



They came from all over the state to talk, to listen, and to plan.

Leaders in 15 Counties Meet to Plan Bloc Vote

Mobile, Montgomery Absent

BY JOHN KLEIN

SELMA--A Southern Christian Leadership Conference effort to bring together a powerful bloc of Negro votes in Alabama began to bear fruit this week.

About 150 Negro leaders representing 19 Alabama counties and several cities crowded into the St. Paul's CME Church here last Saturday for a four-hour meeting ending with the election of officers for the new state organization.

This was not the first meeting SCLC had called to bring local Negro voter organizations together, but it was the most impressive.

Fifteen Black Belt counties were represented. They formed a band stretching across south Alabama from border to border--Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Chocotaw, Clarke, Crenshaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Henry, Marengo, Perry, Pike, Sumter, and Wilcox.

There were representatives from Anniston in Calhoun County and from heavily-populated Talladega County.

Birmingham and Bessemer in Jefferson County, where more than 50,000 Negroes are now registered to vote, were both represented.

In all, the Negro leaders assembled here last Saturday claim 120,000 to 130,000 registered Negro voters in the counties they represent. They will all be eligible to vote in the May 3 Democratic primary.

But Montgomery and Mobile, the two biggest pockets of Negro voting strength outside Birmingham, were not represented, although SCLC officials had gone in person to ask Negro leaders there to join the new organization.

And Birmingham attorney Orzell Billingsley Jr., chairman of the state-wide Alabama Democratic Conference Inc., was conspicuous by his absence.

"I talked to Patton (John Patton, head of NAACP voter registration), SCLC Hosea Williams of SCLC. 'Patton's answer was, 'We've already got a state-wide organization.'"

But the Rev. Edward Gardner, executive vice president of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, hinted that Billingsley didn't speak for Birmingham.

"We have a tremendous following there, and we are the ones who control a lot of minds in Birmingham," he said. "I like everything you're carrying on, and I'm going back to Birmingham and argue for it."

The president of the Bessemer Voters' League also endorsed the SCLC program, and told Williams, "Depend on Bessemer in part, because I can't speak for the whole."

The SCLC-sponsored organization hasn't officially taken a name yet, but SCLC staff refer to it as an "Alabama confederation of non-partisan organizations."

Although the last two meetings have

Law Says a Major Crime Takes Away Right to Vote

BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

MOBILE--At a meeting called here a few weeks ago to discuss the progress of the voter registration drive, a man stood up and gave a strange reason for the drive's difficulties.

He said that he and other workers were having a hard time finding people to take to the courthouse because so many of the people had police records.

The leader of the drive asked what kinds of convictions these people had on their records. The worker answered that the convictions were mainly for things like drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

Then the leaders said that these convictions should be no obstacle to registering, because state law says that only convictions for major crimes take away a man's right to register and vote. Any felony is usually considered a major crime.

The worker replied that he wished everybody knew this. He said word had



Mayor Dear Leads Voting in Anniston

ANNISTON--Mayor Claude Dear and Joe Rutledge will face each other in a run-off for the mayor's office Tuesday, March 22.

The two finished first and second in the city Democratic primary Tuesday. Voting was heavy, and the Negro vote was a big influence, according to most candidates.

James Gardner and Herbert Morgan will be in the run-off for finance commissioner, while W. S. (Bill) Weatherly was nominated the new public safety commissioner.

W. H. (Bill) Dickerson, the only Negro in the race, lost his election for Democratic committeeman by about 30 votes.

He lost to Charlie Johnson and Fred Vann.

Earlier this week, the Anniston-Calhoun Voters League and the Calhoun County Improvement Association had endorsed Dear, Weatherly and Morgan after interviews with each candidate to determine which had better policies toward the Negro.

Charles Keyes, publisher of the segregationist newsletter, "The Keyes Report," ran third in the mayor's race and T. K. Triplett ran fourth.

Somehow gone around town that no one with a police record of any kind could register and vote.

In recent months, the Mobile County Board of Registrars has apparently turned down a number of applicants with minor convictions on their record.

These people told their friends about being rejected, and the rumor spread from there.

One of the rejected men, John Guinn, lives in Prichard. He says, "I went down in January. They told me I could not register because I'd been arrested."

A few years ago he was arrested and paid a small fine on a gambling conviction in Prichard. "You can follow my record everywhere I've been, and you won't find nothin' else."

"They told me that after searching my record they'd let me know," Guinn said. "I haven't heard anything from them, and it's been almost two months now."

"Why do they keep trying so hard to

In Barbour County, 'If Elected I Promise'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

EUFULA -- "We're really making history," said the Rev. G. H. Cossey, co-chairman of the newly-formed Barbour County Political Association. "There's been nothing like it in the last 100 years."

Then he looked a little wistfully around the dimly-lit auditorium of the Eufula Baptist Academy.

Outside, rain beat against the windows. Inside, there were about 30 people sitting in the chairs lined up facing the stage. They looked wet but expectant.

They didn't look like revolutionaries. Nevertheless, Mr. Cossey told them, that's what they were. They were attending the kick-off rally last week for Barbour County's Negro candidates. The candidates are the first Negroes in so many elections that nobody there was old enough to know how many.

