

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

VOL. III, NO. 30

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TEN CENTS



BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--"We make records, the public buys these records, and we give music back to the people free."

J. A. Sanford--secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Musicians Local 733--said that's one reason why his union sponsored a free jazz festival here last Sunday and Monday. Youth Development Inc. also helped plan the event, held in Kelly Ingram Park.

Eight groups highlighted the festival--Ike Williams and the Collegians, Avery Richardson's Band, Fletcher Myatt and the Cool Strings, Earlie Billups and the All Star Group, Willie James Smith and the Flamingoes, the Caesar Hufi Combo, Jimmy Cheppelle's band, and Lucky Leon Davis and his trio. Vocalist Jesse Champion also performed.

Widow of Shooting Victim Says Deputy Is Bothering Witnesses

BY KERRY GRUSON

UNION SPRINGS, Ala.--Negro residents of Bullock County were complaining about Negro Deputy Tom ("Preacher") Tolliver again this week.

Mrs. Mozell King--widow of Willie James King, the man Tolliver is accused of killing--said Tolliver has been bothering her brother, Thomas Calhoun. Calhoun was an eye-witness to the fatal shooting last April.

"I think they want to scare him (Calhoun)," Mrs. King charged. "They want to make him get out of town. Preacher told him that he was talking too much of his business."

According to Mrs. King, Tolliver started bothering Calhoun after Richard Lee Harris' trial July 3. (Harris, a close friend of King, was later found guilty of resisting arrest the night King was shot.)

Calhoun testified at Harris' trial. He is also expected to testify before the grand jury next month, when it considers the charges filed against Tolliver by Mrs. King.

Mrs. King said the most recent incident happened last Sunday, as Mrs. King and her family were on their way to church. "Preacher's car was parked in the middle of the road," Mrs. King said. Calhoun--who was driving Mrs. King, her mother, and her daughter to church--slowed down.

"He blew his horn," Mrs. King recalled. "Then Preacher came out of the store there and started cussing my brother. He called him a 'big-headed mother ----,' and come on his way to the car. So my brother drove 'round him on the field."



TOM "PREACHER" TOLLIVER

Last week, said Mrs. King, Tolliver told her neighbors that he was looking for Calhoun to arrest him. He never picked Calhoun up.

But Tolliver has been by Mrs. King's house twice. "I sure am tired of that man," she said. "You can't go no place that he ain't." "He comes into the drive and gets out," Mrs. King went on. "Says he wants to beg pardon. Every time he come, he be mostly drunk. I'm scared of him. I don't talk to him."

On one occasion, said Mrs. King, Tolliver was parked in the drive when she and her family returned from a shopping trip. "The children got into the house and shut the door. I went 'round the back," Mrs. King said. "But he stopped my mother. He kept on asking, 'Do you believe I meant to shoot Willie?'

Tolliver denied visiting the family or

6 Months For Marchers

BY SANDRA COLVIN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--Four young men have been sentenced to six months at hard labor for refusing to break up a march to the Governor's Mansion.

The four--the Rev. Richard Boone and Edward Rudolph of SCLC, Jimmie Boone, and David Lee Hunter--were also fined \$100 by Municipal Court Judge D. Eugene Loe, Miss Delle Smith and Miss Rosemary Williams were also convicted of refusing to obey an officer, and were each fined \$100.

Defense attorney Solomon Seay argued that the group was not causing any disturbance. Besides, he said, the demonstrators had been permitted to march several blocks before being stopped at the edge of a white neighborhood.

Afterwards, Judge Loe explained the sentences: "Heretofore in Montgomery, we have not been giving the maximum sentence. But if people are willing to violate the law, then they should be willing to pay the maximum sentence."

In a statement, Richard Boone said the people are marching in Montgomery because--among other reasons--"in an area densely populated with Negroes, there are no street lights, no sewage, and unpaved streets."

Sumrall Gets 5 Yrs. On U.S. Draft Charge

BY MERTIS RUBIN

JACKSON, Miss.--After 27 minutes of deliberation, an all-white jury of eight women and four men found John Otis Sumrall guilty of refusing induction into the armed forces.

U. S. District Judge Harold Cox immediately sentenced the former Clarke County civil rights worker to five years in prison, and fined him \$2,500.

Last May 10, Sumrall had refused to take the symbolic step forward that means induction into the Army. He said he refused because Negroes were kept off the draft and appeal boards in Mississippi, and because he had been drafted out of turn.

After the verdict was read, Judge Cox asked the defendant if he had anything to say. Sumrall started to talk about newspaper coverage of this case, but Cox interrupted:

"I didn't ask for an argument. I asked about a statement."

Sumrall then said, "People such as me don't have freedom as provided by the Constitution of the United States. I do believe the verdict was not fair, that the verdict had been prepared in the minds of the jury previously."

"You have a misconception of the law," Cox replied. "That's un-American. I'm shocked to hear somebody make a statement like that."

Sumrall's lawyers--including Jonathan Shapiro of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Jacob Tanzer, a volunteer from Oregon--were not allowed to present evidence about Sumrall's claim that the draft boards are segregated.

When Sumrall was on the stand, Judge Cox took over the questioning and asked him, "If there had been colored people on the draft board, would you have gone into the armed services?"

Sumrall answered, "No, I wouldn't at this time, because of other reasons."

"You want to take the law in your own hands, and say whether you should go," Cox told him.

Sumrall also contended that there was a conspiracy among officials in Clarke and surrounding counties to get rid of him, because of his civil rights activity. He said these officials dropped criminal charges against him so he could be drafted.

"I never met court (in Quitman)," Sumrall testified. "I don't know what happened to those charges."

Quitman City Attorney Tally Riddell told the jury last Monday, "I had information that criminal charges were keeping this fellow from being inducted into the Army.... I've got the mayor or other people to drop charges against them so they can enlist."

The evidence showed that four different criminal charges against Sumrall were dropped. "We should have been happy to see him gone," Riddell admitted.

The prosecutor, U. S. Attorney Robert Hauberg, questioned Sumrall about who was advising him not to join the Army.

At the beginning of the trial, Cox threatened to hold defense attorney Tanzer in contempt of court. Tanzer was trying to ask the judge to postpone the trial, because the defense had had less than two weeks to get ready.

BY ROBIN REISIG

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--"I think (these students) have a right to flunk out of the white school just as they flunked out of the Negro school," argued attorney Demetrius C. Newton.

Last Tuesday, U. S. District Judge H. H. Grooms agreed. He ruled that Negro students applying for white schools under a freedom-of-choice plan cannot be rejected because they have bad--or even failing--grades.

If they could be, he said, this would deny them "the opportunity to improve such grades by having better teachers, it being generally accepted that the white teachers as a whole are better qualified than colored teachers."

So 28 Fairfield children--whose applications for white schools were rejected because of low grades--will be able to attend the schools of their choice this fall.

