

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
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 Madison, Wisconsin 53706



Mrs. Victoria Gray



James M. Houston



Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer



Rev. John Cameron

THE STUDENT VOICE

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NEGROES RUN IN MISS.

FOUR RUN ON FREEDOM SLATE

JACKSON, MISS. - Mississippian voters - over 95% of them white - may not elect any of the four Negro candidates running in

the June 2 primary but each is determined to go to Washington to represent the state in Jan. 1965.

The four - Mrs. Victoria Gray, and the Rev. John Earle Cameron, both of Hattiesburg; Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville, and James M. Houston of Vicksburg - asked the state's

voters to make a choice they've never been asked to make before - to choose between the white, segregationist regular Democrats and four civil-rights conscious Negroes running under the banner of the Freedom Democratic Party.

None of the Negro candidates expects to win Tuesday's elec-

tion, but all hope to be seated in the House and Senate in Jan. 1965.

Although Negroes are more than 40% of the state's population, only some 20,000 Negroes are registered voters. Registered whites make up 95% of the electorate.

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Beating Marks Freedom Day

CANTON, MISS. - A Negro youth was beaten unconscious by eight city police here during a May 29 "Freedom Day," and close to 50 persons were arrested when they attempted participation in the concentrated voter registration drive.

SNCC workers at the Jackson office of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), said Negroes who assembled at the Mount Zion Baptist Church and proceeded to the county courthouse were either turned back by police or arrested.

Despite mounting pressure from local law enforcement during the Freedom Day, about 60 persons stood on line waiting to try to register to vote.

"Eight police with clubs beat 24-year-old McKinley Hamblen unconscious in front of many witnesses," an assistant COFO pro-



Mrs. Victoria Gray, Senate candidate, speaks at an outdoor rally in Canton.

COURT NIXES PEACE BOND REQUIREMENTS

SELMA, ALA. - The Alabama Court of Appeals has denied local law enforcement of one of its most effective legal weapons used here last fall to restrain SNCC vote workers.

The appellate court reversed on May 26 a Dallas County Circuit Court decision which required six Negro rights workers, including SNCC Chairman John Lewis, to put up security for \$1,000 peace bonds before they could be released from jail or contest their conviction.

Peace bonds have also been used in Savannah, Ga., and Farmville, Va., to deter civil rights advocates from engaging in further activity. Posting such a bond is tantamount to promising to stop all present activity, since it is immediately revocable if another charge is added. Traditionally used in domestic and

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SUMMER PROJECT READIED

JACKSON, MISS. - On July 1, several hundred white and Negro college students, doctors, nurses, lawyers and teachers will settle at different points throughout the state to begin work on the "Mississippi Freedom Summer."

Under the sponsorship of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), the summer workers will teach in "Freedom Schools," man Community Centers, and work on registering the state's 380,000 unregistered, but eligible, Negroes.

"Summer workers are being recruited at 'Freedom Centers' at Northern and Southern college campuses, and from protest groups in the South," SNCC worker Betty Garman said. "We are asking them to bring \$150 with them, as well as a list of people we can contact for bail money if they are arrested."

Freedom Centers have been established to serve:

The Universities of California, Michigan, Southern California, Oregon, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Illinois; Southern Illinois, Harvard, Yale, Howard, Stanford and Atlanta Universities; and Oberlin, Morehouse, Spelman, Emory, Radcliffe, Queens, Clark, Morris Brown, and Pomona Colleges.

Students accepted for the project so far are largely from the New England, New York - Philadelphia area, the West Coast and the South.

More than half are white, and



SNCC WORKERS Lawrence Guyot (center) and Robert Moses (left) discuss plan for the Mississippi Summer Project with a local youth. Guyot directs the 5th Congressional District project, while Moses heads the overall state program.

for most it will be their first trip South. Students are selected on the basis of the skills they have to offer, than for "a missionary spirit or the feeling that the summer will be just another adventure," a SNCC worker said.