Mr. Cossey read off the names of the 13 Negro candidates for 14 offices (one man is running for two positions) while nine candidates took their seats on-stage.

"We'd like to know what you're going to do in office so we'll know whether we want you in there," Mr. Cossey told them.

"If I'm elected county sheriff," said Wesley McNear, a slender, soft-spoken young man, "I can promise you one thing for the benefit of everyone, white and Negro--law and order and justice for all."

But like most politicians, even brand-new ones, once he got to promising, he wasn't satisfied with one thing. So he promised a second thing.

"We'll have equal employment in the sheriff's office," McNear said. "I'll be half white and half Negro. We'll work together to make Barbour the best

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 5)

In Samuel Younge Death

Doar Denies Federal Violation

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE--The FBI has found no evidence that the federally guaranteed civil rights of Samuel L. Younge Jr. were violated the night he was murdered.

According to U. S. Assistant Attorney General John Doar, "an extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has failed to produce evidence of a violation of a federal criminal statute."

The student civil rights worker was shot to death Jan. 3 near a downtown service station. In a letter made public this week, Doar said the FBI began investigating "as soon as the Department of Justice learned of Mr. Younge's death."

"In this case," the assistant attorney general wrote, "possible federal crimes would have been the willful deprivation of federal rights under color of law or the deprivation of such rights pursuant to a conspiracy."

Doar pointed out that "local authorities in Tuskegee immediately arrested a suspect who has since been charged in state court with murder." The man, Marvin Segrest of Shorter, was later freed in \$20,000 bail to await action by the April grand jury.

According to students who said they saw the killing, Segrest refused to allow Younge to use a public rest room.

The assistant attorney general wrote to Miss Gwendolyn M. Patton, president

Huntsville Poverty Vote Called Highest in Nation

BY ROBERT E. SMITH

HUNTSVILLE--The percentage of poor people who voted in the anti-poverty program election here is the largest in the nation, according to officials in Washington.

Jerry Hornsby, administrator of Madison County's Community Action Program, said 2,500 persons in poor neighborhoods voted last week for members of the bi-racial community action committee and the policy advisory group.

This represents 14.8 per cent of the estimated number of poor people--folks with less than \$3,000 a year income, according to the government--in the county as of the 1960 census.

The federal Office of Economic Opportunity said the response in Madison County was three times that in any other part of the country.

Less than three per cent of the low-income people showed up to vote in Northern cities like Philadelphia and Western cities like Los Angeles.

The OEO was so impressed with Madison County's showing that it asked for a report.

This week, Hornsby sent off a report to Washington telling how it was done:

Four areas in downtown Huntsville and six in Madison County were called "target districts" for poverty work.

Six teams of election aides were employed at \$1.25 an hour for a total of \$1800. The teams went door to door advertising mass meetings in each district to nominate candidates for the two 10-man anti-poverty boards.

Hornsby attended each of the meetings in January and February to explain the election.

"Attendance at the meetings was much better in the rural areas--a total of 440 people in the country and only 30 in the city," he said. "Ninety per cent were Negro."

When voting day came March 1, the whites ran better than the Negroes. All seven whites nominated were elected. The other 13 elected are Negro.

Once again, the response in the rural areas was higher than in the city: 20.6 per cent turnout in the country, 8.7 downtown.

To get up interest in the election, the community action program staff again took leaflets door to door and notified the newspapers and radio and television stations.

"Fifty voting places were set up in stores and other places familiar to the people," Hornsby reported.

Hornsby is not sure how accurate his "record" vote percentage is. It is based on an estimate of 7,726 poor families in Madison County in 1960. Huntsville has grown a great deal since then, but it is hard to tell just how much the number of low-income people has changed.

And Huntsville made some mistakes in its election, too.

Hornsby thinks the staff should have required proof of age and of residence.

"The election aides attended all of the ballot boxes at some time, but they could not look at all of them all of the time," he reported.

Only one known case of ballots stuffing was discovered.

Huntsville has a full schedule of anti-poverty programs under way and several more on the way.

Proposed are a home-management service, a day-care center, a family service center, a child care clinic, and "Project Discovery."

How Judges Reached Decision on Poll Tax

BY TERRY COWLES

MONTGOMERY--Special counsel for the state, John P. Kohn, said that paying it was a "manifestation of good citizenship." Alabama Assistant Attorney General Gordon Madison said that failure to pay it took the vote away from just as many whites as Negroes.

But two judges serving on a three-judge federal panel disagreed. They said last week that the poll tax Alabama has been paying since 1903 "clearly



FRANK M. JOHNSON JR.

In This Week's Southern Courier

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"SHOWBOAT" REMEMBERS THE OLD BASEBALL DAYS. Page Four.

TWENTY POUNDS OF FISH AND 24 CHICKENS. Page Six.

TOUGHER RULES ON SCHOOL DESEGREGATION. Page Two.

TUSKEGEE POSTPONES A FAIR EMPLOYMENT LAW. Page Two.

CHILDREN FIND A PLAYGROUND ON A NEW HIGHWAY. Page Three.

"Project Discovery."

ly violates the Fifteenth Amendment" of the Constitution of the United States.

The third judge on the panel, Judge Walter P. Gwin, said he "respectfully" could not go along with his two colleagues, Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. and Judge Richard T. Rives.

