

'I Want to See This Whole City Burn'

BY JOHN SINGLETON
MOBILE, Ala.--"Did you see white folks out at Mobile Country Club that no nigger was ever going to tell a white man what to do as long as you're in office?"

That was what a Negro man asked Mayor Arthur Outlaw this week, when the city commissioners held a meeting to find out what's needed in Negro communities.

Outlaw replied--after the Negroes stopped hollering for him to answer--that he had made no such public statement, and that he never used the term "nigger" in reference to Negroes.

MILRO B. HOWARD JR. DIRECTOR
DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY
MONTGOMERY, ALA. 36104

the commissioners question after question suffered at downtown power

"I don't want any... as to represent that... if... y-

Noble Beasley, and president of the Neighborhood Organized Workers (N.O.W.), then asked the commissioners, "All right, what are

you going to do?"

"Since you are out here (in the Negro community), you might as well tell it like it is," Beasley said. "You run the ship. You can make a change. We have voted. Now we want some new leaders downtown--some young leaders."

The commissioners said they could not remove the "Negro leaders in question" from the city's advisory committee until their terms were up.

A lot of name-calling went on as the people charged the commissioners with hand-picking the Rev. Charles D. Tunstall--a minister, businessman,

and principal of a Negro school--for the job of finding employment in the Negro ghetto, at a reported \$16,000 a year.

Commissioner Lambert C. Mims said the money for this "job-coordinator" post was put up by private businessmen, and the city had nothing to do with it.

He then pointed to William Evans, a Negro school teacher, and said, "Now me and this boy's father are good friends, and I offered him the job."

Evans then stood up and began shouting at Mims, telling the commissioner to keep Evans' father out of it. Evans said his father doesn't need the job,

and neither does Tunstall.

"Both of these men are old and wealthy," Evans said. "Why don't you give the job to some of these poor people out here who need it?"

Ocie V. Wheat, owner of a construction company, asked Police Commissioner Joseph N. Langan why Negro and white policemen don't ride together. And, he asked, why can't Negro officers patrol white communities--since white policemen are allowed to patrol Negro neighborhoods?

Langan didn't answer that question. But he did agree to fire the personnel board employee who told a young

Negro woman that she needed four years of college to apply for a secretary's job--if the lady could identify the employee.

As the meeting was about to end, a young Negro man wearing an "African bush" hair-style got up and said that about six months ago, a friend of his was delivering a "perishable--deliver quickly" package to a white suburb when the box burst open.

"He found about 1,000 recoil-less rifles," the young man said. "So I know what's happening."

"I just wanna tell you white folks you couldn't give me a damn job. You sent me to college for four years, and they told me I was smart. And when I come back here trying to get a job, you white folks told me I was a damn fool."

"The school board condemned my grandmama's land up in Mt. Vernon, and said they were going to give her \$40,000. But she can't get it, because some honkie claims to own an acre of the land."

"Now I know what my job is," he continued. "And there's no use talking 'bout I don't want to start no trouble. I want to see this whole damn city burn to the ground."

"Now arrest me for trying to start a riot."

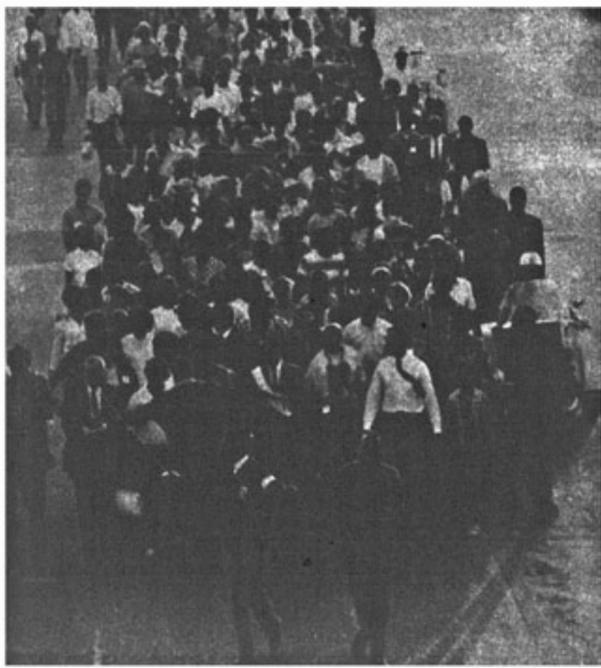
The people began to applaud, and the young man walked out.

Soon after this, the commissioners said they will meet in another community next week, to hear more grievances. A prayer was offered, and then the commissioners shook some hands and were escorted to their car by a group of Negro policemen.

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

VOL. IV, NO. 20 WEEKEND EDITION: MAY 18-19, 1968 TEN CENTS

Campaigners Learn As They Go Along



MARCHERS IN ALABAMA

BY BOB LABAREE
GREENSBORO, N.C.-- Last Wednesday night, marchers on the Southern leg of the Poor People's Campaign went to bed in private homes in Greensboro -- only four days away from Washington, D.C.

Since leaving Edwards, Miss., on May 5, the caravan has already stopped at more than ten cities in five states. The procession leveled off at about 450 campaigners, in eight or nine buses, after passing through Atlanta, Ga.

At each stopping place, the marchers have followed a similar schedule.

A welcoming committee of several hundred people almost always meets the caravan, to escort it on the three- to five-mile march into the city. Then comes supper, and after that, entertainment, followed by a night's sleep in a dormitory or a private home.

Early the next day--usually before noon--the marchers board buses and set out for their next destination, usually not more than 150 miles away.

It is clear that the organization of the march has gradually improved, making life for the average marcher a little easier. "We're learning more and more about our movement as we go along," said Albert Turner, leader of the Southern campaign.

Delays, lost baggage, and broken-down buses plagued the caravan in its first week. But as time has passed, important changes in procedure have allowed more and more time for relaxation.

"And that's something we need plenty of," said Turner. "We got to save our energy for the big initiative in Washington. We can't be wearing ourselves out on the way."

In Charleston, S.C., marchers were



MRS. OVIE B. DUNCAN

March 'Just For Colored People'

BY BOB LABAREE
MACON, Ga.--Despite SCLC's statement that the Poor People's Campaign is for everyone, the Southern leg of the campaign so far has been all-black.

The white faces that appear when the caravan enters a town belong to policemen, local volunteers helping with preparations, or occasional private citizens marching in sympathy with the campaign. When the caravan leaves, it leaves without them.

SCLC plans to get most of its poor whites from the Appalachian areas of Kentucky and West Virginia. Attempts have been made to reach poor Southern whites--but without much success.

In Marks, Miss., for example, only a few of the poor whites who were interviewed seemed openly hostile. But most were skeptical, and almost all were ignorant of the aims of the campaign.

