Mrs. Johnson Refuses to Give Up Her Desk

BY EILEN GILKES
TUSKEGEE, Ala. -- Mrs. Beatie C. Johnson, who was at work as usual this morning, is the office of the Macon County Community Action Program. But she is still the CAP's paid director.

The CAP board--in a unanimous vote last week--said it would like to give Mrs. Johnson her job back.

Johnson, who is married to the county sheriff, was fired last week in a battle with CAP over the agency's budget.

According to board chairman B. D. McCall, the board would like to make the CAP's director a full-time position.

But Mrs. Johnson, who is the CAP's paid director, said she would not consider giving up her job without a fight.

"I have a right to the job," she said.

The board, however, said it would not consider giving up the job unless Mrs. Johnson agreed to give up her job.

"I have a right to the job," she said.

The board has not said whether it would consider giving up the job unless Mrs. Johnson agreed to give up her job.

Can't Stop BTW

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- The Decatur, Ala., police chief, who was arrested last week in connection with a murder investigation, has been released on bond.

The chief, who has been under investigation for several months, was arrested on Wednesday in connection with the murder of a man who was found dead in a car in a nearby parking lot.

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Kids Beaten in Schools, Lowndes Parents Claim

BY BETT MCMONIGLE

HELENA, Ala. -- Six members of the Lowndes County Community Action Program have asked Miss Mildred Coleman, the superintendent of schools, to help "foster" their children's education.

The superintendent told me then she would help "foster" their children's education.

Miss Coleman said that she had been in touch with the principal of Hayneville High School, Miss Johnson, who had said she would help "foster" their children's education.

"I have never seen a child in this school," she said.

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10-Year Sentences For Two in CR Death Case

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Vote Upheld

Voting rights for blacks, as guaranteed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, were upheld in the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Mississippi v. vintage voting machines. In both instances, black voters were systematically denied the right to vote.

It was the third time in the last four months that the CAP has been voted to be dissolved by the CAP board.

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Residents Call Bessemer 'Terrible Place' to Live

Two Faces of Jefferson County

Residents Call Bessemer 'Terrible Place' to Live

BY BOB LABAREE

BESSEMER, Ala.—Many years ago, a Negro lady who is a native of Bessemer, her mother received a bit of kind advice from a white woman.

"If I were you," the white lady said, "I'd move out of here, even if it's no farther than Birmingham. Bessemer is a terrible place for a Negro.

That was a long time back, but many people in Bessemer feel that nothing has changed very much since.

The civil rights movement came to Bessemer in 1964. The Voters League and SCLC workers conducted the first voter registration drives, but Negro leaders estimate that, even now, only a little more than half of the black people in Bessemer have registered to vote.

The leaders say that some people are still afraid.

"We'd offered to take them down in cars and to provide baby-sitters for them, and everything," said one veteran of the Voters League. "and still they wouldn't come out."

Even many Negroes who have registered—and who frequently speak up—wonder if their votes mean anything.

"It's a terrible thing to talk," said Mrs. Divis, mother of two. "We'd offered to take them down in cars and to provide baby-sitters for them, and still they wouldn't come out."

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But Negro leaders estimate that, even now, only a little more than half of the black people in Bessemer have registered to vote.
Blue-Gray Game, 1967

Charles Mitchell Was There

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—It was a cold day, but Charles Mitchell was sweating.

Mitchell—the first Alabama State College football player ever selected for the annual Blue-Gray game—was trying to impress the Gray coaches in practice the week before the game. Negroes have played in the nationally-televised all-star game for the past three years, but Mitchell—a native from Mobile—was the first man chosen from any of the nearby Negro schools. "We (Alabama State) tried to get a player in the game last year," Mitchell said, "and the Gray coaches said we were not capable of playing in the game every year—being that we are from Montgomery."

In practice, Mitchell (number 47 in pictures) worked out at defensive back, against the Grays' offensive team. Most of the time, he covered Auburn quarterback Freddie Hyatt—who ran wild against the Blue in last Saturday's game, with his spectacular TD reception.


Hyatt and Mitchell got along fine during the week. In fact, the Auburn star worked to go out of his way to make things pleasant.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR, COL. 1

Text by Michael S. Lottman

Photos by Jim Peppler
Mitchell Plays for Gray

(continued) Mitchell was in the starting defensive backfield in Saturday's game, playing safety alongside Billy Hayell and Terry Padiettol. Memphis' Charlie Martin observed, “He brings the intensity of a professional football player on the field.”

The Blue-Grey game might bring Mitchell to the attention of some professional scouts, but he said the game—and the entire season—would carry more weight than that. “If we win, I feel we’ve accomplished what we set out to do.”

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“Macon Fight Goes On

(continued) We arrived here Monday morning. We have been here for four days. Some of the girls had heard a lot of good things about this place, but we were a little bit leery at first. We didn’t know what to expect. We were a little bit nervous, but we were determined to see what it was all about.

In the past week, we have had a wonderful time here. The people are really good to me. Thanks for your kind words.

We have a lovely job here. The work is not too hard, but it is rewarding.

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