Congress started the threat to the poll tax with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which instructed the U. S. Attorney General to bring suits against states that levied a tax on voting.

Texas felt the effects first. On Feb. 9, a three-judge federal panel in that state ruled its poll tax unconstitutional. That set a precedent for the Alabama federal judges when they heard the case.

But the state of Alabama was not going to give up easily. It went into court with a battery of lawyers ready to knock as many holes as possible in the Justice Department's case.

The Justice Department lawyers argued that the poll tax was created to keep the vote away from the Negro. And the men who put the poll tax into action a half century ago left some statements on the record that made the Justice Department's case strong.

On May 21, 1901, a State Constitutional Convention met to make some changes in Alabama's constitution. The subject most discussed was the "voting issue."

"We want the white man who once voted in the state and controlled it to vote again," they said. "We want that old condition restored."

Members of that convention went on to say, "It is our purpose, it is our intention, and here is our registered vow to disfranchise every Negro in the state and not a single white man."

Their "purpose" and "intention" took the form of a tax on voting. The \$1.50 poll tax affected Negro voters more than whites. The convention made provisions that whites could use to avoid paying the tax.

One provision was the "grandfather clause." The clause said that Civil War veterans and their descendants were exempt from any other voting requirements. Few whites were unable to take advantage of that clause. But almost no Negroes were exempted from paying poll tax under it.

Those lawmakers of 50 years ago left little doubt as to why they created the poll tax, but--contended attorneys representing the state of Alabama--that was 50 years ago.

They pointed out that money collected by the tax went into the state's educational fund. They also indicated that people who didn't have the energy to pay were not really interested in public affairs.

They claimed racial discrimination is no longer involved in collecting poll tax.

Attorney Kohn said, in addition, that calling the \$1.50 tax a financial burden in these days and times was "ridiculous."

Judge Gwin agreed with attorneys. He said that the U. S. Supreme Court is now studying a similar case involving Virginia's poll tax law. "The principle of judicial restraint dictates that we await the action of the Supreme Court," he said.

Judge Johnson and Rives overruled him, however. Judge Rives indicated in his opinion that racial discrimination is still an issue. Judge Johnson said that, racial discrimination aside, "poll tax is invalid in its very conception."

The state of Texas is appealing the decision of the federal judges there. Alabama state officials have made no comment on whether they plan to appeal or not, but one of the defendants in the case, Montgomery County Probate Judge Perry Hooper, said that he felt sure it would be appealed.

Judge Hooper called the decision "unfortunate."



JOHN DOAR

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

ROOM 622, FRANK LEU BUILDING
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104
PHONE: (205) 262-3572

THE SOUTHERN COURIER is published weekly by a non-profit, non-share education corporation, for the study and dissemination of accurate information about events and affairs in the field of human relations.
Price: 10¢ per copy, \$5 per year in the South, \$10 per year elsewhere in the U. S., patron subscription \$25 per year, used to defray the costs of printing and publication. Second-class postage paid at Montgomery, Ala.

Editor: Robert E. Smith
Executive Editor: Mary Ellen Gale
Photography Editor: James H. Peppler
Layout Editor: Amy R. Peppler
Business Manager: James M. Sims

Vol. II, No. 11

March 12-13, 1966

Editorial Opinion



The One Question

In years past, the political oratory in these parts was a simple guide for a voter. Either a candidate was a segregationist or he wasn't, and when you cast your ballot you knew what you were getting.

Now that almost all candidates have recognized the increased Negro vote, you can expect the office seekers to play games with the English language.

Nearly everybody in 1966 is in favor of peace and harmony. The others spend their time talking about an invasion from the federal government that must be stopped.

The best way to sort out the candidates is with one test question: Do you think the Confederate flag or the American flag should be flown above the Capitol dome?

The candidate's answer to that question pretty much tells you where he stands on the other issues in this election.

Attorney General Richmond Flowers has already given his answer. He would fly the American flag.

When the candidates tour the state to meet the people, this is the question they should be asked by the voters.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

The Scholarship Information Centre of the University of North Carolina YMCA-YWCA recently published a book called Financial Aid for Southern Negro Students.

We hope you may find some material in this booklet that could be printed by your paper and therefore gotten before even larger group of people. Here in North Carolina, the guide has been distributed already to all Negro high schools in the state.

As you can imagine, we are a very non-profit organization and function solely on periodic loans from the YMCA. Although we work on a shoestring, we would like to get information about this guide out to as many people as we can.

Not only have we prepared this booklet (and incidentally a much larger second edition is slated for May), but we have also started a clearing house of information about new scholarships we find and of different job opportunities we come across.

Tony Mason
Scholarship Information Centre
YMCA-YWCA, Chapel Hill, N. C.

To the Editor:

On the 15th of February the patients at Searcy Hospital marched for better food and better clothing. They also marched at the front office to see Doctor Rowe about getting better treatment from the white employees.

They say the white employees cursed them out and throw their food to them when they go to the canteen. After the march, some of the police came to the front office of Doctor Rowe and handcuffed some of the patients, trying to make them tell who wrote their petition for them. But none of them would tell. They said they would die and go to hell before they would tell.

(Name withheld)
Searcy Hospital
Mobile, Ala.