In the minds of the poor whites in Marks, SCLC and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.--creators of the Poor People's Campaign--still seemed identified with the movement for Negro civil rights.

Probably, that is what Mrs. Ovie B. Duncan, a white lady, thought when she first saw 700 Negroes and whites from the Poor People's Campaign marching down the street where she lives, here in Macon.

She might have recognized that many of the songs they were singing were old freedom songs, and she might have been troubled by the fact that Negroes and whites were walking arm in arm. But she did admit that it looked like fun.

At first, she backed away, shaking her head, when some marchers urged her to join them. But half an hour later, she caught up with the march, and stepped into the street.

She called it a "parade." For Mrs. Duncan, the "parade" was fun. But as far as she was concerned, she said, its aims had nothing to do with her. SCLC leaders would say the campaign has everything to do with her.

When the march first passed Mrs.

Duncan, her feet were bare. That's the way she is used to walking, she said, even though the cancer in her heel is making it harder all the time.

The grand-daughter she held in her arms as she stood on the sidewalk is healthy, she said. But, she said, her six-year-old grandson has an "incurable disease." And her own frail 47-year-old body was wracked with a dry cough.

Mrs. Duncan said her daughter--who lives with her--is too sick to work, so the only income supporting the two women and two children is a \$64 welfare check. Her son-in-law has a good job, Mrs. Duncan said--but he is an alcoholic, and only contributes for the baby's food "now and then."

Mrs. Duncan said she and her family eat "poor people's food"--beans, bread, rice, some chicken or fish, and almost no meat. Only the bottom row of her teeth remained in her mouth, and

Questions In Wilcox

BY ESTELLE FINE
CAMDEN, Ala.--On April 20, James Austin shot Ed Pettway Jr. Last Wednesday, Austin was released from jail on \$5,000 bond. Noone denies that Austin shot Pettway, but that is about the only thing everyone agrees on.

Probate Judge William Dannelly said it was the victim's father, Ed Pettway Sr., who signed a warrant charging Austin with attempted murder. But the father said it was a Camden doctor: "My boy's not pressing charges against a colored man." (Both Austin and Pett-



ED PETTWAY JR.

way are Negroes.)

"People just don't usually get arrested around here for accidents," said Roman Pettway, a Gees Bend leader. "People have a fight, a person gets cut up, he doesn't complain, and the police let (the suspect) go. That's how they do it in our county--Lumme (Sheriff P.C. Jenkins) won't press charges."

"They wouldn't bother him (Austin) if he wasn't a civil rights worker," added John Pettway, Austin's father-in-law.

But Ed Pettway, the victim, said this week that he doesn't think the shooting was accidental. "I knocked on the door and told him it was me," Pettway said from his bed in Selma's Good Samaritan Hospital. "But he bust the door open and shot me."

John Pettway and Roman Pettway, however, said the victim and some friends were playing a joke on Austin.

Austin got scared, said John and Roman Pettway, because he has been a civil rights worker in Wilcox County since 1963. So, they said, he had his gun in his hand, and it went off accidentally when the victim burst into the house.

Another question is how Austin's bond finally came to be set--and why it took two weeks.

Judge Dannelly said the bond could not be set until "the doctor said the boy (Pettway) was out of danger." But the physician, Dr. Hartsell Stewart of Selma, refused to say when the victim was taken off the critical list, "because I may have to testify at a trial."

Austin's lawyer, Bruce Boynton of Selma, said, "I called the judge the Friday before they set bond, and threatened to apply for a writ of habeas corpus if they didn't set it."

Last weekend, Austin slipped a note to another prisoner in the Wilcox County jail. The note said, "I have been arrested 22 days I need a att my bond

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 3)

Shelby & Leake Kids Stay Home

BY KATY SIEPMANN
SHELBY, Miss.--"We are fighting for all the black teachers in Mississippi," said Joseph Delaney, a teacher at all-Negro Broadstreet School in Shelby.

Delaney has had his teaching contract cut off for next year. So has Eddie Lucas, principal of the elementary grades at Broadstreet, after 13 years in the school system.

Because of the dismissals and other grievances, Negro leaders have called a boycott of the school, and of the stores in Shelby. Last weekend, they said the school boycott was totally effective, and the store boycott "almost complete."

On May 6, Lucas said, more than 1,050 of the 1,100 Broadstreet students walked out in protest. Two days later, he said, 26 of the 31 teachers followed.

Teachers did meet with the school system's all-white board of trustees. But it "was just a fiasco," said one

teacher. "They couldn't even recognize us as human beings."

Both Lucas and Delaney said the board has told them their contracts will not be renewed. Lucas charged that he was dismissed because of his active involvement in voter-registration drives and in politics.

He was campaign chairman for Kermit Stanton, a Negro elected as Bolivar County supervisor last year, and is now managing Mrs. Thelma Barnes' campaign for the U.S. House.

Delaney said, "They (the board) just wanted to get me out of there because I was teaching that black is beautiful and putting an emphasis on black history. They just can't stand it when you tell the truth here in Shelby."

Delaney also worked on Stanton's campaign.

About 300 people held a protest march here last Saturday, and students are carrying on demonstrations in town and in front of their heavily guarded school.



KIDS WAIT IN ATLANTA

Schools Superintendent Joel Chapman had nothing to say about the walk-out, and the members of the board of trustees declined to comment until they meet later this week.

The boycotts are mainly directed at the action taken in the schools, but there are other grievances.

Shelby has been under a 7 p.m. curfew (recently relaxed to 8:30 p.m.) since the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Last week, seven youths were arrested for violating the curfew hours. One leader called the curfew "an insult to our respectability."

Meanwhile, people in Carthage also organized a school boycott after two teachers were dismissed.

On May 6, the people said, no more than 75 students went to classes at all-Negro Jordan High School. According to Mrs. Winson Hudson, president of the Leake County NAACP,

Still a Chance

WOODVILLE, Miss.--James Jolliff, who was elected and then removed from office as a Wilkinson County supervisor, has been given another chance to regain his seat.

A special election was supposed to be held May 28 to fill Jolliff's office for the rest of his four-year term. When the County Election Commission and a local court refused to put Jolliff's name on the ballot, his lawyers appealed the decision to the state Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court then postponed the election until the second week in September. The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law is trying to get a reversal of Jolliff's felony conviction before then.

Jolliff, a Negro, was removed from office after being convicted of obstructing justice, for asking a state alcoholic beverage control agent for a search warrant.

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(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 3)

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Table with 2 columns: City, Alabama and Phone Number. Lists reporter contact info for various Alabama cities.

Vol. IV, No. 20 May 18-19, 1968

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor: I am writing to you because I have a problem. Saturday night I went to town to see about my son. I really did not know who to go to, so I went to the night law and ask him why he put my son in jail.

pull his gun on me. The justice of the peace is loaning money to minors. He knows that they can not pay it back, and then he puts them in jail.

