

Evers 'Lost' After Shooting

LOS ANGELES, California -- Charles Evers sat in his hotel room here last Wednesday, about 15 hours after U. S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy had been critically wounded by an assassin.

For Evers, the room must have seemed full of ghosts. He spoke of his martyred brother, Medgar Evers, and of Kennedy's brother, the late John F. Kennedy, and of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"There's a conspiracy going on in this country," Evers said, "to keep all the smart niggers in their place, and to take care of any nigger-lovers. 'It's been goin' on for years. If you don't believe it, look at all them that's been put away.'"

Evers had come to California to help in Kennedy's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. And on Tuesday, Kennedy defeated U. S. Senator Eugene J. McCarthy to win California's 174 convention votes.

Just before Kennedy made his victory speech, Evers said, "we were talking as friends would talk"

about the next step in Kennedy's campaign. "I was teasin' him," Evers recalled, "saying 'You don't need me in New York.'"

Evers said he watched most of Kennedy's speech on television. "It was one of the best speeches I ever heard him make," said Evers. "He seemed to be so sincere about it."

Kennedy said, "I think we can end the divisions within the United States." "We can work together," he said, to overcome "divisions, violence, and disenchantment. We can start to work together--we are a great country, a selfless country, and a compassionate country."

Then Evers decided to join Kennedy downstairs in the Ambassador Hotel. "As soon as I got to the front door," he said, "I heard 'Pop! Pop!' I thought it was a balloon. Then everybody started runnin'."

Kennedy was shot in the shoulder and the head. After an operation removed most of the bullet from his brain, the New York senator was listed in "extremely critical" condition. Evers spent hours at Good Samaritan Hospital as Kennedy fought for life. But late Wednesday, Evers said he was going home

to Mississippi, where he has taken a leave of absence from the NAACP to work for the Kennedy campaign. "I'm really lost," he said wearily. "I can't do any more but sit here and look."

"Under the system we have now," he said, "America is not going to stand for any person to become the spokesman for the little people--because the little people are a majority." "Senator Kennedy was on his way to becoming a spokesman for the little people," said Evers, "and somebody didn't like that."

Even before Kennedy died, Evers was saying, "I guess it's off." Even if Kennedy survived, he said, the senator certainly wouldn't be able to campaign. "We're through," said Evers. "We've lost the greatest friend we've ever had--the greatest friend to minority groups that America has produced. Believe me when I tell you that."

Could Evers possibly support one of the other candidates--like McCarthy or Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey?

"I'm not even worried about the rest of 'em," Evers replied. "I wouldn't waste my time workin' for any of 'em."



SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY

\$32 for \$42 in Stamps Poor People March --Is It Such a Bargain? To Federal Agencies

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TROY, Ala.--"There's two of us here--both widows," said Mrs. Ethel Mae Goodwin. "My mother's on an old-age pension of \$85 a month, and I make \$20 a week housekeeping and cookin'."

That isn't very much money, Mrs. Goodwin said, and sometimes the two ladies have trouble paying all their bills.

So, she said, she was hoping that Pike County's three-month-old food stamp program would help stretch her dollars.

But when she went down to the food stamp office, Mrs. Goodwin continued, "they charged me \$32 for \$42 worth of stamps. Look to me like they ought to give us more than \$10 for the two of us."

Mrs. Goodwin said she bought the stamps anyway, but she isn't very happy with them. "If they go up one more dime, I'm through payin' for 'em," she said.

At first, she noted, the food stamp program supervisor told her the charge would be \$28 each month for \$40 in stamps. "But because mama gives me \$6 a month on the utility bill, they changed it," she said.

"We got a few dollars in the bank, and (the supervisor) belly-aches about that every time we go in there," Mrs. Goodwin said. "She thinks we should spend it for stamps."

But, Mrs. Goodwin said, she isn't going to do that: "Mama has to pay Medicare, hospital insurance, and burial insurance every month. That's \$12 right there. We got to be sure to have it."

When she tried to explain this to the program supervisor, Mrs. Goodwin said, "she say they're not concerned with that."

