Jobs, Rights the Big Issues

Negro Interviewers Press Politicians on $5 Problems

BY ROBERT F. SMITH

Montgomery--Candidates who faced Negro political group's interview committee last weekend got a good idea what is worrying Negro voters in the state.

The People Tell the Candidates

What is the state of civic rights in Alabama? When will Negroes be able to vote? Are there more Negroes in the city? These were questions asked by Negro interviewers at the state headquarters in downtown Mobile and at a headquarters in Tuscaloosa.

The interview committee of SCLC's (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) headquarters in Mobile, a Negro political group, met with candidates for public office in Alabama during recent days.

The committee has been conducting interviews with candidates throughout the state, interviewing them in public and asking them to meet privately to discuss certain issues.

The committee, which was formed last fall, has conducted interviews with candidates for state and federal offices and with representatives of the Alabama_s state government.

The interviews are conducted by interviewers who are members of the SCLC and are paid by the organization.

The committee's aim is to determine the candidates' views on civil rights and other issues and to evaluate their qualifications for office.

The interviewers are trained to ask questions in a non-directive manner and to encourage the candidates to express their views freely.

The committee's findings will be made public in a report, which will be issued after the interviews have been completed. The report will be used by the SCLC in its efforts to influence the outcome of the elections.

The committee's work is conducted under the supervision of the SCLC's national executive director, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The SCLC has been active in the civil rights movement for many years, and its work continues to be an important part of the movement today.

Flowers Campaign Runs Aground in Port City

BY DAVID E. UNDERSILL

Montgomery--Flowers campaign for governor broke into the open this week, with flowers having been used earlier in the campaign, and those who were ready for private meetings with leading Negro and white supporters.

This week, the big story for Flowers was the report of a private meeting with the SCLC and other organizations in Mobile.

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First They Listened, Then They Danced

A Winter Holiday Fete Held to Raise Money

By MARY ELLEN GALE

"If you can't change the world, then change the church." That was how the Rev. Percy Smith Jr. used to tell people, and it was the guiding principle of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization.

Smith was a key figure in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, and his message of nonviolent resistance and social change continues to inspire people today. In this excerpt, Smith reflects on the importance of community organizing and the role of the church in promoting justice and equality.

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A Rally
In Selma

TEXT BY LARRY FREUDIGER  PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES H. PEPPLER

SELMA—By the time Samson Crum, an Independent candidate for sheriff, rose to address the crowd gathered to mark one year since the Selma to Montgomery marches, people were beginning to get a little tired of standing in the hot sun.

The all-day event had attracted some 600 people at different times, and at times it seemed that what was being said on the platform was very nice but had little to do with the people of Selma who had showed up.

When Crum began to talk, there was little doubt that the people remembered well the ordeals of last year.

He wanted the people to know that they now held the power to determine their own future, and that the same men who beat them and tried to hold them back last year were now trying to get their votes.

Few in the crowd had been aware that Samson Crum was going to run for sheriff, but the response was immediate and enthusiastic.

He told them that the Democratic Party was out to swallow up the Negro vote and make it meaningless.

"If we have to answer to those politicians, scheming day and night, we'll be no better off than we were in 1964," Crum said.

The folks in the audience stopped talking to one another and began to respond.

He told of the battles of last year, and every time he mentioned the parts played by Jim Clark or Wilson Baker, the present Democratic sheriff candidates, he would look out at the crowd and say:

"You're going to forget all that on May third."

"No we won't," they shouted, "never!"

"Jim Clark hasn't changed," "Baker's the same," and "Wilson Baker's just a little bit smarter. That's the only difference."

Crum is the sheriff candidate of the Dallas County Independent Free Voters Organization, which sponsored the rally.

The organization was formed about six weeks ago by Dallas County SNCC and SCLC to run Negroes for public office independent of the Democratic Party.

The group will hold a mass meeting on May 3 to nominate candidates who will appear on the November ballot against whoever wins the Democratic primary.

Crum was followed by the Rev. Ernest M. Bradford, chairman of Dallas County SHAPE (Self-Help Against Poverty for Everyone).

He said that SHAPE had been formed by the Negro people themselves, in order that Negroes might have representation in the fight against poverty when federal money came to Dallas County.

But the white community set up a bi-racial committee, with Negroes who SHAPE says were handpicked to be responsive to the whites.

"They told some of us to move back in December, but we ain't moved yet and we don't intend to move," she said.

"We're gonna march right in town, and ain't no Jim Clark gonna turn us around," she said.

At this point comedian Dick Gregory arrived from Chicago and joked about the Dallas County Voters League and ministers who are now urging Negroes to vote.

"They told me to stop in Chicago to pick them up and give me a ride to Selma, but I ain't going to go on the bus," she said.

"Mrs. Pearl Moorer then gave a brief but fiery message from the Dallas County Farmer Movement, a group of tenant farmers who have received eviction notices since complaining that their landlord was cheating them out of federal funds.

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He glanced over at Brown's Chapel and said, "Sometimes just ask me if I was going to Easter services, but it's getting so we don't know which church to go to any more."
They All Live at ‘Our Lady’

A Family of 40 Young Boys

BY LARRY FREUDIGER

MONTGOMERY -- A small clump of buildings stands a little way back from the Atlanta Highway several miles out of Montgomer

The cars whiz by, the drivers don’t know there is anything unusual to see. The little clump of buildings is the only orphanage in the state for teen-aged Negro boys. Our Lady of Fatima Chapel and School is home for some 40 youngsters, aged about 10 to 18.

Although this was 10 years ago, there still is no center. In Alabama where orphaned, teen-aged Negro girls can find a home, two Catholic orphanages in Mobile were large enough to house all boys and girls of both races up to about age 10 or 12.

Our Lady of Fatima Chapel and School receives no federal or state funds. Father Caswell is not supported by any particular Catholic order. As a result, the home has to send financial appeals all over the United States every year.

Father Caswell told the boys that one of the biggest problems, Catholic schools have been quite eager to give their old books to the home.

Father Caswell says he tries to take only boys who need a home, but don’t need special help. The school has no facilities to deal with juvenile delinquents or retarded children.

Father Caswell expects the school to become accredited soon, although it is not graded before the seventh grade, and is very short on teachers.

The staff has grown to ten, but Father Caswell is the only one who lives there full time. The boys’ come from all over the state, and from many different backgrounds. Most are referred there through churches, but many are sent by welfare workers from the Department of Pensions and Securities.

Father Caswell said he tries to take only boys who need a home, but don’t need special help. They have few formal programs to attend, other than school.

Many boys have learned carpentry, plumbing, and other Job skills from having to maintain the home. They also raise some farm animals for sale. They also raise some farm animals for sale.

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**Election Year: Nitty-Gritty, SNF, GROW, and ‘This Has Been’**

**BY ROBERT E. SMITH**

The increased deere's, vote of the Negro voter has made the black man a full-fledged citizen and has forced white people to face up to the challenge of their political leadership.

In Tennessee there was a meeting last week of 111 people to discuss the future of the Southern Courier. The meeting was called by the Board of Directors of the newspaper.

The Southern Courier is a weekly newspaper published in Birmingham, Alabama. It was founded in 1900 and is the oldest African American newspaper in the state.

In the meeting, the editor, John A. Price, said that the newspaper has been facing a crisis in recent years.

"We have been struggling to stay afloat," he said. "Our circulation has been declining, and our advertising revenue has been dropping."

The editor said that the newspaper needs to find a way to increase its circulation and revenue.

"We need to find a way to attract more readers and advertisers," he said. "We need to find a way to make our newspaper more appealing."