Win a Prize

For the best letter from a student about why young people should go to college, THE SOUTHERN COURIER will give away a free copy of "Complete Planning for College," the \$3.20 book.

U.S. Stiffens School Desegregation Rules

Orders Teacher Transfers

WASHINGTON--The U. S. Office of Education's new guidelines for school desegregation next year are tougher and more exact than 1965's.

The federal government said Monday it will insist that, in effect, each Negro school in a district have some white teachers and each white school have a Negro teacher.

Inferior schools must be closed and

Voters Meet Candidates In Tuskegee

TUSKEGEE -- It looked something like a game of musical chairs.

Eighteen people played it one night last week at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

They sat near the front, in a section of pews all by themselves. Every now and then, one of them would turn around and look at the 75 people seated behind them the way an actor peeks through the curtains before he goes on-stage.

Up at the front of the church, C.G. Gomillion, chairman of the Macon County Democratic Club, kept the game moving briskly along.

He would call out the names of five or six players, and they would get up from the pews and take seats in a short row of chairs facing the audience.

Then, one by one, they would stand up and speak.

They made it clear the game they were playing wasn't really musical chairs. It was political chairs.

The players--some Negro, some white, some men, some women--were candidates for county or state offices in the Democratic primary May 3. Some of them were running against each other. Some had opponents who weren't there.

Since there weren't enough political chairs to go around, the candidates were competing for votes. They all had different ways of going about it.

"I'm not a speaker, I'm a plumber," said Willie L. Kirk Jr., a candidate for the county board of revenue. "I'm a construction man. I can get on a dozer and show a man what I want. I'm for new industry and higher wages. I'm for the common working man."

"I'm a graduate of Howard University and I have masters degrees from Columbia and Chicago universities," said Mrs. Jessie P. Guzman, running for place No. 1 in the House of Representatives 31st district (Barbour, Bullock, and Macon counties). "I'm a professor of history and a former dean of women at Tuskegee Institute."

"There are 64,000 people in the 31st district," said Thomas Reed, who is running against Mrs. Guzman. "Hundreds of them go to bed hungry because they haven't reached an educational level where they can get jobs. People are looking for a new day--leaders they can trust."

Nearly all candidates promised they would be honest, efficient, intelligent, courteous, and eager for advice from the voters. But every now and then somebody departed from the pattern.

Robert Howard, a candidate for tax assessor, started off by saying, "I don't have too many qualifications. I don't know too much about the job. But I've been in business for 20 years and I know the value of property and how to keep records."

Howard, a white man, got the evening's biggest round of applause from (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 4)

the students sent elsewhere. Next year systems must double and in some cases triple the percentage of Negroes in desegregated schools and they must make efforts to protect the students from harassment.

Buses must be routed as much as possible to serve any student who transfers to any school. A student who is in the ninth grade next fall or is at least 15 years old may choose his own school, regardless of his parents' choice.

There must be freedom of choice each year, for a period of at least 30 days. The school system must send an explanatory letter and transfer form to each parent. No reason need be given for applying for a transfer.

Once submitted, a choice may not be changed, unless the student moves, needs special instruction, or has a special hardship.

No choice may be denied except for overcrowding.

These, anyway, are the rules set up by the Office of Education. The office said it is doubling its staff to keep an eye on Southern school districts and will withhold federal money from districts that do not satisfy the requirements.

The federal government made the same threat last year, but no funds have been cut off yet. In a few cases, federal money has been delayed because of failure to comply.

Alabama Governor George C. Wallace reportedly asked a group of educators to help him resist the regulations. "We must obey the laws, just and unjust, but we should not have to obey edicts of bureaucratic officials which go beyond the law," the governor said.

State Superintendent of Education Austin R. Meadows was quoted as saying Negro teachers already teach in white schools in north Alabama, where the Negro population is low.

Candidates Eye Klan in Eutaw

BY DAPHNA SIMPSON

EUTAW--On March 1, five Negroes qualified and announced their intentions for running for several offices in Greene County. On March 2, 250 copies of the "Fiery Cross," a Ku Klux Klan newspaper, were left on the steps of a Negro church.

The papers were placed on the steps of the First Baptist Church of Eutaw. This is the church where mass meetings and other civil rights meetings have been held.

The Rev. William Branch, who is an active SCLC worker in Greene County, sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach in Washington. He asked that the Ku Klux Klan of Greene County be investigated to prevent a possible race war.

Mr. Branch said, "Negroes won't be frightened by them (the Klan) anymore. But we don't want any trouble. The Negroes in this county sense that the Klan is being reactivated in this area. We hope the federal government will come to our rescue before anything happens."

Rev. Branch said that the Deacons of Defense had offered its services, but so far he has turned the offer down. The Deacons of Defense is a Negro organization opposed to the KKK. It says its purpose is to defend when the law will not.

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



WENDELL PARIS, OF THE TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE ADVANCEMENT LEAGUE, PICKETS A & P SUPER MARKET IN TUSKEGEE, WHICH HAD REFUSED TO SIGN TIAL FAIR EMPLOYMENT PLEDGE, SAYING IT HAD FAIR POLICY ANYWAY.