Mrs. Goodwin said she has several friends who have had similar problems with the food stamps. For instance, she said, a rural lady whose husband is a construction worker is being charged \$94 a month for food stamps.

"She tried to tell 'em if it rains, he can't work," Mrs. Goodwin said. "But they want to charge her like he had a steady job."

Mrs. Goodwin's next-door neighbor, William Bass, pays \$44 a month for \$70 in stamps for his family of four.

"I have a sciatic nerve," Bass explained. "When a person can't do any-



MRS. ETHEL MAE GOODWIN

thing but walk on a stick, it's rough." So, he said, "I'm glad to get the stamps--but I think I'm paying too much."

Bass turned out his pockets to show he didn't have any money left after paying for the stamps earlier that morning. "Sometimes we have a heap of trouble getting it together," he said. "We have to borrow the money from our friends. We have to do without everything in order to get that."

Mrs. Goodwin said she thinks the

county should have put in a surplus-food distribution program instead. "If I didn't get nothing but butter and grits, I'd rather get that," she said. "Ten dollars isn't worth all this trouble."

At the food stamp office this week, an all-white staff was busy processing applications. "Lillie, come here and make your mark," said a white girl in her early 20's to a Negro lady old enough to be her grandmother.

"Are you interested in integration--or in hungry people getting food?" demanded Billy B. Carroll, Pike County's welfare director, when asked why the food stamp program has no Negro employees.

"We're on the state merit system," he said. "We don't lower the requirements for anyone--white, black, Indian, or yellow."

Carroll also refused to give the name of the food stamp program supervisor, who works under his direction.

But he did agree with Mrs. Goodwin that the price of stamps is steep: "In my personal opinion," he said, "the amount some of the people have to put up is too high."

Carroll said he can't do anything about it, because the price is determined by guidelines from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. But he said Pike County may soon have some extra money to help poor people buy the stamps.

Gene Schroeder, director of the Area 23 (Bullock, Pike, and Coffee counties) Community Action Program, explained that Bullock and Pike are among 256 "starvation" counties singled out by a recent report on hunger in the United States, and they will share in federal funds appropriated by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

"Each county will get about \$14,000," Schroeder said, "and all of it will be used to feed people. The existing CAP (CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 1)

Poor People March To Federal Agencies

BY JOHN CREIGHTON

WASHINGTON, D. C.--The Poor People's Campaign this week staged daily marches and protests at different government agencies. The marchers were trying to dramatize their individual grievances, and to get answers to their collective demands.

At mid-week, the marchers had managed to avoid the mass arrests that even the campaign leaders had predicted for this, the fourth week of the campaign.

Perhaps the campaign's biggest success came last Friday, when Wilbur Cohen--the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW)--welcomed about 500 singing, shouting demonstrators to "your auditorium" in the HEW building.

Responding to a list of demands presented to HEW last month by the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, Cohen told the campaigners that his department would take immediate action to:

1. Stop local officials in more than 300 Northern and Southern school districts from devising further obstacles to integration.
2. Bring reform to almost every aspect of the present welfare system--for example, by abolishing the "man-in-the-house" rule for Aid to Dependent Children, and by ordering state and local officials to be courteous to their clients.
3. Join forces with the campaign in pressuring Congress to throw out the present welfare system altogether, in favor of a federal program that would standardize payments and procedures for all states.
4. Bring medical care and food to poor rural areas--and enforce civil rights laws in hospitals.

Reactions were harsher during a similar visit to the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), where the demonstrators received Director Bertrand Harding's answers to campaign demands.

Harding's response--adding \$25,000,000 to present OEO programs--met the chief demand--that OEO, along with the Department of Agriculture, should stop sending unused funds back to the Treasury. But Harding did not satisfy other demands, relating to control of local community action programs and cut-backs in the OEO budget.

SCLC's Hosea Williams, who recently moved into Resurrection City after leading a caravan to Washington, has (CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 1)



OFFICIALS VISIT RESURRECTION CITY

Negroes' Endorsement Key to Allen Victory

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--As much as anyone else in Alabama, Rufus A. Lewis of the all-Negro Montgomery County Democratic Conference can take the credit--or the blame--for nominating former Lieutenant Governor James B. Allen for the U. S. Senate.