However, Judge Grooms denied the choices of six students who were described by the board as "disciplinary problems."

Last Friday and Monday, as the U. S. Justice Department took the Fairfield Board of Education to court for the 11th time since 1965, Judge Grooms ruled on a total of 53 choices that had been



MISS LORRAINE JORDAN

denied.

He also decided to close the seventh and eighth grades at all-Negro Englewood Elementary School.

The judge did not deal at all with the third issue raised--that three Negro teachers had been dismissed because their school lost students through integration.

There were several different questions involved in the judge's rulings on choices. For example, Mrs. Jamie Mae Jordan--who lives in Birmingham, near Fairfield--testified that her three children chose Fairfield schools.

Miss Lorraine Jordan, the only one who requested a predominantly-white school, was the only one whose choice was denied, her mother said. Although her daughter finished mostly-white Fairfield Junior High this year, Mrs. Jordan wouldn't be accepted (at Fairfield High School) because she lives in the Birmingham district."

Judge Grooms ruled that Miss Jordan and 13 other children rejected because they live in Birmingham--will

Hard to Get Jobs With Southern Bell

'There Was Something Fishy'

BY KERRY GRUSON

AUBURN, Ala.--"I took the whole senior class to sit for Southern Bell's preliminary employment test. There were some 'A' students in the class, but nobody passed," said Mrs. Mary Brooks, a teacher at all-Negro Wacochee School. "We knew then there was something fishy."

That was in 1965. In 1966, Mrs. Brooks again had the senior class take the test, and again nobody passed. This year, said Mrs. Brooks, she didn't bother.

But another lady from the area says it's still hard to get a job with Southern Bell. Miss Susan Harper (not her real name), a pretty 20-year-old Negro, said she has applied for a job with the phone company three times.

The first time, she said, she filed her application at the Opelika office. "They told me that they were connect-

ing the Opelika lines with the Montgomery exchange, and didn't need any more telephone operators," Miss Harper recalled.

"One or two months later, they hired two white girls who had been working with me as salesgirls in a store."

A year later, Southern Bell still has a phone exchange in Opelika. It employs 15 operators, all white.

This spring, Southern Bell ran a commercial on TV, offering jobs for telephone operators in Columbus, Ga. "I thought they must really need people, because it was on TV for six weeks," said Miss Harper. "So I phoned a number they gave, and they gave me an appointment seven weeks away."

"Normally," she charged, "an appointment is arranged within the next few days."

Mrs. Ouida McClendon, a Southern Bell official, explained, "We had 1,500 applicants as a result of the commer-

cial. So sometimes there was a delay."

But Miss Henderson said that ten days after her call, one of her white friends also phoned, and got an appointment for a week later.

"We had some cancellations," said Mrs. McClendon. But Miss Harper said there was a different reason for her friend's good fortune. "They realized by my voice that I was a Negro," she said. "My friend who called had a strong Southern accent, so they knew she was white."

Seven weeks later, Miss Harper went to Columbus for her interview. "It was very short," she said. "All I did was fill out forms on my schooling, health, and personal background. A couple of weeks later, I got a letter from Mrs. McClendon. It said that I could use my qualifications better in some other type of work."

"They discriminated against me," charged Miss Harper. "They didn't even give me a test to find out my qualifications. I'm a high school graduate, and that's all they ask for." Miss Harper said she filed a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

But Mrs. McClendon said, "We do not discriminate. We do not disclose our reasons for rejecting applicants. And we do not only base our decision on the test or on educational background--we also consider appearance, voice, reliability on the job, health, and many other things."

Miss Harper still has not given up. Three weeks ago, she sent an application to the Montgomery office of Southern Bell, but she has not yet heard from the company.

"I don't expect an answer," Miss Harper said this week. "I had to walk down where I went to high school. I went to the Negro high school, so they'll know that I'm colored."

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Editorial Opinion**College-Level Racism**

It seems almost unbelievable, but the plan to build a new four-year state college in Montgomery is still alive. In fact, it's healthier than ever. The state's educational budget is very likely to include a \$4,000,000 "conditional" appropriation for a new Auburn University branch in the capital city.

This plan is racism at its worst. Montgomery already has a four-year state institution--all-Negro Alabama State College. The new school is obviously being planned for white students who don't want to go to Alabama State. The state is spending little enough on education, without wasting \$4,000,000 or more to maintain segregation at the college level.

Establishment of an Auburn branch in Montgomery means the state will abandon all efforts to make Alabama State a first-class college. It means State will remain all-Negro, and that it will continue to turn out teachers with below-average educations.

Yet so far, Joe L. Reed of the Alabama State Teachers Association has been almost alone in opposing the new college. Alabama State President Levi Watkins--whose school stands to be destroyed by this plan--has so far been silent.

We believe the proposed branch is not only unnecessary, but also illegal. It violates, at least in principle, the March 22 state-wide desegregation order, which forbade Alabama officials to put further obstacles in the path of school integration.

If the \$4,000,000 expenditure is left up to the governor, she ought to be forbidden to authorize it. If the money is appropriated directly by the Legislature, the action should still be challenged in court. It is no more legal than the private-school tuition grants, which were ruled out by a Federal court this spring.

But something has to be done before it gets much later. If opponents of this blatant piece of discrimination don't start speaking out and taking action, Alabama will build itself another monument to segregated education.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

On the 13th of April, 1967, of this year, I, a Servant of the Most High God, walked from 411 S. Lowe St. to Front St, here in Dowagiac, Mich.

It started raining lightly. I walked on to the Main part of town--the Rexall Drug Co.

By this time it was pouring down rain. I bought a Bandana in the Drug store to wear so my head would not get so wet. I waited for the rain to stop, but it kept raining.

I started home in the rain. Seem like the farther I walked the harder it rained. I had bought some things and was carrying them in a large paper bag.

When I arrived home, my son met me at the door, saying, "Mom, I know you're soaked." I stepped inside and lay my package on the desk, and started taking off my coat and head scarf.

Suddenly I discovered I was not at all wet. My surprise caused me to run to my package. It was dry--not one drop of water had wet it. And the rain had ran off passing cars as I came home.

I can't tell you how I felt at this time. It would be hard to try to explain it to you. I had a feeling run over me.

I rubbed my face with my hands. Rubbing each arm and hand to find just a little witness, there was none.

To my surprise my feet were dry. I took off my shoes, rubbed even the bottom of them. They were dry. My legs were dry as I ran my hand on each down to my feet.

This feeling has stayed with me ever since. The feeling I received after I found out I was not wet has remained with me.

This I wish you to print if you wish. And every child of God may pray.

Let us seek a Closer Walk With God.

Maxine Collins
Dowagiac, Michigan

To the Editor:

I am writing to say how pleased I am that we are now getting news of the progress that is being made in our State.

May your writers continue to give us more news on progress.

