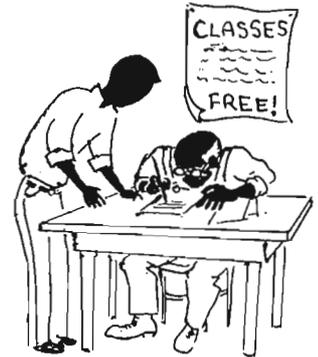
Laws Considered

1. **OUTLAWS FREEDOM SCHOOLS.** Senate bill #1969 makes it a misdemeanor to teach in or conduct a school not licensed by the state. Rights workers contend it is explicitly directed at curbing Freedom Schools.

2. **ANTI-INVASION.** House bill #270 prohibits entry into the state with the intention of violating state laws, and sets the

penalty at a fine of up to \$1,000 and as much as two years in prison.

3. **CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM.** Senate bill #2027 prohibits "criminal syndicalism" which is defined as the doctrine which advocates or teaches "the commission of crime, violence and force as a means of accomplishing or affecting a change in agricultural or industrial ownership or control . . . or in affecting any political or social change." That measure, now passed by the Senate and before the House, makes it a felony to teach or "justify" such a precept. It is claimed by state solons that the law could be used against "extremists" of either persuasion on the question of race.



4. **OUTLAWS COMMUNITY CENTERS.** - Senate bill #2136 if passed would require certification by the state of all clinics or schools where general education and general health subjects would be taught. Summer project plans call for community centers where instruction in child care, dietary health and housing repair would be offered. The measure also arms the attorney general with injunctive power to "dissolve any operation" which does not have permits.

Other Laws

1. Two bills passed in the House which would keep Negroes from serving on juries in the state by restricting selection to resident landowners and / or registered voters. Only 6.6 percent of the voting age Negroes in Mississippi are registered to vote.

2. A juvenile demonstration measure provides that youths arrested in racial demonstrations be excluded from juvenile courts.

SIT-IN CASES NEAR HIGH COURT HEARING

ATLANTA, GA. - "Sit-in" cases resulting from SNCC-led anti-segregation protests here last January are a step nearer to a hearing by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Attorneys Donald L. Hollowell and Howard Moore, acting for demonstrators, filed a response June 1 to an earlier petition by state court authorities who are asking the tribunal to order the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals to remand the cases back to state jurisdiction.

The cases go back almost a year. One hundred-one cases that have been removed to the Federal courts stemmed from indictments handed down here by a grand jury in August. The 101 were charged with violating the anti-trespass law.

Judge Durwood T. Pye ordered the cases brought before him, but only three defendants - Thomas Taylor Tolg, the Rev. Ashton Jones, and Mardon Walker, all white - actually went to trial and were convicted. Each received the maximum penalty.

Attorneys for the others petitioned a Federal judge for removal. The judge refused and Hollowell and Moore successfully appealed his refusal to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Pye then ordered the solicitor general of the Atlanta circuit to file a petition with the Supreme Court for an order directing the 5th Circuit to send the cases back to the state courts.

The Negro lawyers' June 1 petition was an answer to this petition.

BIAS GROUP FORMED

NATCHEZ, MISS. - SNCC workers report the formation of another white racist organization in Southwest Mississippi.

A new group called the Adams County Religious Association recently published a leaflet charging communist influence of a local priest and a Yale University student who was shot at last fall while working on a mock ballot campaign.

Southwest Mississippi has traditionally been the stronghold of white terrorist groups. During the past few weeks an upsurge in activity by white supremacist groups has been reported in the Mississippi press.

Discontented Ku Klux Klan and White Citizens Councils members are apparently forming their own new groups in this part of the state.

PRIMARY

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straining order against election officials to prohibit use of newly enacted Senate bill #1783 which banned the poll tax in Federal elections but required presentation of a receipt marked "Poll Tax Not Paid" in order to vote.

In an attempt to challenge both the new law and the court ruling which established similar means for exclusion at the polls, many Negroes went to election places without either stamped poll tax receipts or affidavits.

State elections required poll tax receipts for the past two years. Mississippi poll tax is \$2.00 a year, and automatically exempts many for financial reasons.

The newly enacted "non-payment" provision bill received almost no coverage in Mississippi newspapers. This, in addition to the fact that only 30 days were allowed to obtain the receipts, meant that those Negroes who had been able to register were in many cases unable to cast ballots in this election.

"In view of the many obstacles thrown up, including what appears to be collusion between the press and the state legislature, we consider the results of the June 2 primary election a good showing," one SNCC worker said here.

SNCC has conducted a voter registration project in that state since 1961 and has encouraged Negroes to run for public office. A major emphasis of the Mississippi Summer Project will be voter registration.

All four Negro candidates intend to run as independents in the general elections in November.

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party plans to contest the seating of delegates from the regular Democratic Party at the National Democratic Convention in Atlantic City, N. J. in August. A program of "Freedom Registration" will seek to show that 400,000 Negroes in Mississippi would vote if they were allowed.

In the 1960 presidential election votes cast in Mississippi totalled 266,000. Connecticut, with approximately the same population, returned 966,000 ballots.