In last month's first-round Democratic primary, the major Negro political groups backed Bob Smith of Huntsville for the Senate nomination. But last

Tuesday's run-off was between Allen and U. S. Representative Armistead I. Selden.

While many Negro groups--like the powerful Jefferson County Progressive Democratic Council--were endorsing Selden, and some weren't endorsing anybody, the Montgomery County Democratic Conference backed Allen.

In seven beats with a heavy concentration of Negroes--where Smith ran well May 7--Allen topped Selden by about 1,200 votes.

If the balloting had gone the other way, it would have been a swing of 2,400 votes--just a little less than the margin Allen apparently won by.

Both men were interviewed by the conference's screening committee, Lewis said this week, and there was "no difference between them--both are Wallace men, both are reactionary, both are against the Negro."

But, Lewis noted, Selden has been in Congress 16 years, and "his record (in the House) was of such a nature that we didn't have too much hope it wouldn't be the same thing (in the Senate)."

In Mississippi, all three black congressional candidates lost by huge margins. Mrs. Thelma Barnes of Greenville--rated the strongest of the three Negro challengers--trailed the present congressman, Thomas Abernathy, by a 4-to-1 margin.

Still 800 Miles to Go

BY BOB LABAREE
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. -- Traffic on Highway 11 moved slowly last Tuesday afternoon, as the SCLC mule train entered Bessemer. That night, all 125 people on the train were fed, entertained at a mass meeting, and put to bed in local homes.

The next day, the caravan moved another 13 miles into Birmingham. In three weeks, the mule train from Marks, Miss., has covered about 250 miles of its journey. But there are still more than 800 miles to go until it reaches its destination--Washington, D. C.

Andrew Marrisett, the 24-year-old co-leader of the caravan, said he

hopes it will reach Atlanta, Ga., in about a week.

"I think the folks at the top have gotten the word out to get us out of the state without no trouble," said Marrisett. "That's fine, 'cause that helps us keep our movement peaceful. But don't think they've changed their minds."

"One thing everybody should understand--this is not a publicity stunt," he added.

Everybody in the train is poor, Marrisett said, and "this is the only means these people have of getting to Washington. They got a story to tell, and we want 'em to get there and tell it."

Montgomery Folks Complain

'All That Noise Keep Us Up'

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--"They come out early and wake me up," said Mrs. Viola Daniel. "Then they be out late at night."

Mrs. Daniel was talking about the men working on Interstate 65, one of the highways now being built through Montgomery.

Along with other residents of the area near Fairview and Holt streets, Mrs. Daniel complained that for the past three months, the workmen have been starting as early as 4 a.m. and going as late as 2 a.m.

"At first, it bother me," she said. "But now I'm used to it." She said the men don't work so late since two women--"I guess it was their boss"--came out to the site a few days ago.

But John Miller, a night watchman on the road-building project, said the work was stopped because something was wrong with the rock being used to make cement.

And other residents of the area said they aren't sure the situation is improving. "All that noise--them trucks running--keep us up," said one lady. "If those trucks keep up that noise now, I wonder how it be when they finish?"

B. A. Riddle, division 8 construction engineer for the state Highway Department, said, "I wasn't aware they were going that late."



SITE OF NEW INTERSTATE HIGHWAY

"I know they're starting around 4:30 or 5 (a.m.)," he said, "but I feel sure

there's not anything going out there after 8:30 at night." The contractors now are making and pouring concrete, he said, and "we won't allow them to do

any work after dark."

Some trucks may be going in and out after dark, Riddle conceded, "but that's no more noise than the trucks traveling on Fairview."

Riddle said the contractors have a

right to "put down a concrete pavement as quick as they can--to try to get through as soon as possible."

And Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, director of the city's Urban Redevelopment Agency, noted that private contractors can face penalties if they don't finish the work on time.

The concrete operation will be going on "at least another three weeks," Riddle said. But, he said, the next phase--doing the shoulder of the road--"won't be nearly as long hours."

Mrs. Wright said there's "no law that I know about" that regulates the hours road-builders can work.