Towards the cause of Truth, Justice, and Peace.

An Old Subscriber
Chastang, Ala.

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

At Mt. Beulah Meeting**Help for Aid Recipients**

BY LAURA ENGLE

MT. BEULAH, Miss.--More than 200 people gathered here last Saturday to discuss ways of helping welfare recipients and applicants in their communities. The meeting was called by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP).

Lawrence Guyot, chairman of the MFDP, opened the morning session by introducing a spokesman for the Hinds County Welfare Rights group, the first such organization in Mississippi.

Representatives from all over the state told about their problems with welfare. People told how they had to support their families on grants of \$10 and \$20 per month, and they complained about welfare workers' probing into their personal lives.

B'ham Group Aims for Jobs; Bruno's, A&P Are 'Targets'**On Violence**

BY ROBIN REISIG

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--"If a man can't be non-violent, then I think he ought to be violent, rather than be a coward," said the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth.

The president of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights told ACMHR members last week that he understood what made people want to be violent.

"If somebody does start a fire, he's doing what he feels impels him," Shuttlesworth said.

Speaking of Stokely Carmichael, he said, "I'm not going to condemn anybody who seeks to gain his freedom, even though he goes at it wrong, or what I think is wrong."

Still, said Shuttlesworth, violence is the wrong way:

"You can't carry on a campaign of sustained violence. I recognize that the policeman you see out there is just the symptom of the system we face. Even if you shoot down that policeman, the system's going to put another policeman in his place."

"If someone started breaking into

'No Credit -- If You Gonna Run'

BY GAIL FALK

EDEN, Miss.--When he was out campaigning one Saturday night three weeks ago, Joseph Williams got word that the road back to his home was blocked. He was told that a group of white men were waiting for him with guns.

So Williams took another route home.

Williams said he had also received threats from white men through their Negro employees: "One man told his cook I better pick out my coffin."

And, he added, just recently a Negro man said he had been offered \$500 to kill Williams and burn down his house.

Yazoo County Sheriff H. C. Hood denied Williams' stories. "I know that has not happened," he said. "We haven't had any trouble in this county. No one has been bothered, threatened, intimidated--nothing like that."

But Williams claimed he's had trouble in Yazoo County ever since he took over as president of the local NAACP branch in 1958--after the first president left the county. But, he said, "they lightened up after they seen I just wasn't going nowhere."

He said he had expected trouble to start again when people found out he was going to run for supervisor. He talked David Johnson into running for beat 4 constable, so he wouldn't be the only Negro candidate. Both men qualified as independents.

Williams said he was running because "the only way a colored man can get something done is to get in with the whites...."

"It's just a one-sided outfit. We don't have no representation for nothing," he said, even though "nearly as many colored people owns property as whites." Williams said his own farm is a mile long and half a mile wide.

"We done clapped our hands, we done marched, we done everything else we could think of," he said. "Till we get some Negroes in office, we aren't going to have no change."

And, he said, the local Sinclair dealer

One woman, trying to control her tears, told of trying to support her disabled husband and 15 children on a small welfare grant and almost no earnings.

The meeting broke up into workshops in the afternoon. Participants met with workers experienced in handling welfare complaints, to discuss the welfare laws and what can be done about them.

The featured speaker of the afternoon session was George Wiley of the Poverty/Rights Action Center.

He said local communities must build strong welfare organizations, and these organizations must line up with the national welfare rights movement.

The long-term goal of the movement, he said, was a minimum income of \$4,000 per year for a family of four.

Last week, the NAACP Legal Defense

Marches?

BY ROBIN REISIG

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--"I think we just about got the Bruno Bear--and the A&P and the rest of them--by the tail," Tommy Wren told the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR) last week.

"We're just ready to where we jump on them. Just get your shoes ready, 'cause it won't be long."

Wren is a member of an ACMHR negotiating committee that has been meeting with representatives of supermarkets located in Negro neighborhoods. The committee is asking these stores to hire more Negroes.

"If a Bruno store does 90% of its business with Negroes, it's no more than just to hire 50% black people," said Wren.

"Bruno has five or six stores that do at least 70% Negro business. A&P has one store with 99% Negro business and only one Negro employed. So few Negroes working there is an insult to the Negro community."

Bruno's, A&P, Hill's and Southway are now considered "target stores," he said.

Although the ACMHR says it is ready to take to the streets, the picket signs made weeks ago have been sitting in a corner while Wren, Andrew Marrs, the Rev. James Armstrong, George Walker, the Rev. L. H. Rogers, and the Rev. Edward Gardner negotiate with the stores.

There have been some results without



TOMMY WRENN

picketing. In one store, a Negro who had been fired was re-hired, and three more Negroes were promoted.

For stores that refuse to hire more Negroes, Wren said, the ACMHR is planning economic withdrawal, "organized block by block."

"The white folk think we're going to jump on one store (as in other years)," he said. "We're going to jump on the baddest rascal first, but we're not going to stop till we've got all of them."

He told people at the meeting, "Let's flood them with applications."

Earlier this month, Gardner and the ACMHR president, the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, attended a meeting in Chicago, Illinois, to plan "Operation (CONTINUED ON PAGE 5, COL. 1)

RUBBER TALKING BUSINESS

Birmingham, Ala.

The Rev. Robert J. Norris, 67 years old, has been called to the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Wilton. This will be his first pastorate. For the past 15 years, he has been the local minister of St. James Baptist Church in Birmingham, the Rev. C. W. Sewell, pastor.

Mobile, Ala.

Alpha Omega Foster is going to the Adirondack Woodcraft Camp in Old Forge, New York, this summer. The 5 1/2-year-old boy will probably be the only Negro child at the camp.

Montgomery, Ala.

The U.S. Justice Department has asked the federal court here to desegregate student bodies, faculties, and programs in the Tunica County School District. After 18 months of freedom of choice, the department said, only 12 of the district's 3,200 Negro students are attending school with whites.

Oxford, Miss.

The U.S. Justice Department has asked the federal court here to desegregate student bodies, faculties, and programs in the Tunica County School District. After 18 months of freedom of choice, the department said, only 12 of the district's 3,200 Negro students are attending school with whites.

Montgomery, Ala.

The Montgomery Community Action Committee (CAC) is awaiting final approval of \$76,243 federal grant for "INPUT" -- Incentive Program for Youth Training. Youths from poor families can get summer employment and on-the-job training under this program. In addition, INPUT will try to find full-time jobs for the participants. Henry Mullins, the CAC representative with the State Employment Service (125 Clayton St.), is taking applications from interested youths between the ages of 16 and 21.

New Orleans, La.

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Weeks of Montgomery, Ala., and Mr. and Mrs. Bolle Payne of Opelika, Ala., represented the Atlanta Life Insurance Company this week at the 47th annual convention of the National Insurance Association in New Orleans.