Mrs. Minnie Ruth Scott Shaw, Miss.

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

Macon Teachers Grill Revenue Bd. Chairman

BY MARY ELLEN GALE TUSKEGEE, Ala.--When the Education Association of Macon County held its first annual "teachers in politics" night earlier this month, only about 35 people showed up.

Wynn, head of the local NAACP, asked Parker whether the charge is true. "The salary scale throughout the county is deplorably low," Parker replied.

"I'm relatively new over there," the board chairman went on, "and I'm not familiar with every pay scale. But normally they (the commissioners) try to keep it uniform.

At the July meeting of the board, Parker said, the commissioners are planning to review all salaries, and will "make adjustments" where it seems necessary.

"But this is a poor county," he warned, and pay problems "won't be solved in my term in office."

Another questioner, Mrs. Sallie P. Harris, referred to the Macon County Board of Education's financial difficulties--which resulted in a 10% pay cut for all teachers this spring.

"The board of revenue being one of the major governing agencies, what has it done (to improve education)?" Mrs. Harris asked.

"The county has no money for education," Parker replied. He said the board did the only thing it could do to help--by authorizing a June 4 referendum on a five-mill increase in school taxes.

In fact, he said, the revenue board has money problems of its own. "For the past several years, we have been having to borrow \$40,000 to carry over from May to the summer months because not enough current revenue is coming in," he told the audience.

Most of the teachers murmured in disapproval, and Pinkard asked: "Wouldn't you agree that if all property in Macon County was assessed fairly and honestly, we would have an additional \$50,000 to \$100,000?"

"That's true for every county in the state--not just Macon," Parker replied. "I'm 100% in agreement with you that (property tax laws and practices) need to be brought up to date."

For instance, Parker said, Alabama law exempts cattle from taxation. "People who own thousands of head of cattle in Macon County don't pay a cent on 'em," he said. "This is not fair."

Several teachers asked Parker if he agreed that they deserve a salary increase--not a cut--and he said they did.

But then Frank J. Toland, a Tuskegee Institute professor, had a sharp question for Walter Evans, president of the teachers group. Do the teachers support a school tax increase in general, Toland asked, or do they support it only if it is used to raise their salaries?

"I don't think the teachers association would be as small as that," Evans shot back. "We are for all improvements in education."

March Nears Washington

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) ingham, Ala., and welcomed the marchers. A huge supper awaited the campaigners in the Morehouse College gymnasium. Then came a march to the birthplace of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and a free concert by nationally-famous soul singers that lasted until after 1 a.m.

But all along the route, food, lodging, entertainment, and transportation to the next destination have been furnished by the host city.

One of the purposes for making arrangements this way is to involve as much of the community as possible, said Turner: "We want to educate some of these middle-class whitefolks and Negroes, by making them live with some poor folks for a night."

Even though some marchers have remarked that the daily diet has included too much fried chicken and bologna, there have been few serious complaints about the food. Large quantities of everything--including milk and fresh fruit--have been made available at each stop.

In and in the homes where many people have stayed overnight, marchers have found that their hosts offer them even more food. Some hosts have given their visitors clothing out of their own wardrobes, and have offered to wash clothes soiled by days of marching.

Few marchers have gone without frequent baths--even in homes where water has to be heated on the stove. In a few places, hosts have given their own beds for the visitors to sleep in, and have written letters home for those who can't write.

"The cooperation has been tremendous," said Turner. "When we left home, we had folks who were hungry, with raggedy clothes. But by the time we got to Washington, we gonna all be fat and have new clothes."

Wilcox Case

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) is 5000 Dollars I need a att to get the bond cut."

When Boynton went to Camden with three SNCC workers last Tuesday, he said, Deputy Warren Tate grabbed him by the throat and slapped him, while Jenkins shouted, "Kill the son of a bitch." (Tate has refused to comment on the entire matter.)

But an agreement was worked out so that Boynton's mother, Mrs. Amelia Boynton of Selma, could put up some of her Dallas County property for Austin's bond. And on Wednesday, before Boynton and the SNCC workers could return to Camden, a jail trusty reported that Austin "left this morning."

RUBBER TALKING BUSINESS NECK SUE FOLKS AND HERS TOO

Auburn, Ala.

The Auburn City Council last week appointed the first Negroes ever to serve on any of its nine advisory boards. The two men--James A. Roberts and Stewart Bennett--were named to the Park and Recreation Board for five-year terms. In announcing the appointments, Councilman Elmer G. Salter said the council has always "tried to select qualified citizens regardless of race, creed, or color."

Houston, Miss.



HERMAN DANIELS

Specialist E-4 Herman Daniels returned home recently for a 30-day leave from his duties with the 25th Infantry Division in Viet Nam. Since landing in Viet Nam in April, 1967, Daniels has received two of this country's highest military awards--the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. In recommending Daniels for the Bronze Star, his commanding officer wrote, "Through his untiring effort and professional ability he consistently obtain-

Mystery Blaze Follows Mobile Primary Vote

BY JOHN SINGLETON

MOBILE, Ala.--The barber shop and beauty salon complex owned by Clarence H. Montgomery, a Mobile businessman and civil rights leader, was burned down to its brick shell May 9. The cause of the fire was undetermined.

Montgomery had recently co-signed for his organization, the Mobile County Coordinating Committee, on a sample ballot for the May 7 Democratic primary.

The sample ballot is published and distributed before each election by the Non-Partisan Voters League (NPVL).

Election returns showed that all candidates endorsed by the NPVL--at least, where the NPVL endorsed only one candidate for the office--were nominated outright, or will be in the June 4 run-off.

In the race for a spot in the delegation to the Democratic National Convention, the NPVL endorsed a white candidate, Ellis V. Ollinger Jr., and used the bloc vote against Roosevelt Johnson, a Negro.

The endorsement was the subject of an argument at the NPVL's meeting last Sunday night. Some members of the group said they didn't know Johnson is a Negro. John Morris, a member, asked John L. Leflore, NPVL director of case-



CLARENCE H. MONTGOMERY

work, "Who was responsible for the screening of the candidates they endorsed, and did they get any money for endorsing them?"

Leflore didn't answer. But Henry Williams, a Negro businessman, told the people, "I'm chairman of the board, and I don't know who did it. As a matter of fact, I haven't even seen one of the sample ballots."

Williams said he was not trying to clear himself. But, he said, it was

things like the sample ballot that people have to watch. "Times have just about ended" for "the people who have been doing all this work behind the door," he said.

The ten-man race for license commissioner was an example of what the bloc vote can do. Albert Sturtevant was able to survive and make the run-off by receiving 2,344 votes in the Negro wards. Sturtevant, with 7,527 votes, finished second to Thornton Price-Williams, who had 8,479.

