

THE STUDENT VOICE

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FDP BLASTS MISS. DEMO CONVENTION

JACKSON, MISS. - In an obvious attempt to sidestep a pre-convention clash with the national party, Mississippi's all-white Democratic Party named uninstructed delegates to the national convention and took steps to place both pledged and unpledged electors on the ballot in November.

Immediately after the convention's decisions were made pub-

lic, the Freedom Democratic Party issued a statement calling the convention "the greatest example of hypocritical political expediency in American history."

"By resolving that in September both pledged and unpledged electors will be placed on the ballot, the Mississippi party hopes to tempt the national party with at least the possibility of their supporting the national candidates in November. But this transparent ruse was used in 1960 and it is common knowledge that at that time the Mississippi party threw its whole weight behind the unpledged electors and denounced the national candidates."

Ark. Workers Face White Harassment

HELENA, ARK. - Voter registration workers from SNCC have faced constant harassment from police officials and other whites here.

Negroes friendly with SNCC workers have been warned not to house them, and policemen have encouraged Negroes to run white SNCC staffers out of town.

Bill Hansen, director of the Arkansas Project, reported the following incidents:

- * a carload of white men threatened SNCC worker Larry Siegel
- * a policeman told a local Negro that whites didn't allow Negroes in their neighborhoods and Negroes shouldn't allow whites in theirs.
- * a judge at a trial of a white man who assaulted a Negro during an integration attempt ordered some Negroes to leave the courtroom,
- * groups of white men have been making night-time visits to the home of a local Negro who houses SNCC workers. Telephone threats have been received
- * a Negro home was shot into five times.

Local Negroes have reported "mostly unsuccessful" attempts to enter all white public places, even after the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Operating from a central office in Pine Bluff, SNCC workers are organizing throughout the Delta portion of the state.

HOLLY SPRINGS, MISS - Summer volunteer Wayne Yancey, 21, of Chicago, was killed in a head-on automobile collision Aug. 1.

Yancey was working in Holly Springs and Marshall County. He attended Cooley Vocational High School in Chicago, and had finished three years at Mobile Economy School in Ann Arbor, Mich.

He had been active in civil rights in Chicago, and had been arrested there several times.

FDP spokesmen said,

Some regular Democrats had been expected to ask for delegates pledged to Republican candidate Barry Goldwater.

The Freedom Democratic Party is planning to challenge the all-white Mississippi regulars at the convention in Atlantic City.

The FDP has received support from nine Northern state delegations, and this week, Georgia's only Negro Senator, Attorney Leroy Johnson, announced he would support the FDP. Johnson is one of four Negroes named a delegate to the convention from Georgia.

The FDP 2nd Congressional District Convention was held this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



AT NEW YORK MEETING From left to right, Bayard Rustin; Jack Greenberg of the Legal Defense Fund, Inc.; Whitney Young, Urban League; James Farmer of CORE; Roy Wilkins of the NAACP; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; John Lewis, SNCC Chairman; A. Philip Randolph, of the Negro American Labor Council; and Courtland Cox, SNCC Program Director.

SNCC, CORE Refuse Action Moratorium

NEW YORK, N. Y. - The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and CORE have refused to sign a statement calling for a moratorium on action protests until after the November election. The statement was signed by NAACP head Roy Wilkins, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Urban League head Whitney Young and Negro labor leader A. Philip Randolph.

A second statement, condemning violence and the participation of "extremists" in the civil rights movement was signed by NAACP, SCLC, the Urban League, Randolph and CORE. SNCC Chairman John Lewis refused to sign, saying "it is not the policy

of SNCC to discuss situations in individual Negro communities in which we are not working."

When asked why SNCC had refrained from signing the anti-demonstration statement, Lewis said "We are conducting a massive voter registration campaign in Southwest Georgia, Central Alabama, East Arkansas and throughout the state of Mississippi. In the South and throughout this country in communities like Harlem, Negroes must be allowed to protest, for they are very frustrated, desperate and restless. There is a need for some sort of creative expression."

The statement was proposed
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

...and the search continues

The Memphis County (Miss.) Messenger has printed some highlights of the search still continuing for three civil rights workers missing in Neshoba County since June 21.

The Messenger says: "The search by the Navy for the last 'Freedom Riders' is ridiculous to the extreme. It is not a search, just an aimless random ride up and down country roads. Occasionally a few will walk 10 or 15 yards off the road and kick over a leaf and say 'Well, they aren't here.'"