Nashville, Tenn.

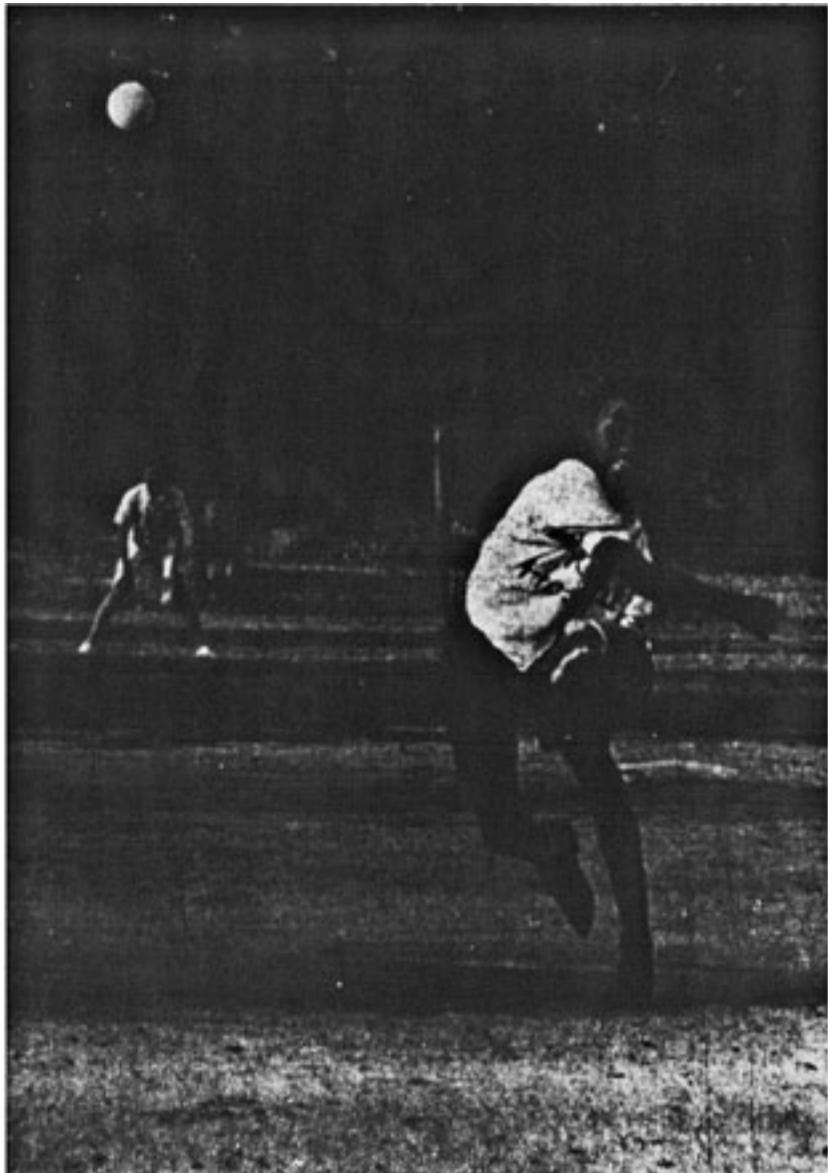
The Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC) is organizing a "guerrilla" theater group dedicated to drama that is relevant to social change. The group will improvise performances as it travels, reflecting the events and ideas in different Tennessee communities. Miss Joanne Syrek, director of the Migrant Theater in Berkeley, California, is organizing the new group.

Montgomery, Ala.

Montgomery life insurance men Jesse D. Adams and Scott Edwards attended



MRS. WILLIE FRANK DAVIS



Men, Women, and Children Throughout the State

PLAY BALL!



Photos by Jim Pepple





STILLMAN TROUPE GETS READY TO LEAVE ON SOUTHERN TOUR

Integrated Drama Group Plays in White Churches

BY ROBIN REISIG

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.-- "Let my people go!" boomed the deep voice of God, a Negro.

"Let my people go!" echoed Moses, a young white man dressed in dark tights.

The other young Negroes and whites swayed and repeated the age-old command. Then two of them became the Red Sea, swaying apart to let Moses and the Hebrew children pass, and then crashing down on the Pharaoh.

"This is the personification of what the civil rights movement is trying to attain," said Michael Figures (the voice of God), pointing toward the stage full of young Negro and white actors. The performers, bending gently to the rhythm of their lines, were finishing their last rehearsal before taking their plays on the road.

"No friction, everything going smooth, sort of like a civil rights Utopia," Figures explained. "I'd like to see the stage enacted in real life, on the civil rights platform."

Figures--a Stillman junior majoring in political science--is a member of the Stillman College Repertory Theatre, which is traveling 10,000 miles through 16 Southern and Border states this summer.

The integrated company of five Negroes and three whites is performing chiefly in Southern churches, before all-white audiences. More than 75,000 people will see their plays.

According to the director, Gayle Patton, the Negro actors will be the first black people ever to enter the white churches in some towns. And in a few places, he said, the actors will stay

with members of the white congregations.

But most of the young people don't see themselves as civil rights activists. "We're a group of people who love the theater," said Miss Gwen Bates.

The Board of Christian Education of the U. S. Presbyterian Church, together with Stillman, is sponsoring this unique traveling theater, to encourage drama in the church. Most of the actors are just beginning their professional careers, and six of them are Stillman students or graduates.

They are taking their audiences three plays--"God's Trombones," a Negro folk anthology by James Weldon Johnson; "The Spoon River Anthology," a collection of white folk tales by Edgar Lee Masters; and "Androcles and the Lion," a children's play with the theme "Everyone should be born free."

"In the 'Spoon River Anthology,' a group of poems made into a play, the typical white community is being played by Negroes," said Miss Anita Dorsey, an actress. "This is just the opposite of 'God's Trombones,' which depicts the Negro rural church (and has some white actors).

"A lot can happen from that reverse if people listen--listen to the white fellow playing the Negro's role and the Negro playing the role of the white.

"Maybe they can see themselves in that situation, if somebody gets the ball rolling. Maybe they can see people are people, and basically they all have the same ideals."

In a way, "God's Trombones" is the most unusual of the three plays, because "drama's been primarily 'the white man's art,'" said Miss Wyetta Turner, an actress and costume designer. But, she said, "Negroculture--it's been here like ages."

Most plays are written to be performed by white people, said Miss Turner, and "the culture's different."

But "God's Trombones" makes use of the rich folk culture of the early Negro church.

In "God's Trombones," Johnson wrote about the fiery Negro preachers he remembered from his childhood. These preachers treated Biblical characters as present-day people, to explain the gospel to their congregations.

The play is really a prayer and seven sermons, put into poetry. The sermons begin with the Creation ("And God said, 'I'm gonna make me a man!'), and they bring alive the Old Testament stories and the Crucifixion. They show Noah and his ark, the women of Babylon, and Moses (played by a white actor, David Bremer) singing "Let my People Go." And they end with Judgment Day.