Open Pools, Pickets Ask

BY KATY SIEPMANN

JACKSON, Miss.--About 50 Negroes and a few whites picketed City Hall last Tuesday, calling for the opening of Jackson's public swimming pools. The three city pools were closed three years ago to avoid desegregation.

The question of Jackson's pools arose again last month, when the all-Negro Committee of Concerned Citizens asked the City Council to re-open them immediately. Mayor Allen C. Thompson has repeatedly refused to take action on opening the pools.

At a council meeting two weeks ago, Commissioner Clark Horton read a statement signed by nearly 300 business and professional men, urging that the pools be opened. Then last week, a committee working with Commissioner Derwood Boyles on parks and recreation issued a statement demanding that the mayor open the pools by June.

The mayor's policy has not changed. "The matter is before the court," he has said, referring to a suit seeking to open the pools. "We're going to let the court decide."

As the pickets walked in single file around City Hall, a white man read a statement inside at the city council meeting, asking that the pools remain closed.

Richard Barret, a Viet Nam veteran active in segregationist causes, read from a statement signed by about 360 people. The statement asked the city to keep the pools closed, "in the interest of the safety, morals, and health of our children and our community."

Barret also criticized Thompson's recent tour of Jackson slums.

Jackson, Miss.

An integrated group of 40 students and faculty members from the Jackson area marched on April 27 to protest the war in Viet Nam. The demonstration took place in front of the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Building--across from the state fairgrounds, where the Mississippi Arts Festival was in progress. Although the protest was not officially sponsored by any one group, many people there were members of the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC). For the SSOC members, the demonstration was part of a ten-day nation-wide protest called the Southern Days of Secession. Before the demonstrators met on the lawn of the reserve building, there was a six-car parade from Millsaps College.

Montgomery, Ala.

About 125 boys took part in the Central District Tuckabatchee Boy Scout Camporee last Friday and Saturday near Madison Park. Six local troops made camp near the park, and competed in events ranging from compass-reading to knot-tying. The camp-out is in preparation for the annual state-wide Tuckabatchee Summer Camp to be held in Tuskegee in July.

Notasulga Police Chief Resigns; Was Accused by Macon Negro

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

NOTASULGA, Ala.--Notasulga Police Chief Bobby Singleton--one of two white law enforcement officers accused of mistreating a Negro prisoner two months ago--has apparently resigned from his job.

Employees at the Notasulga City Hall said this week that Singleton left on May 1, and won't be back.

Mayor Ray Langford confirmed that Singleton is out of uniform, but said the former police chief is still "thinking about" whether to return.

Did the resignation have anything to do with the charge against Singleton? "Not one bit that I know of," replied Langford.

The mayor said he doesn't plan to replace Singleton immediately. "I'm the chief of police, chief deputy, water man, sewer man, newspaper reporter,

and everything else," Langford remarked. "It's such an easy job, maybe I'm just going to stay chief."

Ocie Devance Jr., a 22-year-old Negro man, charged that Singleton held a gun on him last March 16, while State Trooper James H. Bass beat and kicked him.

The Macon County Inferior Court refused to try either Singleton or Bass, and the grand jury later refused to indict the Notasulga chief. An indictment against Bass for assault and battery was thrown out by Circuit Court Judge L. J. Tyner.

Bass--who shot and killed another Negro prisoner in nearby Loachapoka last December--is still assigned to the state troopers' Opelika headquarters. But local residents say he is no longer patrolling the area around the Lee-Macon county line.

center for white people. The park--also known as Tanglewood Park--is a place of entertainment that comes under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the government said, and it contains eating facilities that are also covered by the act.

Atlanta, Ga.

Melvin D. Kennedy, chairman of the history department at Morehouse College, has been named director of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity. The council--which plans to bring 300 "minority-group" lawyers into the profession by 1973--has received a grant of \$400,000 from the federal Office of Economic Opportunity to begin its project this summer.

Washington, D. C.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last month that the Alabama ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) state committee has ordered Barnes A. Rogers of Sumter County, Ala., to pay a total of \$1,559 to 11 tenant farmers. The farmers were among 33 who claimed that Rogers had taken their ASCS cotton-diversion payments without their consent. The Sumter County ASCS committee, of which Rogers is a member, ordered him to refund \$4,321 to the 33 farmers. But when Rogers appealed to the state committee, 22 of the farmers indicated that they had

Atlanta, Ga.

The Atlanta Board of Aldermen has created a Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Committee to recommend an appropriate memorial for the slain civil rights leader. The resolution creating the committee said that Dr. King "demonstrated in his life the spirit of Jesus Christ," and "was numbered among the first citizens of the City of Atlanta in devotion to all great causes." Members of the committee are board president Sam Massey, Q.V. Williamson, Hugh Pierce, George Cotsakis, and Richard Freeman.

Nashville, Tenn.

Roland Hayes, the internationally-known concert tenor, was presented with Fisk University's Humanitarian Award in the Arts last month at the Fisk Arts Festival. Previous winners of the award include actor-playwright Ossie Davis, actor-director Sidney Poitier, and folk-singer Harry Belafonte.

Greensboro, N. C.

The U.S. Justice Department has asked a federal court here to desegregate the William and Kate B. Reynolds Memorial Park near Winston-Salem. In a suit filed May 3, the government said the park was willed to the city of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, among others, as a playground and amusement



J. ALLAN PARKER

before the Democratic primary election, the teachers reserved their toughest questions for a man who wasn't running for office--Board of Revenue Chairman J. Allan Parker.

After Otis Pinkard said some white county workers are paid more than black men who do the same jobs, Eugene

LDF Asks End To Racial Ads

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN MONTGOMERY, Ala.--Three newspapers in Alabama and Mississippi have been asked to stop using racial designations in their housing advertisements. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) last month sent telegrams to 14 Southern papers--including the Montgomery Advertiser, the Mobile Register, and the Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger.

Publishers of each paper were told that "your newspaper continues to publish housing advertisements containing racial preferences," in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. This was a reference to headings like "Rentals--Colored" or "Colored Property" in the want ads.

Officials of the Montgomery paper could not be reached, and officials in Jackson refused to comment. However, readers noted, the Jackson paper has not run any racial designations in its ads this week.

"I don't think the law goes into effect until next January," said Ralph B. Chandler, publisher of the Mobile paper. (The LDF telegrams said the effective date was last April 11.) "We're having it researched," he added.