Besides the hours, the people also complained about rocks falling off passing trucks, and about dangerous conditions at the construction site.

"How do you get to the (grocery) store across there?" asked one resident. "If they didn't want us to cross, they should put up some signs."

Riddle said the concrete operation is subject to certain conditions imposed by the city. If property-owners feel there is excessive noise, dust, or other inconveniences, he said, they may be able to get something done if they "object strenuously enough to the city."

"We don't give the contractors a blank check," said Riddle. "We don't say 'Do as you please, and to heck with the citizens.'"

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Table with 2 columns: City, Alabama and Phone Number. Lists various cities like Birmingham, Helena, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma, Tuscaloosa, Tuskegee, Greenville, Jackson, Marks, and Meridian with their respective phone numbers.

Editorial Opinion

Picketing the Court

A few more incidents like last week's rock-throwing bingie at the U. S. Supreme Court building could mean disaster for the Poor People's Campaign.

The rock-throwing will be blamed on the PPC, whether or not it was actually done by members of the group. But the real mistake was not in breaking a few windows--it was in going to the Supreme Court in the first place.

In the first place, it is not at all clear that the Supreme Court ruling under protest--saying the state of Washington can regulate fishing by Indians--is a blatant miscarriage of justice. The court simply ruled that under an 1855 treaty, Indians were given fishing rights "in common" with all other citizens.

Our legal system is designed so that the Supreme Court has the final word. In every controversy, somebody has to win and somebody has to lose.

And in deciding these disputes, the court is concerned only with the law--not with the color or condition of the people involved, and certainly not with the amount of noise each side can make.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. understood this. He bitterly disagreed with the Supreme Court decision that sent him and seven others to a Birmingham jail last winter, but he came back to Alabama and served his sentence.



Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Joffre Trumbull Whisenton, head of the division of education and psychology at Stillman College, has become the first Negro to earn a Ph. D. degree at the University of Alabama.



Although he has received job offers from many white and Negro colleges, Whisenton said, he is devoted to Stillman: "You get dedicated to a school, and you have some goals--some goals you would like to see put into practice."

Montgomery, Ala.

Mrs. Lois Conley Smith, a history teacher at Carver High School, has been selected to participate in a seminar for history teachers at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, this summer.



Several black students--including the son of an Alabama man who supports a family of eight on less than \$5,000 a year--will have a chance to attend Tufts University this fall, thanks to a recruiting drive organized by Tufts undergraduates.

Medford, Massachusetts

Reed said his biggest concern about the war is that "no one has come forward with any positive solutions. I think every American citizen wants the war to end."



FREDDIE L. WASHINGTON ADDRESSES DAY-CARE GRADUATION

and a sociology course concerned with minorities--for the coming year.

Montgomery, Ala.

Ernest Lee Brown of Montgomery was among 160 leading insurance specialists who attended a four-day conference sponsored by Mutual of New York (MONY) last week at the Doral Country Club in Miami, Fla.

Meridian, Miss.

The Polka Dot Store, a complete family-clothing store, has been opened on 25th Ave. in Meridian. Among the people backing the store are the Rev. R. S. Porter, pastor of the First Union Baptist Church; Porter's wife; and C. R. Moore, director of STAR, Inc.

Watts, California

Nearly 1,000 people--employees and their families and friends--gathered at the Watts Manufacturing Company plant last month to celebrate their first annual Family Day.

Tuskegee, Ala.

Twenty-one boys and girls--most of them just barely six years old--were graduated last week from the Macon County child day-care program to Head Start.

Boycotted Since April, 'C-Day' In Troy Store Moving Out Jefferson

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TROY, Ala.--A Negro man in work clothes approached the front door of Roy Ammons' grocery store last Tuesday afternoon.

As he reached for the handle, he looked at five black youths seated outside the barber shop next door.

The youths looked back, and one of them said something under his breath. The man paused, turned around, and walked away.

Inside the store, Mrs. Eavie Ammons glanced around the grocery shelves. Many of them were empty, because Ammons--a white man--is moving his grocery store from East Side--a Negro neighborhood--to the edge of downtown.