While some of the sermons have been dramatized before, the Stillman College Repertory production marks the first time the entire collection has been presented as a play, said director Patton.

To get ready for the tour, said Miss Dorsey, "we worked 16 hours a day, cramming 12 weeks of rehearsals into 1 1/2 weeks." Besides playing one or more parts, each actor also helps out with the music, lights, costumes, and sets.

Bremer, a white Stillman student from North Carolina, said the theater company is "a new kind of civil rights activity, in that it's not marches and protests."

"It's a more positive approach," he said. "It shows an integrated group working together and producing something that, through art, transcends all the pettiness and foolishness that's expected, that's practiced, by people in the South."

"Drama transcends petty prejudices," said Bremer. "All drama is bigger than that."



DIRECTOR GAYLE PATTON TELLS ACTORS WHAT HE WANTS

Reading Classes Taught With 'Loving Kindness'

BY ROBIN REISIG

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.-- Today, VISTA--the domestic Peace Corps--can be found throughout America--in Alaskan villages, New York slums, and Indian reservations. This summer, it can be found in two Alabama

counties.

Miles College is sponsoring a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program in Jefferson and Wilcox counties. There are 25 VISTA volunteers in Jefferson County and 23 in Wilcox.

Most VISTA volunteers serve for one year, but the Miles workers are participating in "Project Impact"--special, summer-long "crash program."

Both the Jefferson and Wilcox VISTA projects are working on adult education

and on remedial reading for children. They are concerned especially with getting students interested in learning.

The Jefferson VISTA group is also helping to prepare low-income high school students for college work.

Ralph D. Harris, director of the Miles VISTA program, said the project is supposed to "start people thinking about their own conditions." He said he hopes VISTA will start some community activities that will continue after the project is over. For example, he said, VISTA's two Fairfield centers already have "reading recreation" programs, begun by an administrator and a student from Mobile.

The VISTA volunteers are using some unusual teaching methods. "We've had a tremendous number of drop-outs with the traditional methods," Harris explained. He said pupils should be treated with "loving kindness," instead of harsh discipline.

"We found quite a few children couldn't even pronounce their own names," said Mrs. Annie P. Hunter, chief teacher at one of the Fairfield projects. To learn pronunciation, she said, the children repeat words over and over, taking more time than they would in school.

They also "fish for words." That is, they choose colored paper fish, and explain the differences between the words written on them--like the differences between "their" and "there," or "for" and "far."

Mrs. Hunter's center has a teacher

for every four students, and the other Fairfield center has a teacher for every two children. This way, said Mrs. Hunter, "if Johnny reads slowly, you can spend more time with Johnny. In a public school, you have to go on."

Children with special problems get special tutoring and help. When VISTA teachers noticed a "slow reader" holding her books a few inches away, for instance, they told her parents where she could see an eye doctor and get glasses for almost no cost.

Most of the VISTA volunteers are college students from the Birmingham area. A third of them are white.

About eight of the volunteers are working with Miles Dean John U. Monroe in a "Special Opportunities Program" for about 50 high school students who want to go to college. Sixty more students are also getting this kind of training in Miles' Upward Bound program this summer.

Monroe said he is pleased with the results of previous pre-college programs: "We can feel the excellent results of this program in the individuals--in writing, in vocabulary, on the sophistication of their ideas, in the complexity of the stuff they can tackle, and their goals."

"They get away from the rote learning of most high schools," he said. "College isn't like that. You've got to think for yourself, have ideas."



LEARNING TO READ



FISHING FOR WORDS

Sexy Questions Stir Tuskegee

BY KERRY GRUSON

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"If I were black, I would take this to the Montgomery Advertiser. I would take it to the AAUP (American Association of University Professors)," said Richard S. Riemer, a white instructor at Tuskegee Institute. "But I don't want to pit black against black for a white man. And I don't believe whites should be teaching at Negro institutions."

What has become known as the "Riemer Incident" began early in the summer term, when Riemer asked his communications students to pick a subject for class discussion.

The class voted to talk about sex, and Riemer then suggested that they draw up a questionnaire.

The questionnaire asked such things as: When did you first have intercourse? Are you a virgin? Have you had interracial sex? "It was very frank and personal," Riemer admitted.

Another faculty member saw the questionnaire and took it to a dean.

L. H. Foster, president of Tuskegee Institute, then informed Riemer that he would be suspended unless he signed a statement saying he would never again use such material in his classes.

"Such a questionnaire is not representative of the academic tone we have endeavored to establish at Tuskegee Institute," Foster wrote to Riemer.

Riemer refused to sign, and was suspended from teaching. Students supporting Riemer marched on Dean G. H. Torrence's office, but were refused admission.

A week of meetings followed the sus-

Farmers Get Planting Tips

BY ROBIN REISIG

SAWYERVILLE, Ala.--"We've never been informed like this before. It's the first time they came and met with us," said the Rev. L. A. Lee, a farmer, at the end of an extension service meeting last Wednesday.

"It's since we started with the cooperative," added Mrs. Lela Daniels. She meant the ten-county Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association (SWAFCA).

John Deavours, the white chairman of the Hale County extension service, and Givinn R. Ezell, a Negro farm agent, came to the Rev. Robert Williams' farm and told 15 local Negroes a little about planting. They handed out boxes for soil tests, and many pamphlets about how to plant crops.

The visitors spent part of their time talking about marketing--explaining the types and sizes of crops wanted by various buyers, including SWAFCA and its competitors.

The extension service representatives said they meet with farmers "all the time." But almost all the Negro farmers, except Williams, said they hadn't been to any really informative meetings before this. They said they thought the extension service was more interested in them since SWAFCA got funded.

"We're pushing, so they give us some information. These boys know, but would never stop and fool with us," said Lee, who sold cucumbers to SWAFCA.

"They see we're trying to get away, and we got our project over the power structure and Mrs. Wallace and all. So they're coming through."

But why did the extension service hold this particular meeting? Mrs. Daniels, whose husband Richard is the county SWAFCA representative, said the farmers got it by the simplest method--they asked for it.

B'ham Jobs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

Breadbasket. Breadbasket is SCLC's nation-wide campaign to get jobs for Negroes.

"The hiring policy must be re-evaluated in the whole structure of this country," Wren said. He said Birmingham would be a target of the operation.

The men in charge of hiring at two of the grocery chains under attack said they don't discriminate.

E. N. Keener, A&P personnel director, said A&P has 8 to 10% Negro employees, and is "an equal rights employer. We do our best to hire any qualified person we can find, regardless of race, religion, or national origin."

He said the only reason there aren't more Negroes in Birmingham A&P stores is "the lack of qualified applicants. We have fewer Negro applicants."