SCOUTMASTER L.C. HANDY GIVES ADVICE

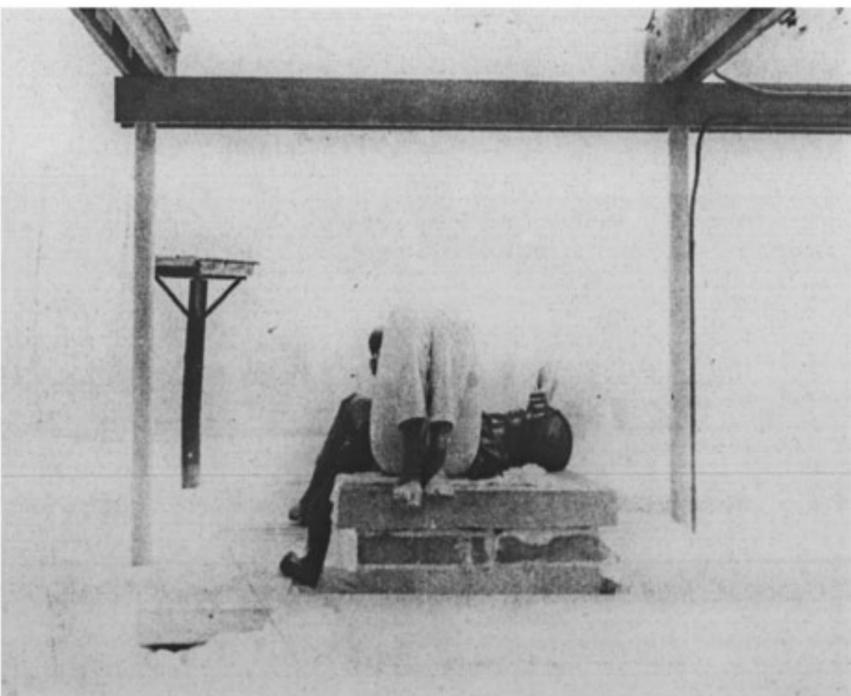


Johnson Beach, Pensacola, Fla.

SOUL BEACH



*Photos by
Jim Pepler*





COMMISSION MEMBERS LISTEN TO WITNESSES



ERNEST S. STRONG (RIGHT) TESTIFIES



FRANK FENDERSON (LEFT) AND JOHN BARNES

'Why Is the Federal Government So Timid?'

Five Days of Talk About Discrimination

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ESTELLE FINE

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--"There's a black revolution going on," said Leon "Ozark" Kennedy. "The black man won't fall for the white man's tricks any more."

Kennedy, a Tuskegee Institute student, was one of many witnesses who appeared before the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights when it held hearings in Montgomery late last month.

The five days of testimony were designed to show what progress--if any--16 mid-Alabama counties have made toward providing job opportunities and economic security for their Negro citizens.

But by the time the hearings were over, some observers were wondering whether the commission hearings would aid the "black revolution"--or whether they were just another trick.

"I see very little light in the tunnel," said one pessimistic spectator. "White Alabamians are going to go at their own pace, which is very slow."

A black witness said angrily that the commission's preliminary "secret" session was held to warn white people of coming testimony that might "defame, degrade, or incriminate" them.

The only protection given to Negro witnesses, the man said, was the commission's warning--delivered on the last day--that it is illegal to threaten people for giving testimony.

Other witnesses charged that the commission paid too much attention to white people's promises--and too little attention to black people's problems.

White officials didn't seem to like the hearings either. For example, State Schools Superintendent Ernest Stone suggested that the civil rights commission was criticizing the South unfairly.

"We want to improve (schools and job opportunities)," Stone said. "But this problem is nation-wide....We're trying to train all Alabamians, but we don't have the money."

Lack of money was a major complaint throughout the hearings. Black people told the commission that they despair of getting jobs in the South. White employers said they can't afford to hire or train Negro workers. And federal officials said they don't have the money to enforce civil rights laws.

The hearings covered problems in the Black Belt counties of Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox.

Although 62% of the 360,000 people who live in these counties are black, witnesses told the commission that good jobs--and good educations--are mostly reserved for white residents.

After four teen-agers spoke of their plans to leave Alabama because of limited educational and job opportunities, the commission listened to testimony from O. B. Carter, superintendent of the Eufaula City Schools in Barbour County.

Commission members noted that mostly-white Eufaula High School has been accredited for many years, and has a

cooperative education program under which local businesses give part-time jobs to students who are taking courses in banking, merchandising, and other fields.

But Eufaula's all-Negro T. V. McCoo High School has been accredited for only six years, and has no such program, Carter testified.

Eugene Patterson, an Atlanta (Ga.) newspaper publisher who is vice-chairman of the commission, asked Carter why the schools do not offer job training to Negro students.

The curriculum is the responsibility of state--not local--school officials, Carter said.

But State Schools Superintendent Stone said Carter was "mistaken," and that local boards of education decide what courses to give at which schools.

Mrs. Frankie M. Freeman, the only Negro commissioner present, asked Stone about the education of black students in Bellamy, Sumter County.

When she visited the local Negro school--owned by the American Can Company--Mrs. Freeman said, she found it in a state of disrepair. There is no indoor plumbing and only one outdoor faucet, she said, and the toilet facilities are in an outhouse surrounded by mud.

In reply, Stone said the Negro children in Bellamy can improve their education by transferring to a nearby white school: "They have freedom of choice."

Stone also said that traditionally-white schools are better equipped than Negro ones because white parents "give more money out of their pockets for better schools."

"We do not have unemployment in Alabama," he said. "We have untrained, unemployed people."

But, Stone added, education is not the only problem. "Most of the northern industries that come here want white employees," he observed.

And several Negro witnesses said the superintendent is correct. One of them, Bernard Shambrey, a former employee of Dan River Mills in Greenville, Butler County, said he quit his job because of racial discrimination.

After being hired as a "weaver learner," Shambrey said, he was switched to a lower-paying job as a sweeper--even though he occasionally filled in for absent white weavers.

Shambrey said the plant discriminates in other ways, too. "I wasn't told which (restroom) not to use," he said, "just which one I could use." He charged that Negro employees have to use empty Coke bottles instead of drinking directly out of the water fountain.

But J. L. Cantrell, the factory superintendent, denied the

accusations. He said Shambrey's "classification was never changed from a weaver learner," and that "we have no segregated facilities."

Some witnesses said local officials cooperate with industries to intimidate Negro workers. The Rev. Henry F. Fortner, a paper baler at McGregor Printing Corporation in Sumter County, recalled an interview with York Mayor Warren Grant.

According to Fortner, Grant told him that he could not participate in civil rights demonstrations if he wanted a job at McGregor.

And, Fortner said, the only time he enters the company's "white" restroom is when "I clean it out."

Mayor Grant told the commission that he keeps photos of demonstrators in his office, but that they do not affect his screening of job applicants. On the other hand, he said, he would not recommend a demonstrator for a job.

Some businessmen claimed that civil rights activity hurts job chances for Negroes. But in one of the hearing's most surprising moments, a white employer disagreed.