Tuskegee Refers Law On Jobs to Committee

TUSKEGEE--The Tuskegee City Council this week dropped the hot potato of fair employment practices into the cold water of a bi-racial advisory group. The council referred a fair employment practices ordinance, proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee for Justice in Macon County, to the brand-new Tuskegee Advisory Committee.

Although the committee has been planned for months, Councilman Stanley H. Smith said, it was set up now because "the city of Tuskegee is going through very critical times."

Smith said the group's "broad purpose is to advise your city government on all matters which are relevant to the concern of the governing body of Tuskegee." "This ordinance is certainly one of the things we should try to bring to the attention of the advisory committee at its first meeting," he said. The Council then voted to do so.

Ben-Zion Wardy, a Tuskegee Institute professor representing the ad hoc committee, asked the council when to expect action on the ordinance.

"This is a new committee. We're not expecting a report from them tomorrow," replied Councilman J. Allan Parker. "I'm sure they will act within a reasonable period of time."

The committee membership includes white segregationists and moderates. It also includes Negro moderates and conservatives from Tuskegee Institute, the Veterans Administration Hospital, and the residential community.

It does not include any member of the ad hoc committee, presently Tuskegee's most militant adult civil rights organization, or of the Tuskegee Institute Advancement League (TIAL), a student group.

"We need advice from more than one element of the community," Smith said in announcing the committee membership. "Even if they have conflicting interests, in the committee we hope they will think of the best interests of all the people of Tuskegee."

The council acted against a backdrop of a litigation for fair employment practices by the ad hoc committee and TIAL. In the last three weeks, the two groups have persuaded 53 of Tuskegee's 250 businesses to sign a fair employment practices pledge. The groups have also collected 18 refusals.

Last Saturday, some 30 TIAL members picketed several stores that declined to sign the pledge, including the A & P Super Market. This week, Robert Funderburk, manager of the local A & P, sent the statement to the regional A & P manager for his consideration.

Funderburk admitted that the pickets had hurt his business "a little." "It's all a mistake," he added. "Our employment policy says just what their statement does. We go along with fair play 100 per cent."



SATURDAY, MARCH 12

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES -- "Love is a Many Splendored Thing." The story of a love that defied time and conventions. A young woman doctor falls in love with a correspondent estranged from his wife, 8:30 p.m. Channel 6 in Birmingham.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

DANNY THOMAS SPECIAL--Danny goes country and Western--an hour featuring Eddy Arnold, Kay Starr, Pat Buttram, and the Thirty Doodletown Pipers, a singing group. Completing the cast of entertainers is an assortment of barnyard animals, 8 p.m. Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 13 in Birmingham, and Channel 15 in Florence. PERRY MASON--A case dealing with a ruthless star maker who is slain in a recording studio, 8 p.m. Channel 4 in Dothan, Channel 19 in Huntsville, and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW--Andy and his girl friend Helen get into a hilarious situation when they promote a romance between the stodgy county clerk and the county nurse, 8 p.m. Channel 4 in Dothan, Channel 13 in Birmingham, Channel 19 in Huntsville, and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

THE VIRGINIAN--"A Bald Faced Boy." All kind of trouble breaks loose when Randy's rowdy mountain relatives come to Medicine Bow to protect him from a member of a hill clan seeking vengeance, 8:30 p.m. Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 13 in Birmingham, and Channel 15 in Florence.

BEWITCHED -- "The Leprechaun." Samantha and Darrin are called on to help one of the little people retrieve his pot of gold, 8 p.m. Channel 3 in Pensacola, Fla.; Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 31 in Huntsville, and Channel 32 in Montgomery.

THE BARON--Following a tip on a big jewel theft, the Baron discovers "There's Someone Behind You." He recognizes the culprit and becomes a target for elimination, 9 p.m. Channel 3 in Pensacola, Fla.; Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 31 in Huntsville, and Channel 32 in Montgomery.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

THE ADDAMS FAMILY--All kind of laughter and pranks will be going on in the home of these misfits, 7:30 p.m. Channel 3 in Pensacola, Fla.; Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 31 in Huntsville, and Channel 32 in Montgomery.



DICK AND TOM SMOTHERS THE SMOTHERS BROTHERS--Tom gets assistance from a beautiful angel inspector named Dolores when he tries to help an unhappy commercial artist, 8:30 p.m. Channel 4 in Dothan, Channel 19 in Huntsville, and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

Natchez Calls Off Boycott That Began Last August

NATCHEZ, Miss.--Negroes have begun trading at stores here again after a boycott that began last August.

The NAACP in Natchez said the protest had "100 per cent impact." "It was devastating for the merchants," it

said.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said Negroes are still boycotting stores that have not agreed to hire Negroes.

Two stores owned by Mayor John J. Nossier are still being avoided by Negro shoppers.