"We probably hire more Negroes percentage-wise than anyone else in the state," said James C. Baldwin, personnel manager for Bruno's. "We give everyone an equal opportunity, regardless of race."

pension--faculty meetings (with and without Riemer), student meetings, and student-faculty meetings. And a special faculty committee was set up to report on the case.

"The discussions in all the meetings were circular," Riemer said later. "They claimed the questionnaire was an invasion of privacy. I answered that the students thought up every question on it, that both the questions and the answers were anonymous, and that nobody had to answer any of the questions.

"Then they would say that I shouldn't have let the discussion take this direction. I asked why. Their answer was that it was inappropriate. Why? Because the questionnaire was an invasion of privacy...."

Last week, Riemer was back in class, after he signed a letter promising not to use this kind of material for the rest of the summer. (The class ended its discussion on sex a week before the questionnaire became a public issue.)

But Riemer's case is not closed. The special faculty committee recommended that a formal hearing be held if Riemer does not promise, in writing, never to use such a questionnaire again.

Talladega Drive Registers 350

TALLADEGA, Ala.--A voter-registration campaign in Talladega County has added more than 350 names to the voting list. The five-week-old campaign, sponsored by the Talladega Improvement Association (TIA), is part of the community's preparations for the Aug. 15 city elections.

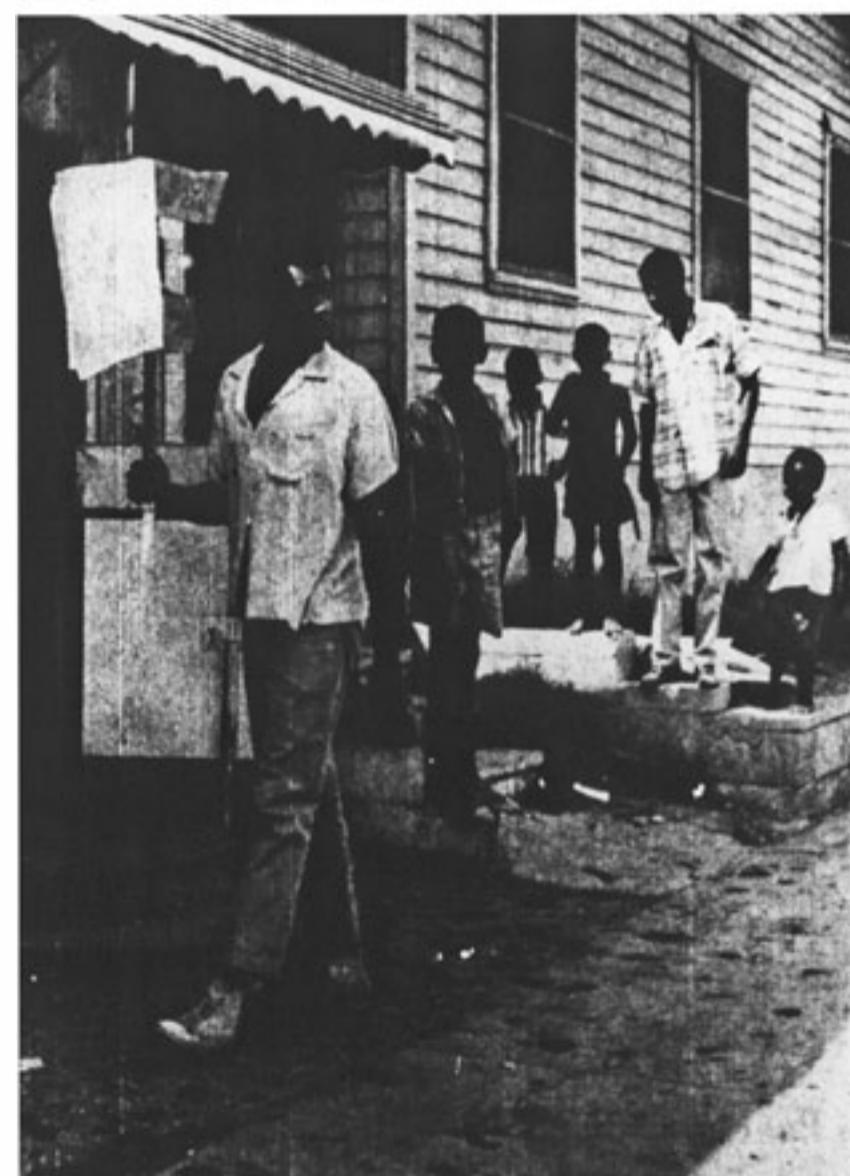
But the goals of the registration effort extend far beyond Aug. 15, said TIA president U. S. Moore. "It's people that the city has a duty to serve its citizens, and that if we have the vote it will have to listen to us more closely," he said this week. "It's our chance to get conditions improved."

James Lawler, supervisor of the campaign, said he hopes to register 1,000 Negroes by the end of the drive next Saturday. The voting registrar in Talladega, Miss. Marjorie Golden, said she had "never seen anything like it."

A year ago, 3,410 Negroes--37% of those eligible--were registered to vote in Talladega County. At the same time, more than 83% of the county's eligible whites were registered.

TIA has more than 20 people working on the project, which is financed by a \$2,321 grant from the Southern Regional Council.

Making the Scene



BESSEMER, Ala.--SNCC has been making the scene with young people in Bessemer for the past two weeks.

"We should control our own stores in our own community," was the message more than a week ago, as SNCC workers picketed outside Lorene's Cafe. Children soon took up the picket signs and the "black power" cry. Bessemer people will continue the campaign, according to the SNCC staff.

Last Saturday, about 40 high school and college students from six Alabama counties gathered here for a SNCC student conference. They decided to form freedom schools "to liberate the minds of the children."

They also decided to form a newspaper, headquartered in Selma. The paper, said state project director John H. Jackson, will be designed "to let black people know what's going on, because the country and the WPP (white-power press) don't let black folks know."

Jackson said seven or eight carloads of policemen drove around the block during the conference. "As usual, the police start the riots," he said. "That's what they wanted to do in that conference."



REP. PETE MATHEWS DEFENDS BILL . . .



. . . WHILE BEAUTY QUEENS LISTEN

New Montgomery College Remains In Education Appropriation Bill

BY PATRICIA M. GORENCE

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--Two million dollars for a new branch of Auburn University in Montgomery was included in the "conditional" education appropriation of \$22,500,000 approved last Tuesday by the Alabama House of Representatives.

According to the conditions of the bill, if this money is available--and if

the governor decides to use it--construction of the new four-year college will begin.

The House also passed another bill providing \$278,000,000 in "absolute" appropriations for education. Both bills were part of the education package sent to the Senate for approval.

State Representative Pete Mathews of Clay County, who introduced the bills, explained the difference between the absolute and conditional appropriations.