"We been here 14 years," said Mrs. Ammons, shaking her head. "It makes us feel real bad. We thought we knew each other better than that. We thought we had more real friendship than that."

What was it all about? Mrs. Johnnie Mae Warren, a Pike County civil rights leader, said Negroes have been staying out of Ammons' store ever since the night the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered.

Shortly after the assassination last April 4, Mrs. Warren recalled, Ammons said--in the presence of several Negro witnesses--that "the S.O.B. ought to be dead."

When some black youths gathered outside the store and protested, Mrs. Warren continued, Ammons "went out there flashing a pistol among the kids."

Mrs. Warren said several youths wanted to burn down the store, but finally settled for a boycott instead. The young men sitting outside the barber chop weren't very talkative, but they said Mrs. Warren was right.

Mrs. Ammons--glancing at her empty shelves--didn't deny the incident. But she said it happened a little differently. When her husband first heard the news of Dr. King's death, she said, he blurted out, "I'm not surprised. He's been asking for it."

"This is a free country," Mrs. Ammons insisted tearfully. "Anyone's got a right to speak his opinion. That was all he did. It wasn't nothing in the world to punish us for like they have."

She said some of her customers told



STREET IS QUIET OUTSIDE BOYCOTTED STORE

her that her husband's remark "shows you have no feeling for the colored people."

"But we do," she said. "We have accommodated them every way possible--paid their doctor bills, bought their prescriptions."

"If they'd just let the ones that wanted to trade with us come in," she said about the youths. "But they've threatened to burn 'em up in their beds. I know because people've come and told us so."

Mrs. Ammons said windows on both sides of the store were smashed the weekend after Dr. King died. "They tried to burn us out," she added, pointing to a charred place under the front door.

She said she doesn't understand what the fuss is all about: "We didn't want to make any enemies. We didn't approve of the killing. We just hated for it to happen like it did."

But that isn't what Ammons said at the time, Mrs. Warren pointed out, "If he didn't want to make any enemies,"

For Faculty Integration

'C-Day' In Jefferson

NEW ORLEANS, La.--If local school boards are ever going to comply with federal-court rulings on faculty desegregation, they must have a "C-day," the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals said this week.

"C-day" is the day the boards will be in full compliance with the court's ruling that "teachers, principals, and staff members shall be assigned to schools so that the faculty and staff is not composed exclusively of members of one race."

To make sure the schools reach this day, the court said, judges must require "specific interim target dates and accomplishments" along the way.

So the court gave the Bessemer, Birmingham, and Jefferson County school boards until June 21 to file reports telling what they have done in the way of faculty integration, and what they intend to do in 1968-69.

And, the court said, the schools must achieve full compliance with integration requirements by the opening day of the 1970-71 school year.

The court noted that the total number of teachers in the three school systems is 5,297, but only 47--89/100 of a percent--teach in "desegregated situations."

"Why there has been no further progress is not hard to find," said the Fifth Circuit, in an opinion written by Chief Judge John Brown. "Only those teachers who VOLUNTEERED to move to a school with a faculty where the majority of teachers were of a race different from their own were transferred."

Still, the opinion said, lower courts gave the schools credit for "good faith."

"At this very, very late date in the glacial movement toward school racial integration," Brown wrote, "it should no longer be an issue of good faith."

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

Reed Says He'll Back HHH for President

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--Joe L. Reed, executive secretary of the Alabama State Teachers Association, has become the state's first Democratic convention delegate to come out for anyone but former Governor George C. Wallace.



Reed--one of two Negroes in Alabama's delegation to the Democratic National Convention--called a press conference May 30 to announce his support of:

"A man whose knowledge of our government and governments abroad is unmatched. . . a man whose place in history will be known foremost as a patriot. . . one who is already known as the champion and as a defender of liberty, freedom, and justice. . . a man of convictions rather than convenience."

In other words, Reed said, he will support Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey.

More than half of Alabama's delegates have said they will support Wallace, even though the former governor is running for President on a third-

Macon Voters Approve Higher School Taxes

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--Supporters of the Macon County public school system won an electoral battle this week by just 175 votes.