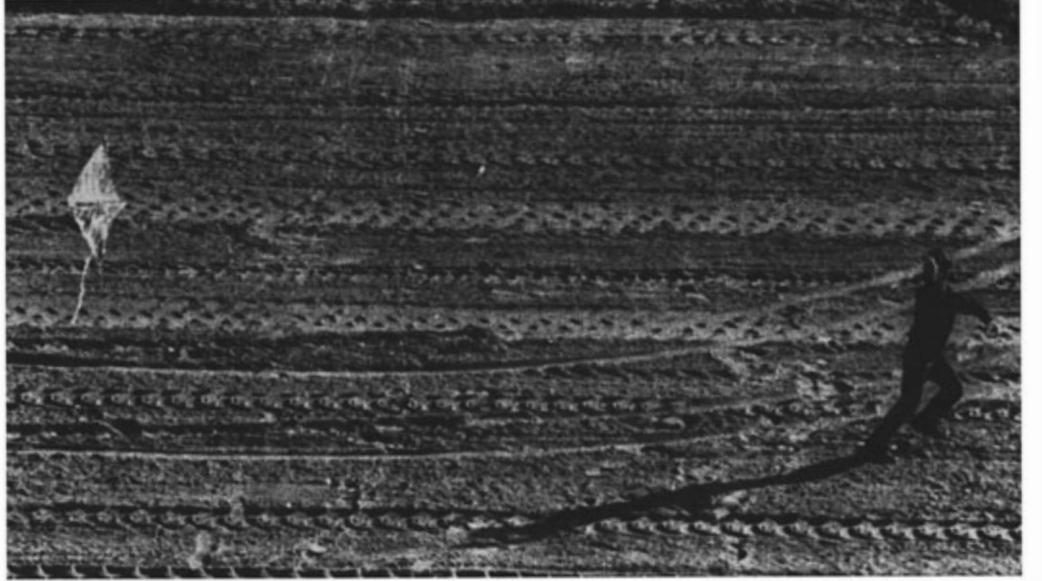
The announcement that Negroes would begin trading with most downtown stores came after a meeting last week of NAACP leaders, city officials, and merchants.

The original boycott began to protest the attempted killing of George Metcalfe, president of the NAACP branch, Aug. 27. Car pools were organized to take shoppers to nearby towns.

In early December the mayor announced that the city would agree to most of the demands by civil rights leaders--hiring Negro policemen, desegregating the city's federally supported hospital, ceasing brutality and verbal abuse, opening public facilities to all, and hiring city employees without racial discrimination.

However, the boycott continued when some Negroes employed at Christmas time were laid off. The business leaders agreed in the meeting last week to rehire those workers.





fantasy on 'freeway-to-be'

KIDS IN CONSTRUCTION LAND

city children convert highway construction site into versatile playground after workmen leave



PHOTOGRAPHS BY
JAMES H. PEPPLER



Birmingham Rights Leaders Ask, SCLC Federation Ok'ed

BIRMINGHAM--All is quiet now in Birmingham. No meetings, no shootings. Pickets quietly walk around Liberty Super Market, where five Negroes were shot more than two weeks ago while protesting alleged unfair hiring practices there.

A temporary court order limiting the number of pickets hasn't helped Liberty. It is still losing money, more than \$100,000 a week, according to recent testimony in court.

"When people don't want to buy, there isn't anything anyone can do to make them," said one picket at the door.

U. S. District Court Judge Clarence W. Allgood last week ordered the Community Relations Service and the Equal Opportunity Commission to mediate the dispute over hiring practices.

But they haven't arrived yet, and local rights groups and Liberty seem to be nearing an agreement without them.

"We feel that we are very close to a settlement," said Demetrius C. Newton, a Negro attorney working for Liberty in the negotiations.

The Rev. Edward Gardner of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights expressed hope that the differences between the store and the Negroes would be resolved soon.

The market is on 13th St. North and 4th Ave. North in a Negro neighborhood. "I wouldn't be surprised if we settled the thing this week," said Newton. The Negroes would probably be a plan for Negro hiring.

And after Liberty "More Negroes are together than there ever have been on anything else," Hosea Williams of SCLC once said.

Even the Birmingham Baptist Ministers Conference, which has been termed by some ministers as the most conservative Negro religious group in the city, supports boycotts at Liberty. And the conference is also supporting a freedom rally to be held later this month.

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, has done what no other group in town has been able to do: It has unified the Negro community--something which SCLC couldn't do when it first came to town for the voter registration drive.

But the new-found solidarity would never have been possible had not the incident at Liberty occurred. It spurred the Negro community into action.

But the big question is, where will IMA move?

It isn't sure, but it recognizes it has a basis for making wide-spread progress.

"If we don't get something done with what we have now, then nothing will work," said the Rev. Joseph E. Ellwanger of IMA.

If SCLC couldn't move the Negro community from without, and if IMA can't move it from within, then perhaps only someone from above can. And no prophets have been heard on the streets of Birmingham recently.

Williams also says Negroes should organize similar bargaining groups in state legislative districts and U.S. Congressional districts.

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Only a Felony Prohibits Vote

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

hold us back?"

Earl Wesley, another Prichard man with a minor conviction on his record, says he has also been turned down by the board of registrars.

He failed twice to get registered when the literacy test was still in use, but shortly after the Voting Rights Act of 1965 abolished the test last summer, Wesley went back. He says this is what happened:

"The man said, 'Wesley, what do you think about it? You think you made it?'"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, I don't think so. There's something on here I don't understand, this disorderly conduct."

"I can't see where that's a felony."

But he just told me to try again, to keep trying....He didn't tell me no such thing as checking my record and then letting me know, I just don't see why they won't let me vote."