They will attend a two-week orientation session at a mid-Western college campus, and will learn from lawyers and teachers and experts what their summer will be like.

SNCC worker Bob Moses, COFO's project director, will direct the summer project. "We still need supplies of paper, school books, pencils, type-

writers, tape recorders and mimeograph machines as well as cars and money to make the summer a success," Moses said.

Books should be sent to the main headquarters of SNCC at 6 Raymond Street in Atlanta, Georgia, he indicated, while other materials should be sent to the COFO office at 1017 Lynch Street in Jackson, Miss.

"The success of the project depends on whether Americans are willing to move together against the forces that deny freedom in Mississippi and across the South," SNCC Chairman John Lewis said.

SNCC WORKER JAILED WITH WHITE ATTACKER

LEESBURG, GA. - A worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), released here after 31 days in jail for passing out voter registration leaflets at a Negro public school says he served his time in a cell across from the white man who broke a white SNCC worker's jaw in an Albany, Ga. jail in 1962.

Willie Ricks, 20, was arrested here April 20 after he distributed leaflets urging parents of school children to register to vote. The warrant was served as he escorted an elderly Negro woman to the Lee County courthouse.

"I found out a white man in the same jail with me was the one who beat Bill Hansen and broke his jaw in 1962," Ricks said.

"He told me the reason he beat Hansen was that the sheriff promised to drop six or seven counts of burglary against him if he 'roughed Hansen up good,'" Ricks stated.

Hansen now director of SNCC's Arkansas project, was jailed for participating in the massive demonstrations of nearby Albany in the summer of 1962.

SNCC workers first went into southwest Georgia in the fall of 1961. They conducted vote drives in several surrounding rural counties, including Lee County, and now plan to expand the drive into all 22 counties of the 2nd Congressional District.

ADDITIONAL FEDERAL JUDGES CALLED FOR IN MISSISSIPPI

ATLANTA, GA. - A civil rights leader in Mississippi has asked for the appointment of five extra Federal judges in his state to protect voter registration workers during the summer. Five U.S. marshals would be assigned to work under each of the extra judges.

The request was made in a petition by Lawrence Guyot to Elbert P. Tuttle, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, who resides here. Guyot acted through Attorneys Joseph Jordan, Norfolk, Va., and Len W. Holt and Simon L. Cain, both of Washington, D.C.

Guyot who lives in Hattiesburg, Miss., told Judge Tuttle that more than 1,000 and possibly 2,000

students and other persons will come into Mississippi to conduct voter education and registration during June, July, August, and September.

Guyot, a 23-year-old SNCC worker, directed the 5th Congressional District project of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) in Miss.

"It has been the experience of the petitioner, and his counsel, that all voter registration and political education programs in Mississippi are met with - official and unofficial beatings, shootings, arrests on spurious charges, and other forms of harassment," Guyot's petition said. "Experience has taught the pe-

itioner that the only protection afforded, and it is minimal, under such circumstances as shall exist this summer, comes from being able to go into Federal courts for relief from 'official' violence and intimidation."

Guyot declared that only three lawyers in the whole state of Mississippi are "willing to handle a racially controversial case and to assert the necessary constitutional defenses. In each instance when an integration worker is arrested the matter is racially controversial."

Guyot asserts that the three lawyers cannot be everywhere in the state to try to protect the voter registration workers. He says that even the 50 lawyers being sent into the state by various groups will not be enough to cope with "massive and official repression certain to be in-

flicted" on the registration workers.

"Many of the local communities have acquired more weapons and are preparing or have prepared concentration centers for imprisoning voter registration and political education workers coming to these cities during the summer," Guyot added.

Because of vacations, Guyot says, there will be only one Federal judge sitting in Mississippi most of the time during the summer, and this is not enough to protect the people who will be working in that state.

Last weekend in Atlanta, the board of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) called upon President Johnson to protect the workers in Mississippi with Federal marshals, "augmented by Federal troops, if necessary."