They (the sailors) write home-folks in all 50 states telling them

not to believe what they read about Mississippi. 'We have found them to be among the best people in the nation. There is no reason why they should be black and white, go where they please, when they please, in complete safety and without danger.'

"Annoyance on the base has resulted in the wearing of a new service ribbon, similar to those given out for battle participation.

"White bar, black bar, white bar, with 'Mississippi Search' underneath. We understand even some of the officers are wearing them."

FREEDOM SCHOOL



"I am Mississippi bred, I am Mississippi fed,

I asked for your churches, and
you turned me down,

But I'll do my work if I have to
do it on the ground,

You will not speak for fear of
being heard,

So you crawl in you shell and
say, "Do not disturb,"

You think because you've turned
me away,

You've protected yourself for
another day,

But tomorrow surely will come,
And your enemy will still be

there with the rising sun,

He'll be there tomorrow as all
tomorrows in the past,

And he'll follow you into the
future if you let him pass.

*** from a poem by Joyce
Brown, 16. Freedom School pupil
in McComb, Mississippi

This poem was written by a 16-year old Negro girl in McComb Miss. She and approximately 1,825 other Negroes -- children, teen-agers and adults -- are attending the 39 Freedom Schools of the Mississippi Summer Project, sponsored by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a statewide organization of local groups aided by field secretaries of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), CORE, NAACP, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. These students -- going to "school" in churches, private homes, and backyards -- are learning Negro history, civics, American history, arts and crafts drama, music, English, arithmetic, algebra and chemistry

They are being taught by 250 Negro and white summer volunteers from 40 states in schools which have been set up in every Mississippi city or town of considerable size, as well as in rural counties where Negroes have been shot to death for attempting to register to vote.

Project coordinators state that the Freedom School program is an unqualified success. Rev. Thomas Wahman, a coordinator of religious activities at New York University, and a Freedom School coordinator, terms the project a "completely unexpected phenomenon." Despite the fear which prevails in most Negro communities throughout the state, "several are demanding that COFO come in and set up schools," says Wahman.

Ralph Featherstone, a 25-year old Negro speech teacher from Washington, D.C., is director of the McComb Freedom School. Featherstone explains that the opening of the school was delayed for two weeks after three civil rights workers disappeared in Philadelphia, Miss. and advance scouts prepared the way in the dangerous Southwest area of Mississippi.

But Featherstone found the students ready and waiting. In fact, Featherstone says, "They'd heard about the school and they felt left out because we didn't arrive on time."

Now the registration in McComb is up to 105, with a daily attendance of 75. Many of the students are the younger bro-

thers and sisters of the 110 high school students who walked out of school when four of their number were arrested on a sit-in charge at the Greyhound bus station in 1961.

"I think the Freedom School is inspiring the people to lend a hand in the fight," Featherstone reports. "The older people are looking to the young people, and their courage, is rubbing off. The school makes the kids feel they haven't been forgotten. It makes them feel that at last something is coming down to help them. They feel the school is for them."

The McComb school started in the backyard of the SNCC Freedom House a week after it was bombed. For one week, students conducted classes in the blistering heat only yards away from the spot where three explosions ripped away one wall. Now they are in a church.

The Hattiesburg Freedom School system (there are five) has the highest registration and the most varied curricula in the state. Some 575 young people and adults attend morning and evening classes in the usual academic subjects, plus music programs, discussion groups, slide exhibitions, and art classes. Three of the five schools are putting out a newspaper, and Mrs. Carolyn Reese, a Negro Detroit school teacher and administrator of the Hattiesburg Freedom Schools, reports that the other two will begin putting theirs out soon.

To understand what the Freedom Schools mean to those attending them, it is first necessary to understand several facts about the regular system of education in Mississippi.

The Mississippi educational system is geared to teach the Mississippi Way of Life: Dissent is heresy. Ignorance is safer than inquiry. Fear pervades the academic atmosphere.

Example: in the spring of 1961, a number of Negro students in Jackson were expelled from (Negro) high school because they stood up in their classrooms and inquired pointedly about the Freedom Rides and their significances.

Example: More than 800 students at Alcorn A&M College (Negro) in Southwest Mississippi were tossed out of school in the spring of 1964 by the college pre-



... nothing but

Mississippi slave, ...

sident because they protested social conditions on the campus. The president enlisted the aid of the much-feared Mississippi Highway Patrol to load the students into busses so that they could be sent home without ever the opportunity to collect their belongings.