With only about one-third of the county's registered voters bothering to go to the polls, a five-mill school tax (50¢ on each \$100 of taxable property) was approved by a tally of 1,306 to 1,131.

For several years, Macon County's public schools have been a racial battleground. Negroes and white moderates have supported them. White segregationists have sent their children to Macon Academy, a private school.

But the school tax won friends and enemies of both races. It lost heavily among white voters in Notasulga and Little Texas--and among black voters in rural Hardaway, Shorter, and Millstead-Franklin.

It won by 300 votes in downtown Tuskegee--where more than half the ballots were cast--and by a 7-to-1 margin in two mostly-Negro rural beats, Fort Davis and Roba.

School officials at the courthouse Tuesday night weren't even trying to explain the peculiar pattern of the returns.

"It just makes me feel a heck of a lot better," remarked Condon Campbell, principal of formerly all-white Tuskegee Public School.

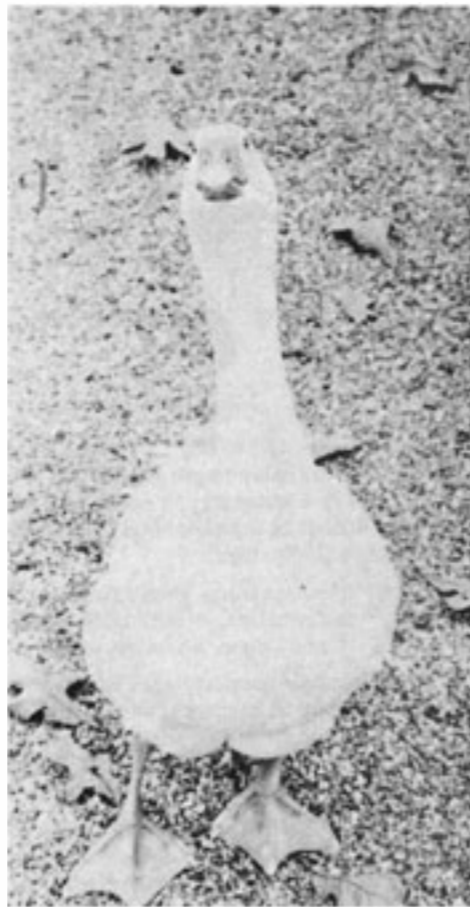
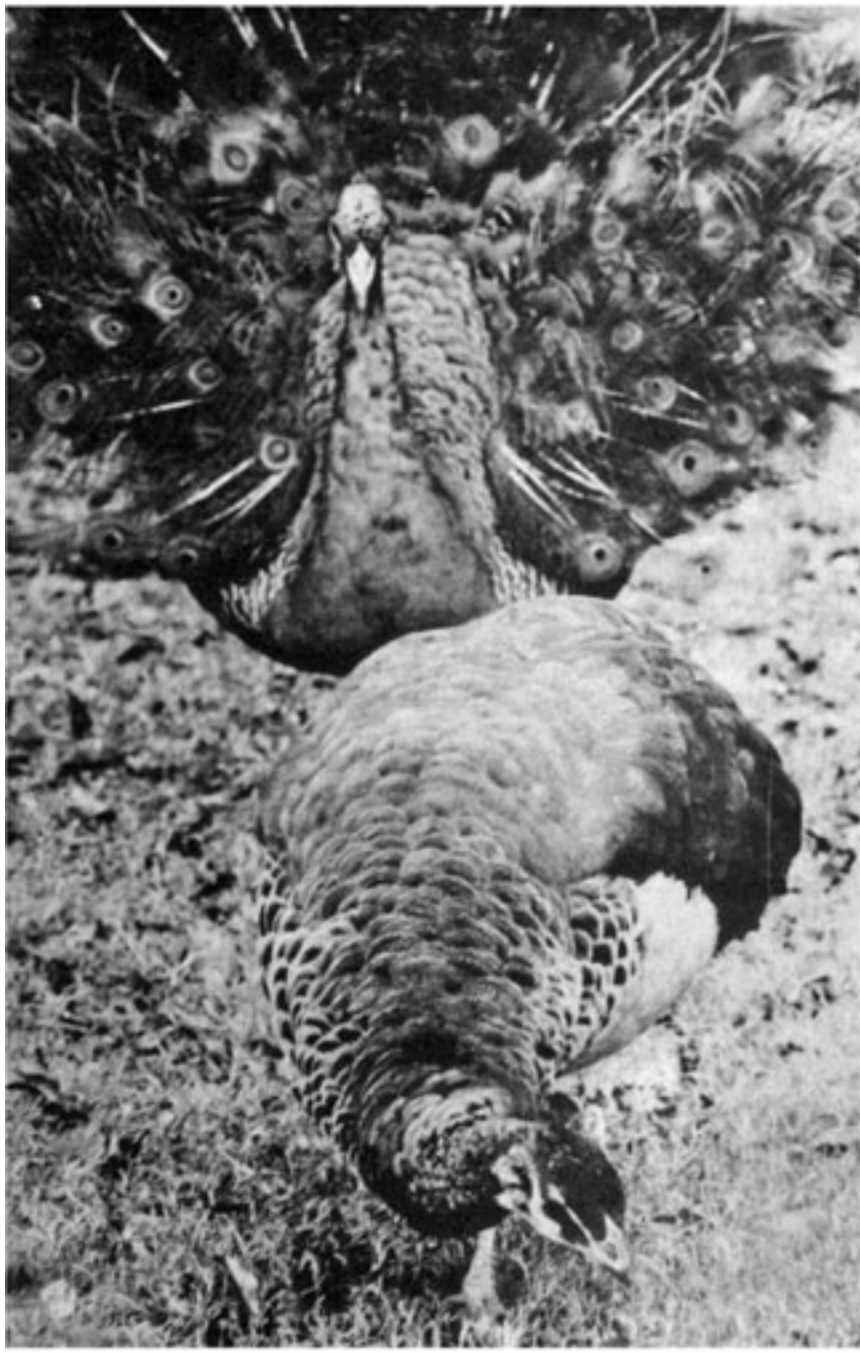
Supporters of the school tax included some people who fought each other bitterly last month, during the Democratic primary election campaign.