The \$278,000,000 is the amount budgeted by the state for education next year, he said. The conditional appropriation, on the other hand, "will not be considered in budgeting," Mathews

said. But, he said, "if extra money comes in (to the state), then it will be appropriated."

The first \$6,000,000 of the conditional appropriation has been set aside for certain public-school purposes. But after that, said Mathews, "the appropriations are made by the governor. She spends the money in a way she deems most necessary to the welfare of the state."

Some representatives said they were opposed to the conditional bill, because of the power it gives the governor.

The absolute appropriation, based on the income predicted by state financial experts, represents a 1% increase in educational spending.

Representative Pete Turnham of Lee County introduced a bill asking for a 5% increase. He said his proposed increase in spending was based on higher income estimates, made by two University of Alabama economists. Turnham said more money would be available for education than the state experts think.

One of Turnham's supporters, Bob Ellis Jr. of Jefferson County, said, "The question involves not only dollars and cents, but the lives of children."

"Can you retro-act education--when your child loses the benefit of an increase from 1 to 5% in educational funds?" he questioned. "I say that's water over the dam."

But Mathews argued successfully against a higher appropriation, saying, "We cannot in good conscience go beyond the figures given us by the state fiscal experts."

At an earlier legislative committee meeting, Joe L. Reed of the Alabama State Teachers Association had also expressed opposition to parts of the education package--but not just for money reasons.

Reed said that building another state college in Montgomery "is an effort to maintain segregation. We feel the only reason Montgomery is the chosen site is because Alabama State (the city's present four-year college) is Negro."

In other bills, the House made conditional appropriations totaling \$300,000 over the next two years for three white private schools--Marion Institute, Walker Junior College, and Lyman Ward Military Academy. No funds were appropriated for Negro private schools.

The Donald Elementary School will be 35% Negro next year, Bishop said, and Fairfield Junior High will be 22% Negro.

But, Newton said afterwards, "We didn't get anything free."

Greenville Teens Organize

BY MICHAEL HUTCHINSON

GREENVILLE, Miss. -- Greenville youths are organizing a recreation center, because they say the city does not have a program that meets their needs.

Their group, the Greenville Teen Organization, is concerned not only with recreation, but also with city government, civic responsibility, and Negro history and culture. (Their efforts to find a Negro historian to guide seminars

SWAFCA Hit

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--The Alabama House of Representatives last Tuesday added its endorsement to a Senate resolution "condemning the motives" behind a \$400,000 federal grant to the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association (SWAFCA).

The resolution stated: "There is every reason to believe that SWAFCA has been granted funds for the specific purpose of promoting Black Power in Alabama, and not for raising the economic level of low income farm families who could be more effectively aided by other means."

"We condemn the motives of the OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) and those of its director, Mr. (Sargent) Shriver, who is but a weak tool of his brother-in-law, Bobby Kennedy, and we deem this unsolicited and unwanted grant to be nothing more than a cheap political move designed to blacken Alabama."

The resolution said OEO ignored the charges of local officials that "in reality, funds will be spent to finance the lawless Black Panther movement designed to overthrow the government of this country and particularly the governments of the Southern states."

School Case

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) Englewood is in "a blighted area," for which Fairfield is filing an urban renewal application.

Judge Grooms noted that the city would lose money if the school weren't in operation when it was sold for urban renewal. He said he would wait to decide what to do until the opening of the school year, when he can see how many children actually show up for classes.

Throughout the hearing, the board's attorney, Maurice Bishop, complained about "forced integration," and protested that "there is not a school system in Alabama that has matched the speed with which the Fairfield school system has acted."

The Donald Elementary School will be 35% Negro next year, Bishop said, and Fairfield Junior High will be 22% Negro.

But, Newton said afterwards, "We didn't get anything free."

Old Demands, New Protest

BY MERTIS RUBIN

HATTIESBURG, Miss.--More than 300 Negroes marched here last Tuesday night, and the next morning Negroes began a boycott of downtown businesses and the city bus line.

They want the city to answer a list of demands submitted more than 18 months ago.

According to Mrs. Daisy Harris, secretary of the local NAACP, the demands were first made in January, 1966, during protests over the fire-bomb killing of Vernon Dahmer.

At the time, she said, a few of the demands were worked out and the protests died down.

But five weeks ago, she said, NAACP members began asking one another what happened to the rest of the demands, and they decided nothing had really changed.

The demands included:

1. Hiring of seven Negro policemen with authority to arrest both whites and Negroes.
2. Firing of three policemen--two Negroes and one white--on the force.
3. Hiring of Negroes for city jobs.
4. Improvement of lights and streets in Negro neighborhoods.

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7. TOGETHER--Intruders
8. 8 MEN - 4 WOMEN--O. V. Wright
9. WHO'S LOVING YOU--Brenda and Tabulations
10. GRASS SEEMS GREENER--Ella Washington
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FREEMAN MEETING WITH GREENE COUNTY FARMERS LAST MONTH

'Children in Alabama Are Also Starving'

BY ROBIN REISIG

EUTAW, Ala.--"Children in Alabama are also starving," a group of Greene County people told the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture last week. "We ask you to give the new food stamp program to Alabama immediately."

In a telegram to Secretary Orville Freeman, the group said poor people in Alabama should get the new low stamp prices that now apply in Mississippi--\$12 worth of stamps for as little as 50¢. And, the telegram said, the poorest people should get the stamps for free.

The group also asked the secretary to meet with Alabama Negroes this month in Washington, to hear their grievances.

In a Negro Church

Miss. White Seeks Votes

BY PATRICIA JAMES

MERIDIAN, Miss.--Anyone who had come to the First Union Baptist Church last Sunday would have been unable to find a seat in the crowded audience. A mostly-Negro group of 150 people gathered in the First Union Baptist Church to hear E. T. ('Jackie') Jackson, one of the ten white men running for sheriff of Lauderdale County. Jackson was the second candidate who has come to a Negro church seeking Negro votes.

Before Jackson began his speech, Mrs. Tommie Whitlock of the Crusade for Voters League reminded the audience to take notes about what he said. She had done the same thing last week, when the voters league heard from James Shelton.

Jackson kicked off his speech by saying, "Things are gonna be much better in the days to come."

"Freedom is free for people to educate their children, free to work, and free to run for any political office that is open," the candidate said.

He continued, "Negro people should have the right to work in the sheriff's office. If I'm elected sheriff, your people will get jobs in the sheriff's office--jobs that won't be sweeping the floor or cleaning the bathroom."

He said he would hire two Negro deputies, and a Negro woman to work in the office. Other than that, he had no pledges or promises to make.

Jackson told the audience about the many Negro votes he got four years ago when he ran for office. "I appreciate it (the votes) from the bottom of my heart," he said.

"I will not let you down. If you vote for E. T. Jackie Jackson, I will not let you down."