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Less than 7% of Mississippi's voting age Negroes are registered. This summer, a concentrated vote drive will be held as part of the Mississippi Summer Project.



SUPPORT THE MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT!

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.

I pledge \$ _____ per month to the Student Nonviolent

Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

NAME _____

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CITY _____

STATE _____

Contributors to SNCC receive a subscription to the STUDENT VOICE. Send to: SNCC, 6 Raymond Street, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30314.

NEWS ROUNDUP

PINE BLUFF, ARK. - An attempted "swim-in" was halted here June 2 when a "white-only" public park was closed.

Mrs. Ruthie Hansen, wife of SNCC's Arkansas Project director, accompanied 15 Negro high school students to Oakland Park, a white only park here.

The park's pool was closed when the group arrived.

As the Negro group left the scene, they appealed to a policeman for protection. The policeman refused, and several attempts were made by white toughs to run their car off the road.

AMERICUS, GA. - A white high school graduate refused to accept her high school diploma last week after a Negro guest she had invited was not allowed to attend the all-white commencement.

Jan Jordan, of Koinonia Farm near here, left the diploma line after Colin McGhee, a Negro friend, was refused admittance.

Police told McGhee he could sit in an empty section of seats, and when he refused, she left the line.

DALLAS, TEX. - Demonstrations against discriminatory public accommodations and the school board have taken place with increasing frequency here.

Within a four-day period last week, 36 persons were arrested.

The SNCC affiliate at Bishop College here helped spur the anti-segregation activity.

At North Texas State College, the SNCC affiliate helped elect the first Negro girl as queen of the spring track meet.

HATTIESBURG, MISS. - A 25-year-old SNCC worker from Pittsburgh, Pa. was released here May 21 after 107 days in jail.

Pete Stoner spent over three months in the Forrest County jail on charges of breach of the peace, resisting arrest, profanity and contempt of court. He was arrested Feb. 5 while attempting to visit another SNCC worker then in jail.

Stoner, a white graduate of predominantly Negro Tougaloo College was fined \$340 when released after working off more than \$50 by serving time.

The money was raised by SNCC backers in the North.

JACKSON, MISS. - A member of India's parliament was twice refused service at a Morrison's cafeteria here, and was escorted away by police the second time in a patrol wagon.

On both occasions May 27-28, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia was accompanied by white persons and was dressed in native garb.

Lohia was here visiting integrated Tougaloo College.

JACKSON, MISS. - The windows in the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) office were broken here June 3 for the second time in five days.

COFO staffers said two people, a white minister from Michigan and a white volunteer worker from California, were injured when two cars of white men drove up to the office and began throwing bricks and stones through the large COFO office windows.

Neither was seriously injured. All front windows had been

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS BEGIN IN CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MD. - Up to 200 unemployed Negroes will get on the job training at regular pay in this racially torn town.

Attorney General Robert Kennedy and Labor Secretary Willard Wirtz announced the signing of a \$93,500 contract to provide 16 months of Federally financed training.

The program, under the Manpower Development and Training Act, will put the Negroes to work immediately at current wages.

The Negro unemployment rate is 30% versus a national Negro unemployment rate of 14% and national average of 5.4%.

A state program to reduce unemployment has also been proposed.

The proposed program would put between 150 and 300 young men - hopefully, Negroes - to work immediately in a half-dozen state parks along this state's Eastern Shore.

But Gloria Richardson, chairman of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee (CNAC) and a member of SNCC's Executive Committee, questions whether the new program will help solve all or any of the city's troubles.

"You have a segment of Negroes who are getting tired of nonviolence," she said, "and they are beginning to break out. Some



GLORIA RICHARDSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE Cambridge (Md.) Nonviolent Action Committee

of them ask me 'What have I accomplished?' And I honestly can't tell them a thing."

Mrs. Richardson has asked for, among other things, a school assignment plan that would automatically integrate schools here, without having Negro pupils apply for transfers.

broken on May 30.

Both cars containing the white attackers had no license tags

STAR CITY, ARK. - Seven of the eight teachers on the high school faculty of Lincoln County High School have been fired, apparently because they had been accused of associating with voter registration workers from the Pine Bluff Movement and the SNCC.

One, 24-year-old Marcus Mays, said Lincoln County Principal Fulton Walker accused him of taking Pine Bluff Movement

chairman Rev. Benjamin Grinnage into the school building located across the street from a home where SNCC workers live here.

The teachers, ranging in age from 24 to 50, received similar letters from County School Superintendent Harold Tidwell. The letter said contracts for the seven were not being renewed "in the interest of harmony and cooperation and for the general welfare of the program."

SNCC has been conducting a voter registration drive in Lincoln County, but SNCC workers say none of the fired teachers had been "especially active" in the registration push.

SNCC worker Bill Hansen, director of SNCC's Arkansas Project, said the firings might trigger integration suits at the local white school in Lincoln County.

Return Requested

6 Raymond Street, N.W.
Atlanta 14, Georgia

ATLANTA, GA. - The STUDENT VOICE will not be able to publish for the next two weeks.

Paper mailing costs have made it difficult for the STUDENT VOICE to be published regularly. "SNCC's financial condition is still very bad," said Chairman John Lewis.

Contributions to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee help support the STUDENT VOICE.