Clyde Roberts, manager of the Yellow Front Store in Livingston, Sumter County, said he added six black employees to his staff after Negroes picketed for jobs last year at Christmas-time.

Roberts said he didn't hire Negroes earlier because he was "afraid of the white backlash." But, he continued, his white customers have kept on buying at the store.

The only way whites will change their hiring practices is under pressure from Negroes, Roberts advised the civil rights commission.

Over and over, witnesses testified that companies with federal contracts--which prohibit racial discrimination--are some of the worst offenders when it comes to employment policies.

For example, officials admitted that McGregor Printing Corporation--the firm which won't hire civil rights demonstrators--does 60% of its business with the U. S. Government Printing Office.

"No government contract has ever been canceled for failure to comply" with civil rights laws, remarked the commission's head attorney, Howard Glickstein.

And Leonard J. Biermann, of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance in Washington, testified that there has never even been a hearing on the matter.

"Why is OFCC so timid?" asked Glickstein, Biermann explained that the government wants to look further into the problem of equal-opportunity employment in the South.

The Alabama Power Company--which does \$2,500,000 worth of business yearly with the federal General Services Administration--came under sharp attack from Commissioner Freeman.

"Your company needs to review its entire employment procedure," Mrs. Freeman told Alabama Power's personnel manager, Ernest S. Strong.

Strong testified that the company has 472 Negro employees--75% of them laborers--out of a total of 5,394. He said Alabama Power can't find qualified Negroes to do skilled jobs.

But attorney Glickstein told Strong that the company should hire Negro applicants and train them on the job.

Strong insisted that investigators from various government offices have approved Alabama Power's employment practices. A federal-contract compliance officer, Robert Harlan, explained why.

"If we canceled that contract for one (civil rights) clause, people would have to use candles and oil lamps," he said. Another problem, the federal officials said, is that they don't have the money or the staff to check up on all contractors and subcontractors.

Paul Brunson, of the federal Small Business Administration office in Birmingham, said the SBA has similar difficulties, and does not investigate hiring policies before or after lending money.

"We feel (the businesses) are complying if they keep up with their payments," he said.

Although most of the testimony concerned jobs and education, the civil rights commission also heard criticism of health conditions. Dr. Alan Mermann--who examined 790 children in Lowndes County two years ago--said all of them were hungry, and 80% suffered from serious anemia. Some of the children "have only two-thirds of your blood, and many have only one-third," Mermann said.

But Dr. Robert Griffin of Fort Deposit said things are not as bad as Mermann claimed. Griffin said many Negro mothers "prefer midwives." "The food is there if only it were prepared properly," he insisted.

Mrs. Helen Randle of Forkland, Greene County, testified that she paid someone \$10 to take her to the Tuscaloosa public health clinic to get glasses.

But, she said, she was turned away because she didn't have an appointment: "They wouldn't even let me sit down, sent me outside."

Dr. Ira L. Myers, the state health officer, disputed Mrs. Randle's testimony. He said that all public health clinics are desegregated, and that "patients are taken in the order in which they come in." Several people in the audience laughed.

Not all of the testimony was discouraging. The Rev. Daniel Harrell said the Self-Help Housing Project in Wilcox County is giving many Negroes a chance at a better life.

"People are learning a trade and getting a sense of pride, while building a home of their own," he said.

But on the last day of the hearings, the commission reported that most Negroes in the 16 counties are still locked in a "cycle of poverty and dependency."

"Lack of opportunity means young people are growing up without real hope," the commission said.

And a Harvard University economist, John Kain, urged drastic action to break the bonds of poverty. He proposed a guaranteed annual income--to be provided in cash by the federal government.

Kain said the guaranteed income would enrich the South simply by giving its people more money. But, said a disillusioned observer as the hearings ended, "the South doesn't want to be richer. It's not materialistic like the North. It believes in spiritual values first--like racism."



CHILDREN WAIT OUTSIDE. . .



. . . WHILE MOTHERS ARE SWORN IN AS WITNESSES

Turner Tells Marchers

'King Was a Real Man'

BY BOB LABAREE

CHARLOTTE, N.C.--From the very beginning, SCLC leaders have insisted that the Poor People's Campaign is going to be non-violent.

And as the Southern leg of the campaign passed the half-way point this week, marchers were being reminded that the leaders still mean what they said.

Several times every day, Albert Turner, the leader of the Southern leg, has told the marchers that he expects everyone to follow the example of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "We don't mean to take no brick-throwers

to Washington," he says. Repeatedly, Turner and other leaders have warned that some people have joined the march "to mess it up."

"They gonna come up to you, and urge you to fight back or throw a brick," Turner said one day this week. "As soon as you find 'em, let us know, and we'll put 'em off the bus right where we are."

"And don't look for them to be white, either," he added.

There is a good reason for not using violence against the white man, Turner said--"he's so good at it."

"He (the white man) knows how to deal with violence, but he doesn't know



TURNER

DR. KING

what to do with non-violence. He spends more every year for guns and arms than anything else--so that's his business. These violent folks are asking you to throw a brick at a machine gun. Now you know that ain't gonna get you nothin'."

When someone hits you, "It takes courage not to hit back," Turner said. "Dr. King--he was a real man. Anyone can go through hell with hell to guard him. But it takes a brave man to walk through hell naked. That's what he did."

"The dreamer is dead," said Turner, "but they can't kill the dream--can't nobody kill that but you."

Boycotts

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

more than 900 students stayed home to protest the dismissal of two teachers, Mrs. Alice McFadden and Mrs. Essie Mikes.

Mrs. Hudson and several teachers charged that during the five years that Tommy Smith has been principal at Jordan, he has fired 12 "of some of the best teachers we had."

Mrs. McFadden and Mrs. Mikes said they don't know why they were dismissed for next year. "He (Smith) doesn't have reasons," charged Mrs. McFadden, a teacher for 27 years. "If there's one little thing that comes up that sort of get in him, he just put them out."

Smith was unavailable for comment, but Schools Superintendent Forest Munday said there "wasn't nobody fired." Because of faculty desegregation, he said, "just two places were left vacant for next year."

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p. m. Monday, May 20, in the Jackson St. Baptist Church, 230 S. 63rd St., the Rev. J. C. Parker, pastor.



Announcements

FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tusculumbia-Sheffield, Auburn, Opelika-Tuskegee, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. It has a staff that works throughout the state. The Alabama Council is integrated at all levels: its staff officers, staff, and local chapters all have people of both races working side by side. The Alabama Council wishes to establish local chapters in every county in the state. If you wish to join the Council's crusade for equal opportunity and human brotherhood, write The Alabama Council, P. O. Box 1310, Auburn, Ala. 36830.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED--The Montgomery Head Start needs all the volunteer help it can get to work in the classrooms. 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 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 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 at 419 Madison, call 263-3474, or go to the nearest Head Start center.