Mobile County Court House has no record of a felony conviction against either of these two men or against two other men who claim they have been rejected for similar reasons.

The board of registrars refused to comment on the situation.

Newsman Convicted

LUVERNE--The photography editor of the Southern Courier was convicted of trespassing Monday by Law and Equity Judge H. H. Little of Crenshaw County.

James H. Peppler was sentenced to 30 days in jail and fined \$200. He appealed the decision to circuit court and was freed on \$500 bond.

County Solicitor W. R. King charged Peppler with trespassing at the Helicon Junior High School in the northern part of the county Feb. 7. Peppler had been sent there to interview the principal, B. Y. Farris.

There was no demonstration at the school that day, but protests have been held before that time and since. Negroes say they want Farris removed.

Circuit court in Crenshaw County Feb. 2 ordered the demonstrations to cease, and the demonstrators attempted to have that order reviewed by federal court.

However, in Montgomery, federal court Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. refused to do so, saying the protests "reached the point of being nothing more than a hysterical mob."

Court Approves Vote Rights Act

WASHINGTON -- People who have been qualified by federal examiners in Southern states will definitely be eligible to vote.

The Supreme Court gave its approval Monday to key parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Chief Justice Earl Warren spoke for all the justices in upholding the abolishment of literacy tests, the main issue at stake. The literacy test law applied to six Southern states, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia.

"We may finally look forward to the day when truly the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude," Chief Justice Warren said.

"I plan to get the state board of education to approve my courses. They keep crying about new industry in the state and the need for skilled workers for modern jobs. Well here I am."

Computer School Offers Training Open to All

MONTGOMERY--"They told me I could never operate a school for both races here in Alabama."

So a sale man from Georgia named Frank M. Vincent Jr. said, "I've got the money and the time, and let's see."

Vincent has run the Automated Institute of Technology in Montgomery for seven months, and he is still trying to spread the word to Negro youths about the opportunities in his field of computers and business machines.

If you drop into his office at the Institute, Vincent, a large and casual sort, will show you a bulletin board full of job offers for computer programmers and operators.

One of Vincent's favorites is a clipping from the Wall Street Journal last fall -- "Lack of Programmers Hits Computer Users; Training is Stepped Up. . . . Shortage, Estimated at 25,000, Prompts Makers and Schools To Increase Their Courses."

"Right, 25,000 jobs out there waiting," said Vincent.

The U.S. government is one of the largest users of computers in the country, and so Vincent's bulletin board has several military and civil service job offers in the area.

Programmers are the people who tell the business machines what to do. The card-punch operators code new information for the machines to take in.

"It may be fear that they won't be welcome, or expenses, that keep Negroes away," he said. He added that Negroes are welcome and that he will help them finance the courses, which run from 40 hours to nine months, night or day.

"I plan to get the state board of education to approve my courses. They keep crying about new industry in the state and the need for skilled workers for modern jobs. Well here I am."

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

been swarming with SCLC staff from Atlanta, they take pains to avoid giving the impression that SCLC will run the confederation.

When the newly-elected chairman, state senate candidate Lonnie L. Brown of Alberta, asked Williams when the next meeting should be held, Williams said, "Don't look at me; you're the chairman."

"This is not an SCLC organization," Williams emphasized. "We invited every organization in the state that we knew about."

"The Democratic clubs have their influence, the NAACP has its influence, the voters' leagues have their influence, that other state-wide group has its influence, SCLC has its influence," he said, "and we must bring them all together."

"Whatever has the respect of the Negro people in Choctaw County, that's the group that will speak for Choctaw County."

Before the next meeting March 26, SCLC plans a last big effort to bring more county groups and the important city organizations into the confederation.

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TUSKEGEE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

the mostly Negro audience. It happened when he said: "This office has never been integrated. I will integrate it. I will hire a competent colored clerk."

All the candidates who brought up the subject of race relations said they opposed discrimination and believed in working together.

"Only in unity can we accomplish what we seek," said Harold J. Noble, a white man running for re-election to the board of revenue.

"If I am elected," said Lucius D. Amerson, the first Negro ever to run for Macon County sheriff, "anyone who breaks the law will be arrested regardless of race, creed, or color."



WESLEY MCNEAR Bullock Sheriff Candidate



MRS. MARY MARSHALL Bullock School Board Candidate

In Eufaula, Voters Hear 'If Elected I Promise...'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

county in the state."

John Kelly Jr. spoke twice--once as a candidate for the county Board of Education and once as a candidate for an at-large seat on the county Democratic Executive Committee.

"I am soliciting the vote of all registered voters regardless of creed or color or national origin," said Kelly. "I'll see to it we have the best facilities in all schools. Our teachers will be adequately paid. Our children will get the educational things that in previous years have been neglected."

Eight of Barbour County's Negro candidates are women. Six of the eight are running for precinct seats on the Democratic Executive Committee.

Although Barbour County has more white voters than Negro voters, some of the precincts have more Negro voters than white. The candidates for those seats sounded eager and confident.

"The time has come," said Mrs. Bernice Haslam. "We have been used to back seats, back doors, and back jobs. We've been silent too long. But now we're going to vote right and get right."

"We're not just going to move from the back of the bus to the front. We're going to drive."