MISS. WORKERS FACE POLICE HARASSMENT

JACKSON, MISS. - "Civil rights workers in Mississippi face arrest almost daily on charges ranging from 'running a stop sign' and 'public drunkenness' carrying books calculated to incite people to overthrow the government", according to John Lewis, Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

During an intensive mock political campaign across the state last fall, workers from SNCC estimated that police made over 60 arrests for traffic violations alone during a 21 day period.

"Over 100 incidents of official harassment" were recorded during Nov. 1963, when an integrated slate ran in a mock election for the state's two top offices.

Civil rights workers here have charged police are stepping up arrests as the summer approaches. As examples, they cite:

The overnight jailing in Holly Spring of four workers from the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) for "investigation";

The arrest of seven COFO workers in Belzoni on May 14. Police said they were arrested "to prevent riots" because the group was integrated;

The arrest in Oxford of six COFO workers May 5. They were charged with "suspicion of carrying materials which advocate the overthrow of the government" when police found college textbooks in a trailer behind their car;

The arrest in Jackson on May 24 of a white COFO worker, Dick Jewett, 20, of New York City. Jewett, was charged with "vagrancy" and "public drunkenness";

The arrest of two University of Pennsylvania Law School students, Alan Lerner and Charles Wolf, and SNCC worker Hunter Morey in Jackson May 25. The three, all white, were charged with "being fugitives";

The arrest May 25 of COFO worker Emily Shrader, 20, of Cambridge, Mass., on "vagrancy" and "public drunkenness" charges;

The arrest that evening, three times, of Pennsylvania law student Woll on three different traffic counts;

SNCC workers expect such arrests to increase when 1,000 summer workers arrive in Mississippi July 1 to begin work on a COFO - sponsored "Summer Project."

NURSE WINS SUIT, GA. YOUTH ARRESTED

WARRENTON, GA. - A Negro nurse who was forced from an interstate bus here in 1959 and was beaten by white attackers has won \$5,000 in damages from the bus company while a Negro youth faces a jail term for entering the "white" side of the Greyhound Bus Terminal in Rome, 175 miles away.

The nurse, 42-year-old Mrs. Florence Blaize Ephriam, was given \$5,000 damages from Safety Tralls, Inc. on May 25 after a March trial held in New York City. She had refused to move to make room for three white passengers and was attacked. She suffered a cerebral concussion and cuts and bruises.

The Rome youth, Clifford Ralph Roberts, Jr., was jailed on May 4 at the Rome Greyhound Bus Terminal.

A trial set for May 11 was postponed, the youth said.

The Atlanta - based Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has asked the U.S. Department of Justice and the Civil Rights Commission to investigate Roberts' arrest.

MISS. BEATING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gram director Dave Dennis said in a telegram to Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

"The failure of the U.S. government to protect those attempting to vote has once again led to bloodshed in Mississippi," Dennis wired Washington.

Hamilton was beaten on the lawn of the church in full view of observers.

The Canton drive gained momentum when SNCC and CORE workers conducted the first Freedom Day here Feb. 28.

Canton, located in Mississippi's 4th Congressional District, is the territorial focus of CORE's participation in the COFO statewide program. SNCC workers man the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th districts through COFO.

BUMPER STICKERS NOW AVAILABLE

ONE MAN X ONE VOTE

BUMPER STICKERS READING "One Man - One Vote" are available for \$1.00 from SNCC 6 Raymond Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

A Domestic Freedom Corps will be working in Mississippi this summer. Its only weapons will be youth and courage. We need your help now.



SUPPORT THE MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT!

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.

I pledge \$ _____ per month to the Student Nonviolent

Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

NAME _____

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STATE _____

Contributors to SNCC receive a subscription to the STUDENT VOICE. Send to: SNCC, 6 Raymond Street, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30314.

NEWS ROUNDUP

OXFORD, MISS. - The University of Mississippi School of Education has been awarded a \$37,600 grant by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare for the preparation of teachers for mentally retarded children.