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Tuskegee Council Hits Food Stamp Move

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"This is an insidious attempt to move in and exploit the poor. We have come too far in Macon County to fall back into that pattern," councilman Stanley Smith told the Tuskegee City Council.

Smith was talking about a resolution passed by the Macon County Board of Revenue the day before. The board decided to look into the advantages and disadvantages of the food stamp program, after three Tuskegee store-owners praised the stamp plan.

Macon County now has a free surplus food program.

The city council passed a resolution strongly supporting the free food program. "We feel very closely towards this program," Mayor C. M. Keever explained. "It was the council's idea in the first place, and it took us eight months to sell the board of revenue on it."

Earlier, former sheriff Harvey Sadler, owner of Sadler's Grocery Store, had told the board of revenue, "a lot of the food the people get now, they don't want. They feed it to the hogs and the chickens. I'm sure if they knew the workings of the stamp program, they would want that."

"It (the stamp plan) would cost the county less," Sadler added, looking hard at the board members. "And of course, it wouldn't hurt the merchants."

About 50 merchants in Macon County are in favor of the food stamp program,

according to Sadler.

"I don't know of anybody who doesn't have some type of income," he said after the meeting. "We don't want to take anything away from anyone. We want it to work out a little better for the community as a whole. Anybody who looks at it now can see that it hurts local business--and that's not to the best interests of the county."

"The stamp program might be good, because everybody has different tastes," Chairman Harry D. Raymon told the board of revenue. "But what would happen to people with very low incomes, or no incomes at all? These are the kind of questions we need to raise."

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ARKANSAS--The Arkansas Council on Human Relations has affiliate councils in Conway, Fayetteville, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, and North Little Rock. We are interested in establishing local councils throughout the state. ACHR is integrated at all levels, working in education, voter education, employment, welfare, and housing. For information, write Arkansas Council on Human Relations, 1310 Wright, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.

FEDERAL JOBS--The Interagency Board of Civil Service Examiners is holding examinations for the positions of cook, commissary worker, and meat cutter. The jobs are located in South Alabama and Northwest Florida. Information and application forms can be obtained from Alex Culver, Examiner in Charge, 413-A Post Office Building, Montgomery, Ala. 36104.

HELP DAN Houser--Dan Houser needs money for medical expenses, after being beaten in Prattville. Contributions can be sent to him in care of WRMA, 135 Commerce St., Montgomery, Ala. 36104, or in care of The Southern Courier, 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104. Checks should be made payable to Dan Houser.

HELP!--A New York civil rights lawyer is writing a book on the famous Dred Scott case--only it seems that Scott's real name was Sam. Does anyone know anything about the nickname "Dred"--what it means, what it refers to? Call 872-1079 in Selma if you do.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED--The Montgomery Community Action Committee needs all the volunteer help it can get to work in Head Start class rooms. Men, women, and teen-agers (minimum age 16) can all be of use. Volunteers will assist as teacher's aides and cook's helpers, and will take children on field trips in the area. A volunteer can choose his or her own hours between 8 and 11:30 a.m. or a convenient day Monday through Friday. Transportation and lunch will be furnished. If you are available, apply to the Rev. E. W. McKinney (volunteer director) or Mrs. Zenobia Johnson at 429 S. Decatur St., phone 262-6622. Or you can offer your services to St. Jude's Center, 2048 W. Fairview Ave., or Resurrection Center, 2815 Forbes Dr. If it is more convenient, go directly to the neighborhood Head Start location nearest you.

MAIDS AND EMPLOYERS--If an employer pays a maid \$50 or more in a quarter of a year (April 1 through June 30 was the second quarter), then the employer must report these payments to the Internal Revenue Service. This is so the maid will get the benefits of Social Security. The employer must withhold 4.4% of the maid's wages for Social Security, and must match this amount with his own money. Failure to report a maid's income will make the employer liable for the entire amount of the Social Security tax, plus penalties and interest. Information on how to report household wages is available at local Social Security offices.

NEWSPAPER JOB--The York Gazette, one of the last of the really turned-on and tuned-in liberal daily newspapers in the country, is looking for a bright and hip young person who could be trained for a responsible job on the city desk. The candidate--male or female, black or white--should have had some reporting experience and, preferably, some experience in editing and headline writing. Salary: \$140 a week for a person with three years of news experience. After he is actually on the desk, the pay will increase. Candidates should write James Higgins, assistant editor, at The Gazette and Daily, 31 E. King St., York, Pa., and they should mention that they heard of the job through The Southern Courier.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--"Thou art the God of my strength... O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles." These verses from Psalms are the Golden Text of the Bible lesson on "Truth" to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, July 23.

BIRMINGHAM SERVICES--Worship with the New St. James Baptist Church, 600 N. Fourth Ave. Birmingham--the church with a program, the minister with a message. Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m., Baptist Training Union 5:30 p.m. The Rev. L. Clyde Fisher, pastor.

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Union Springs NAACP Goes After Ministers

'Toms Running Footloose'

BY KERRY GRUSON

UNION SPRINGS, Ala. -- "The only way to stop these jack-neck preachers is to cut their feet off. Keep the money out of their plates. I ain't going to no meeting."

That's what H. O. Williams, a Bullock County civil rights leader, told Union Springs NAACP President Rufus C. Huffman, when Huffman invited him to a special NAACP meeting last week.

Union Springs' seven Negro ministers were going to talk about the church's role in civil rights at the meeting last Sunday in the Wayman Chapel.

The meeting--first of its kind in the county--was called because Negro leaders were concerned about the lack of interest in community action.

But on Sunday, Williams wasn't the only guest missing. Only two of the seven ministers appeared--the Rev. W. M. Bodie (the main speaker) and the Rev. A. B. Clarke.

About 40 people showed up for the meeting, most of them from rural communities. "I only saw three or four from Union Springs, and none of them belong to either Rev. Clarke's or Rev. Bodie's church," said Huffman.

"I would almost say that it is disgust-



BODIE



HUFFMAN

ing," said James V. Poe, another local leader. "Sometimes I feel like a lone wolf."

"We can't even get enough people together to have a good peanut campaign," said Poe, the owner-manager of Memory Chapel Funeral Home. "They won't even come together to discuss garbage disposal. But by golly, they go to these revivals."

"And this is where the major cause of the lack of concern lies," said Huffman, pointing at a church. "It is because of the lack of concern of the religious leaders."

At the meeting, Bodie first told the audience: "Many people in the church today, many of our leaders, are not really concerned with the welfare of the people."

But he also said, "Too many of our people think 'We're going to put on our shoes and shout all over God's heaven.' What we need is shoes here and some shouting here."

Afterwards, Huffman and Poe said they hope this kind of discussion convinces ministers that their help is needed.

"I think it (the meeting) worked," said Poe. "That's our only hope. The ministry has been holding out on us, letting the Toms run footloose. We'll give them every chance to show their color before we chop their heads."