Example: also during this spring, an issue of the student newspaper at the University of Southern Mississippi (white) was confiscated by campus police under the direction of school president W.D. McCain because it carried an article about the school administration's refusal to grant admission to a Negro applicant. (McCain is a strong supporter of the White Citizen's

OLS MISSISSIPPI



poor black boy. "I am a

Council, and an advisory board member of the Patriotic American Youth, a campus youth organization which shares space with the John Birch Society in a Jackson bookstore. He also received a special commendation from the state legislature for refusing admittance for the fifth time to John Frazier, a student at predominantly Negro Tougaloo College.

There are many other such examples of suppression of student rights, and even of faculty rights, e.g., the constant persecution of Ole Miss Professor James W. Silver. However, what is even more chilling is the economy of school segregation in Miss-

issippi.

Despite the fact that Alabama spends less per pupil, black and white, than any state in the nation, the expenditure in the Mississippi Delta is even less. More important, the disparity between funds spent per white student and funds spent per black student is even greater.

In Mississippi, the county appropriates funds for education --- according to its own budget --- in addition to the funds contributed by the state. The following is the county appropriation, above the state minimum, for instruction per pupil in 1960-61:

North Pike County
(44% non-white)
(McComb)

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| white | \$30.89 |
| Negro | .76 |

South Pike County
(Magnolia)

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| white | \$59.55 |
| Negro | 1.35 |

Forrest County
(28% non-white)

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| white | \$67.76 |
| Negro | 34.19 |

Hattiesburg Separate

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| white | \$115.96 |
| Negro | 61.69 |

Whites who control Mississippi have little respect for education, but use it unscrupulously to prevent Negroes from obtaining the basic democratic right, the right to vote.

For instance, while the State Penitentiary Reform Bill was still in the Senate, Sen. Howard McDonnell of Biloxi proposed an amendment which would require that the superintendent of the penitentiary have two years of college education. Foes of the amendment said the requirement would force the ouster of the present superintendent, C.E. Breazeale. The amendment failed. McDonnell then asked that the Superintendent be required to have a high school education. That amendment was also defeated.

Yet, the Mississippi legislature has established voter registration requirements which lawyers contend would be extremely difficult for anyone without a law degree to pass, if the



..... I will be buried in a Mississippi grave, nothing but a poor dead boy."

... These words were penned by a 13-year-old youngster.

tests are honestly administered.

The Freedom Schools are a war against this academic poverty. It is not just the courses provided, but the fact that the schools are a focal point for personal expression against the oppression, on the one hand, and for personal growth and creativity, on the other. The regular Mississippi schools are fundamentally opposed to this approach.

Mrs. Reese says, "The Freedom Schools mean an exposure to a totally new field of learning new attitudes about people, new attitudes about self, and about the right to be dissatisfied with the status quo. The children have had no conception that Mississippi is a part of the United States; their view of American history is history with no Negroes in it. It's like making a cake with no butter."

Mrs. Reese explains that "Mississippi has sold itself short. There are many good minds here which are being used as sacrificial lambs. The children are alert and eager to learn. If they had something to learn, they'd be happy to learn it."

Both Mrs. Reese and Featherstone find themselves faced with the unexpected problem of a pupil-teacher ratio which is growing too large. Mrs. Reese tells of one teacher who is so popular that her class has increased from 15 to 27 students -- who come every day. Wahman is now recruiting an additional 100 tea-

chers for the month of August and expects that schools in five new communities will be opened then.

Both Featherstone and Wahman point to the Negro history curriculum as possibly the most valuable legacy of the Freedom Schools this summer. "The only thing our kids knew about Negro history," Featherstone says, "is about Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver and his peanuts."

But subjects like chemistry and algebra are also popular. Featherstone told by pupils in the McComb school that Negro children are taught algebra in high school, but white children begin the subject in the sixth grade. Wahman says that when the chemistry teacher left the Gulfport Freedom School, his 15 students also left in protest, and return only when another was sent into the school.

Mrs. Reese gives an idea what the Hattiesburg schools are accomplishing: "The children are learning that somebody is supposed to listen to them. They are writing letters to the editor of Hattiesburg newspapers, and learning where to direct their complaints. At first, the children were somewhat awe-stricken with the white teachers, at their whiteness, their hair, but many are learning to appreciate them as human beings. "When you get an appreciation of yourself, then you can put the other individual into his proper focus."

SHOOTINGS, BEATINGS, BOMBINGS AND BURNINGS

CHURCHES DESTROYED

BRANDON, MISS. - The fourteenth church burning since the Summer Project began was reported here July 31.

The Pleasant Grove Baptist Church on Highway 80 three miles from here was burned to the ground.

Unlike some recent church burnings in the state, Pleasant Grove had been connected with civil rights activity.