VETERANS--Some World War II veterans still have more than two years to obtain G. I. guaranteed or insured loans. Final deadline for World War II veterans is July 25, 1970. Those eligible may obtain a guaranteed loan to purchase a home, a farm, or to buy or start a business. Eligibility has been expiring for World War II veterans according to a formula that adds ten years to the date of their discharge from active wartime service, plus one year for each 90 days of that service, plus four days for each additional day of active duty. The date reached by this formula is the individual deadline date for each veteran. This eligibility has already expired for most World War II veterans, but the program will end for all on July 25, 1970. World War II veterans who were discharged for a service-connected disability will be eligible until the final termination date of July 25, 1970. This also applies to widows of veterans who died of service-connected disabilities. For information, veterans can contact the Montgomery (Ala.) regional office of the Veterans Administration (474 S. Court St., Montgomery, Ala. 36104, telephone 263-7521, extension 203) or the office closest to them.

FEDERAL JOBS--The Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for South Alabama and Northwest Florida is holding examinations for card punch operators, \$86 per week. This examination provides applicants with career employment opportunities in the federal service in the 28 counties of South Alabama and the ten counties of Northwest Florida. Interested applicants may obtain necessary application forms and copies of the examination announcement from any Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners and at most main post offices. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Federal Job Information Center, Room 105, 107 St. Francis Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602, or any U. S. Post Office.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--The subject for this week's Lesson-Sermon, to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, May 19, is "Mortals and Immortals." The Golden Text is from Romans: "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

UNDER 31 AND DISABLED?--A worker, who becomes disabled before age 31 now needs only 1 1/2 to five years of work under Social Security to qualify for benefits. A person disabled before age 24 needs only 1 1/2 years of work in the three-year period before his disability began. If you were turned down before because you did not have enough work in under Social Security before you became disabled, you may be eligible under the new rules. Check with your local Social Security office.

TRAINING JOBS FOR VETERANS--Government agencies can now hire Viet Nam-era veterans for jobs under special, non-competitive "transitional appointments." These jobs--paying from \$3,776 to \$5,565 a year--are for veterans with less than one year of training beyond high school, who have the required qualifications for the jobs. The veteran must also agree to take at least the equivalent of one school year of education or training under the G. I. Bill. Veterans must have had at least 181 consecutive days of active duty--some part of it after Aug. 4, 1964--to be eligible for these jobs. Veterans remain eligible until one year after their discharge or Feb. 9, 1969, whichever is later. Interested applicants may contact any government agency they prefer, or any office of the Veterans Administration or the Civil Service Commission, or the Veterans Assistance Center in Atlanta, Ga., or New Orleans, La.

PAINTINGS--A traveling exhibition of small paintings is being shown through May 28 at Alabama State College, Montgomery, Ala.

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Montgomery invite you to their weekly fireside at 8 p.m. this Saturday, at the Community House, 409 S. Union St., Montgomery, Ala. For transportation, call 265-4394. Meet Baha'u'llah.

ENTRANCE EXAM--Alabama State College will administer a special American College Testing (ACT) Examination on Friday, June 28. Students who failed to take the test on one of the national dates and who are interested in enrolling at Alabama State College for the fall semester of 1968 should register for the examination before June 21 with the Office of Testing and Psychological Services, Room 235 in Councill Hall on the campus in Montgomery, Ala. An ACT score is one of the requirements for admission to the college.

COURIER NEWSBOYS--The Southern Courier has a limited amount of 12-and-under tickets available for the Montgomery Rebels-Charlotte Hornets baseball game at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6, at Paterson Field, Montgomery, Ala. These tickets will be given to deserving newsboys in the Montgomery area, but The Southern Courier cannot furnish transportation to the game or places to stay. If you want to attend this game--and you have a way to get to and from the field--write to The Southern Courier, 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104. NEWSBOYS (and girls) ONLY.

GREENSBORO--Curtis Rhodes is now selling The Southern Courier in Greensboro, Ala. To have the paper delivered to your home, call him at 624-7174.

'I Am Your Brother,' Says Mexican Leader

BY BOB LABAREE

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--When Reles Tijerna finished his short speech from the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on May 1, the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy returned to the microphone and said:

"You might as well tell Mr. Charley it's all over now."

The crowd roared its approval. Speaking from the very spot where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot on April 4, Tijerna told the predominantly-Negro crowd that Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign would be joined by another race of impoverished Americans--the Mexican-Americans of the Southwest.

"I am your brother," he said. "But I've been turned away from you for the last 120 years by the white man."

The leaders of the Poor People's Campaign have said repeatedly that SCLC does not intend it to be for black people only.

Twice during the rallies in Memphis, representatives of poor Puerto Ricans, Indians, and whites were brought to the microphone to lend their support to the Washington march.

"Y'see," Abernathy said one night at the Masonic Temple auditorium, "we've discovered a new kind of power--a power greater than white power or black power--and that's poor people's power."

In his speech May 1, Tijerna agreed, saying, "We must unite." But, he added, "It is a new era we're in now--a color era. I don't say I like it that way, but it's the truth. When (Stokely) Carmichael said 'Black is beautiful,' it caught on, just like that."

"Put them all together--red, yellow, brown, black," he said. "All these will bring the great to their knees."

And "the great," he explained, means the white man.

In the past ten years, Tijerna said later, he has worked hard at uniting

American poor people of different races.

Representing the Mexican-Americans of New Mexico, he has already talked about unity with leaders of Indian groups, and with militant black spokesmen like Stokely Carmichael of SNCC, Elijah Muhammad of the Black Muslims, and Ron Karenga of US.

Tijerna said he first asked Dr. King for support last year, "and six months later he wrote me and invited me to join the Poor People's Campaign."

Beginning on Saturday, Tijerna will lead a caravan of poor Mexican-Americans and Indians from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the nation's capital.

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Kids and Cards Help Raise Record \$5.8 million for UNICEF



Mrs. Guido Pantaleoni, Jr., President of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, hands a check to UN Secretary-General U Thant and Henry Labouisse, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, as the final payment of a record \$5,850,000 raised by the Committee during its 1967-68 fiscal year ending March 31. The new record contribution is \$274,000 over the previous peak of public support reached in 1965-66, when UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Over half of the total was raised by millions of U.S. school children

in their annual "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" drive last Halloween. The remainder came from the sale of UNICEF Greeting Cards, the college students' Food for India campaign, and other public appeals to help support UNICEF-aided child care projects in more than 120 countries.

"We see this as heartening evidence of the continuing determination of U.S. citizens to help close the gap between the mounting needs of the world's children and the limited resources available to UNICEF to meet them," said Mrs. Pantaleoni.