Mr. Cossey said the Barbour County Political Association, formed to promote candidates for the election, could use some friends right now.

He watched while nearly every member of the audience walked up to a table and carefully counted out a dime or a dollar, or sometimes two dollars.

"I was hoping we'd have a houseful of people," he said, looking regretfully out at the pouring rain. "We need money."

But then he thought of a last word for the audience and the candidates.

"If you don't win," he said, "this isn't the last time. Quitters never win, and winners never quit."

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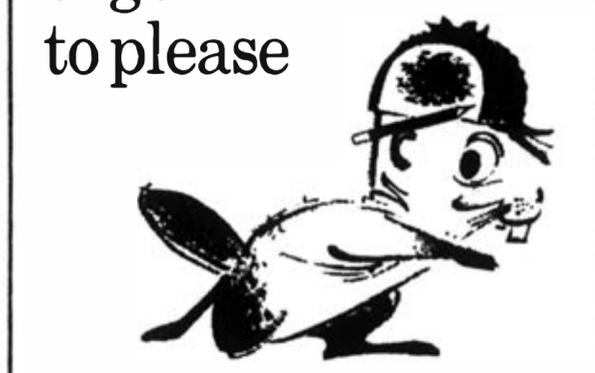
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BIG JIM'S TRAIN IS ROLLING AGAIN

BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

GROVE HILL--"Big Train" came back to southwest Alabama this week and stopped at all the rural county seats.

"Tell all your friends. The Big Train's runnin' again," shouted ex-Governor James Folsom to about 100 people who gathered in little groups around the Clarke County Court House Wednesday afternoon.

"Big Jim" didn't really give a speech. He chatted about the Bill of Rights: "That's what my campaign is based on, that's what my campaigns

have always been based on."

And he said that if he's elected, he'll call "a constitution convention for all the folks to bring this state up to date."

Then he went around shaking hands and passing out bumper stickers, while his four-man guitar band sang out "some of the good old songs with lots of history to them."

Two elderly ladies came up to him, and one said, "We want to shake hands with you, Big Jim. It's been a long time, but we're so glad to see you back."

Big Jim--6 feet, eight inches tall--bent way over, shook their hands, and said he was mighty glad to be back. Folsom was governor from 1946 through 1950 and 1954 through 1958.

Since his last race for the governor's office, Folsom has been an insurance agent and securities dealer in Cullman, in north Alabama.

"The old folks, they're gonna vote for him for sure," an old Negro man said. Folsom worked his way around to the microphone again and said the band would do "I'm Back on the Firing Line Again," while some helpers passed the ammunition boxes around.

"It doesn't matter how much you put in. What matters is we get our ammunition."

Folsom chatted some more about the Bill of Rights, about building four-lane highways to every county seat, and about the old charges that he's in love with the bottle.

He said he used to drink a little but that he also had "an ailment that made me sometimes walk like I was drunk and talk like I was drunk."

He got over the ailment and "I wouldn't touch a drink now for a million bucks, I'm the new old Big Jim, and I'm back on the firin' line. We'll come around again in April. Tell all your friends."

Whitney Young on Rights, Peace

TUSKEGEE -- "I don't think civil rights organizations ought to confuse their friends by getting off on another issue," said Whitney Young, national executive director of the Urban League.

Young was talking about the war in Viet Nam. On a visit to Tuskegee Institute this week, he told 250 students and faculty members that "an awful lot of people don't agree with the theory that 'you can't be for civil rights and be for the war.'"

He suggested that civil rights groups may lose sight of their immediate goals

20 Pounds of Potatoes, 20 Pounds of Fish, 24 Chickens, and 8 Pounds of Macaroni



100 MEALS A DAY



90 MEALS TO GO

MONTGOMERY--The other morning Mrs. Georgia Gilmore started to prepare the noon dinner. She began with 24 chickens, 20 pounds of fish fillets, 20 pounds of potatoes, more than eight pounds of macaroni and cheese, a dozen bunches of greens, and two gallons of beans.

Mrs. Gilmore is a big woman and she has a big family. But not that big.

She prepares from 100 to 125 meals a day in her own home on Montgomery's east side. Up to 90 meals are take-out orders for the nearby laundries, doctors' offices, and Alabama State College personnel.

But a dozen or more folks come each noon to Georgia's dining room for her choice of two hot meals. They come from different occupations and neighborhoods and so the talk is always varied and lively--from civil rights and the governor to baseball and music.

Usually someone will switch on the television set, and the dialogue of a soap opera will be heard over the conversation.

One of Georgia's regulars says that he once found Mrs. Gilmore crying her eyes out in the kitchen because someone on the TV soap opera had died. Georgia won't admit that, however.

Back in her kitchen, Mrs. Gilmore will tell you how she got into the food business.

She started cooking in her family when she was eight years of age, and when she was an adult she worked for the cafeteria at a Montgomery hospital.

At the time of the bus boycott in 1955, the restaurant was closed, and Mrs. Gilmore, with six children, was out of work.



MRS. GEORGIA GILMORE

She started carrying sandwiches to Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, and other well-known people have dropped by for a meal. Who taught her to cook? Mrs. Gilmore is proud that the Rev. Mama, of course.

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The deadline for communities to apply for funds for summer Head Start projects is March 31.

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