A Mrs. Palmer, whose grandfather built the church and was the first pastor said she had made speeches about the Mississippi Summer Project at the church. Other reports indicated, however, that there had been no civil rights activity connected with the destroyed building.

Fire officials from Brandon said the church was destroyed so badly when they arrived, they could do nothing to save it.

Churches have been burned in McComb, Jackson, Madison County, near Greenwood, in Hattiesburg and Moss Point.

In Meridian, the Mount Moriah Baptist Church was discovered July 30 burned to the ground.

Deputy Sheriff Alton Allen said there was no evidence of foul play.

There have been no arrests in any of the church burnings.

NIGHTRIDERS ATTACK

BATESVILLE, MISS. - Nightriders fired three shots past the home of a Negro who is housing two volunteers in the Mississippi Summer Project July 31.

Kathy Amatnick, 20, a volunteer, reported the shots were fired around 11:30. No one was injured.

The owner of the home, Robert Miles, had received threats, and on July 25, his home was tear-gassed.

During the past week, 100 Panola County Negroes were registered. The Justice Department was successful in initiating a "freeze" suit in Panola, demanding that registration standards for whites and Negroes be the same.

OFFICE SHOT AT

GREENWOOD, MISS. - Shots were fired into the SNCC office Aug. 1 and a 93-pound summer volunteer was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon.

Carol Kornfield, 21, of Bayside, N.Y., was held under \$1,000 bail in the Leflore County Jail.

She allegedly threw a brick through the window of a store owned by Greenwood Policeman "Slim" Henderson. Henderson pulled a pregnant woman along a Greenwood street during a Freedom Day two weeks ago. (See July 22 STUDENT VOICE).

Three other local Negroes were also jailed Aug. 2, and a local volunteer worker, John Handy, was beaten in the jail Aug. 1.

Handy, who was charged with "disorderly conduct," said in a sworn statement Greenwood policemen beat and kicked him and tore his three-inch beard out with their hands.

"They threw me up against the concrete wall," Handy said. "I was wearing a rather long goatee. They plucked it out with their hands."

SNCC workers report Greenwood is "very tense." Cars drive by the office during the night,

and policemen drive through the Negro neighborhoods "making arrests for little or no reason."

VOLUNTEERS BEATEN

CARTHAGE, MISS. - A summer volunteer and a Iowa minister were beaten in a doctor's office near here July 31.

John Polacheck, the volunteer, and Rev. Edward K. Heininger, from Des Moines, Iowa, reported they were attacked in the office of a white doctor in Madison, 12 miles from here.

Rev. Heininger said the doctor asked him if he was "staying with those Negroes in Harmony" where a community center is being built by local Negroes.

While they were speaking, Heininger said, "I was suddenly hit from behind; at the same time they were hitting me with their fists and the doctor was pushing me from the front into the people who were hitting me."

Between five and 10 men did the beating, he said.

Both Heininger and Polacheck were arrested and charged with disturbing the peace. They were released on \$100 bond.

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MRS. FANNIE LOU HAMER

MISS. DEMOCRATS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
weekend in Greenville.

The party received additional support from Massachusetts Democrats, who are already on record - with Democratic groups from eight other states - against the seating of the regular Democrats. At least six members of the delegation from Massachusetts have publicly stated their support for the seating of MFDP.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville, who opposed Representative Jamie Whitten of the 2nd District, is touring Northern states seeking support for the party.

The party has established an office in Washington, at 1353 U Street, N.W.

ACTION TRUCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by Wilkins after recent riots triggered in Harlem by the shooting of a 13-year-old Negro.

A survey of local civil rights groups across the country indicated few would follow the proposed ban.

In Pine Bluff, Ark., J. Albert Bagsby, president of the Pine Bluff Movement, said his followers would be "guided by the local situation rather than decisions reached on the national level."

Pittsburgh NAACP leaders said they would demonstrate if the local scene required protests.

Stanley Branche, head of the Freedom Now Committee in Chester, Pa., said demonstrations would be continued. Branche said protests were "the only way we got as far as we have."

Two New York leaders, the Rev. Milton Galamison and Jesse Gray, said Harlem protests would go on. Their sentiments were echoed by Bronx CORE leader Herbert Callender, who said "as long as unjust conditions exist we will demonstrate."

Third Class Mail

Cleveland Heights 6, Ohio
2249 Hancard Dr.

Mr. J. Jordan Walker
875-7344
Detroit 1, Michigan
5705 Woodward
Detroit Friends of SNCC
Atlanta 14, Georgia
6 Raymond Street, N.W.

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