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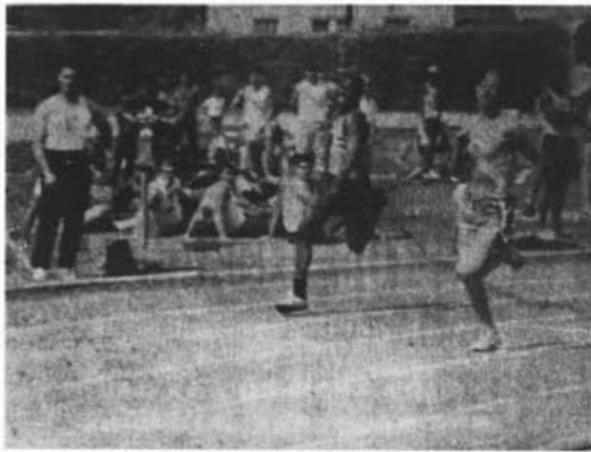
In State Track Meet

Western Nearly Wins

BY FRANKLIN HOWARD
 AUBURN, Ala. -- "If we only had another participant, we would win," said a member of the track team from Western High School of Birmingham.

With the last event--the millerelay--coming up, the leading teams in the state 4-A track meet last Saturday were Western with 33 points, and Lee High School of Montgomery with 31.

Western wasn't entered in the mile relay, since it had not qualified a team in last week's sectionals. But even so, Lee needed at least a third-place finish in the relay to win the state championship.



So the Generals sent for Terry Beasley. Beasley had already won the 100- and 220-yard dashes for Lee, and was in his street clothes when the call came. Back in uniform, he was in fourth place when he took the baton for the third leg of the relay.

But Beasley--in his first quarter-mile of the season--ran his leg in 49.6 seconds, putting Lee in second place to stay. The second-place finish gave Lee 36 points, to 33 for Western, and 32 for Lanier of Montgomery.

Beasley won the Wilbur H. Hutsell Award as the meet's outstanding performer. But if the vote had been taken before the relay, the winner might have



JAMES NELSON been James Nelson, from all-Negro Western High.

In the discus, Nelson watched Lee's Butch Heisler toss the plate 159' for a new state record. Seconds later, Nelson stepped into the circle and, with a grunt that could be heard all over the stadium, got off a throw of 160' 10 1/2", taking the record and first place away from Heisler.

Nelson was also third in the shot put with a heave of 53' 5", as Heisler's 55' 3" toss won the event.

Nelson and his teammates helped

Mrs. Duncan

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

they were black and rotten.

Does she like the way she lives? "It's hard," she said. Maybe the welfare check should be bigger than it is, she conceded, and maybe her grandchildren ought to get ADC (Aid to Dependent Children) payments.

But she complained very little about her condition. To Mrs. Duncan--who stepped last Friday into her first protest demonstration--the Poor People's Campaign is "just for colored people."

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RUNNERS STRAIN FOR THE FINISH LINE make Alabama's first integrated track championship one of the most exciting state meets ever held.

Mustang James Harris sets a new state record of 46' 8" in winning the triple jump, and fought a record-breaking battle with Stan Trott of Lanier in the broad jump. Harris leaped 23' 5" to beat the old state mark, but Trott soared 1 3/4" farther than that.

Besides Beasley, the meet's only double winner was Henry Ray of Western, who took the 120 high hurdles in 14.8 and the 180 lows in 20.0. Nelson's brother William was second in the highs and third in the lows.

In one of the closest races of the day, David Cotchery of Carver (Birmingham) won the 880 in 1:57.2, a tenth of a second ahead of Billy Russell of Lanier. The next two finishers--Fred Du-

val of Davidson and James Matthews of Lanier -- were timed in 1:57.5 and 1:57.7.

Cotchery also took third in the mile, behind Kit Brendle of Lee and Duval Booker T. Washington of Montgomery won the 440 relay, as expected, but the team of Thomas Whatley, Frank Vickers, David McGee, and Henry Carter had to settle for a 43.0 clocking, well off the state record.

Led by Bill High, Auburn High School was first by 30 points in the 3-A championship meet. High won the high hurdles in 14.5 (a record), the low hurdles in 19.9 (a record), and the 100 in 10.1. He also ran on Auburn's first-place 440 relay team.

Steve Rudolph of Lowndes County Training School easily won the 3-A mile in 4:39.2.

Lesa Joyce Price Says:

I am ten years old, and I'm in the fifth grade at Center St. School in Birmingham. I'm a member of the New Hope Baptist Church, and an usher for the Alabama Christian Movement.

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Macon Vote Challenged

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
 TUSKEGEE, Ala.--The closest battle in the Macon County Democratic primary election may not be over after all. Wilber D. "Bill" Johnston--a losing candidate for the Board of Revenue--has asked for a re-count.

According to the official tally, the present commissioner--the Rev. V.A. Edwards -- defeated Johnston by 36 votes, 1,859 to 1,823.

But, Johnston said this week, he doesn't think the count was accurate--or legal.

Although both Johnston and Edwards are Negroes, the challenger said race was a factor in the election. "The people have found out now that the support (Edwards) got is identifiable (as white)," Johnston claimed.

"I'm not a sore loser," he said. "So many people have been calling me and asking me to contest the election, so that the federal government will do something about their rights."

"The re-count is important, I might win. I might lose. But it's the only way to challenge these illegal practices."

Johnston stopped short of saying that election officials conspired against him. "Deliberate or accidental, it's the same thing to me," he remarked. Specifically, Johnston said, the county Democratic Executive Committee failed to count the "challenged ballots"

cast by voters whose names did not appear on the poll list.

Of the 36 challenged votes he has traced, Johnston said, he received 25 and Edwards one.

The losing candidate also charged that poll officials in rural Society Hill--where he received 14 votes to 68 for Edwards -- violated several Alabama laws.

Johnston said the officials refused to accept challenged ballots--even after people "presented proper proof that they were bona fide registered voters."

In some cases, he said, poll officials turned away Negro voters without telling them of their right to cast challenged ballots.

Johnston said his poll watchers reported that, throughout the day, poll officials in Society Hill entered the voting machines with people who had not asked for assistance.

And, he said, the head official at

Society Hill "stated that he had to plant some cotton" and left the polling place, returning only for the count at the end of the day. Two other polling places--in Milstead and Fort Davis--were also illegally understaffed, Johnston said.

Harry D. Raymon, chairman of the Macon County Democratic Executive Committee, was out of town this week. But at the board of revenue meeting Monday, a DEC representative--Edgar Johnson -- indicated that there were some problems with poll officials in last week's election.

Johnston asked the board to raise the officials' salary from \$8 to \$20 a day. "You can't get good, responsible people to sit back there for what we pay them," he said.



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