WALTHAM, MASS. - Fifteen thousand dollars worth of staple foods is on the way to Mississippi to be distributed by SNCC's emergency food relief program to Negro families in the Delta.

Money for the food came from a "Fast for Freedom" conducted when students in 40 northern colleges missed meals in their dining rooms. The plan was originated here by SNCC backers at Brandeis University.

HALIFAX COUNTY, N.C. - A four by 12 foot cross was burned here May 29 at the First Baptist Church during a voter registration mass meeting. Rev. Clyde Johnson, pastor, is a candidate for county commissioner in the May 30 primary election.

According to SNCC worker J.V. Henry, there are more Negroes running for public office in this county than in any other county in the South since Reconstruction. Henry, 20, has been aiding a vote drive which recently gained strength from a sweeping injunction against discriminatory practices by the registrar.

AMERICUS, GA. - The solicitor general of Americus, Ga. who admitted last fall he lodged capital charges against three SNCC workers to deny them bail, will prosecute SNCC worker Don Harris here June 1 on riot charges made last summer.

Solicitor Stephen Pace, Jr. seeks Democratic nomination for U.S. Congress from Georgia's 3rd district. Harris' Negro attorney, C.B. King of Albany, Ga., is running for congressional nomination in the 2nd district.

Harris, 23, was freed of insurrection charges which carried a possible death penalty when a special three-judge Federal panel was convened last November. He and two other SNCC workers spent 68 days in jail here as a result of Pace's charges.

WELDON, N.C. - A cross was burned in the yard of a Negro church here three days before a county election that 11 Negroes are running in.

The cross was burned at the First Baptist Church May 29.

FREEDOM SLATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

If and when the four Negroes lose, they plan to challenge the right of the all-white regular Democratic Party of Mississippi to claim to represent all of the people of the state.

Since Negroes are excluded, not only from voting but from participating in any phase of the party machinery, the four hope the National Democratic Convention in Atlantic City will refuse to seat the regular Democrats and will extend recognition to the Freedom Democrats instead.

The four have been waging active campaigns throughout the state. Mrs. Hamer, Rev. Cameron and Mr. Houston have confined their speechmaking and picketing to their respective districts, but Mrs. Gray, who is



VOTER REGISTRATION WORKERS are taken to jail in Selma, Ala. last October. They were arrested while picketing to encourage Negro voting on the steps of the federal building across from the Dallas County courthouse. A recent Ala. appellate court decision outlawed the lodging of peace bonds against SNCC vote workers.

running for the Senate seat of John Stennis, has been covering the whole state.

They will also run in a Freedom Election that will coincide with the official election. In a similar mock campaign last fall, an integrated slate running for the state's two top offices polled 80,000 votes.

The campaigns grew out of voter registration drives conducted throughout the state by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) now joined by the Congress of Racial Equality, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the state branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People under the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO).

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PEACE BONDS

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other disputes, peace bonds were used by Southern lawmen last civil rights workers last summer.

The Alabama Court of Appeals ruled on March 6 that the vote workers were entitled to release from custody. Last week the court denied the state's request for a rehearing.

Prior to the March ruling the six had been released from jail, but their plea asked that they be freed from posting peace bonds in addition to fines and bonds already imposed by lower courts as a result of last October's concentrated vote activity.

Two of the vote workers were convicted in juvenile court here of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The Rev. Benny Tucker, a SNCC worker, and Henry Will Shannon were sentenced to 12 months in jail and a fine of \$100. That charge has often been used by Southern law officers where youth were involved in community civil rights work.

The other four, including SNCC's Lewis, Worth Long, and Wilson Brown, were convicted of their charges charges in county court and sentenced to six months and a fine of \$300.

SNCC conducted an intensive vote drive here last October which met resistance from city and county officials. The campaign of Mrs. Amelia Boynton for U.S. Congress grew out of that effort.

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