Prosanto K. Biswas, a Tuskegee Institute professor from India, won nomination to a school board seat by attacking Superintendent Joe C. Wilson and the bi-racial board.

Biswas charged that Wilson and the board members had mishandled public funds. He also accused the schools of failing to meet the needs of black students.

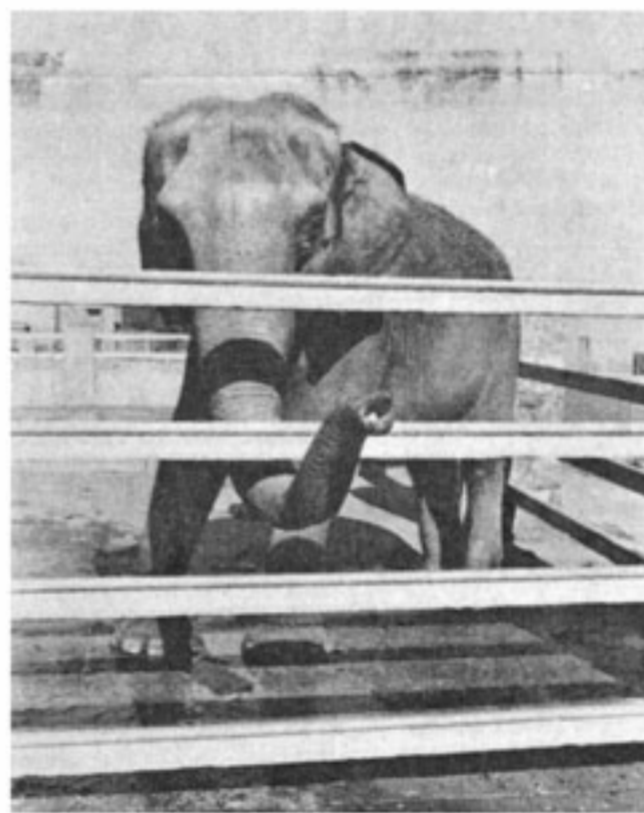
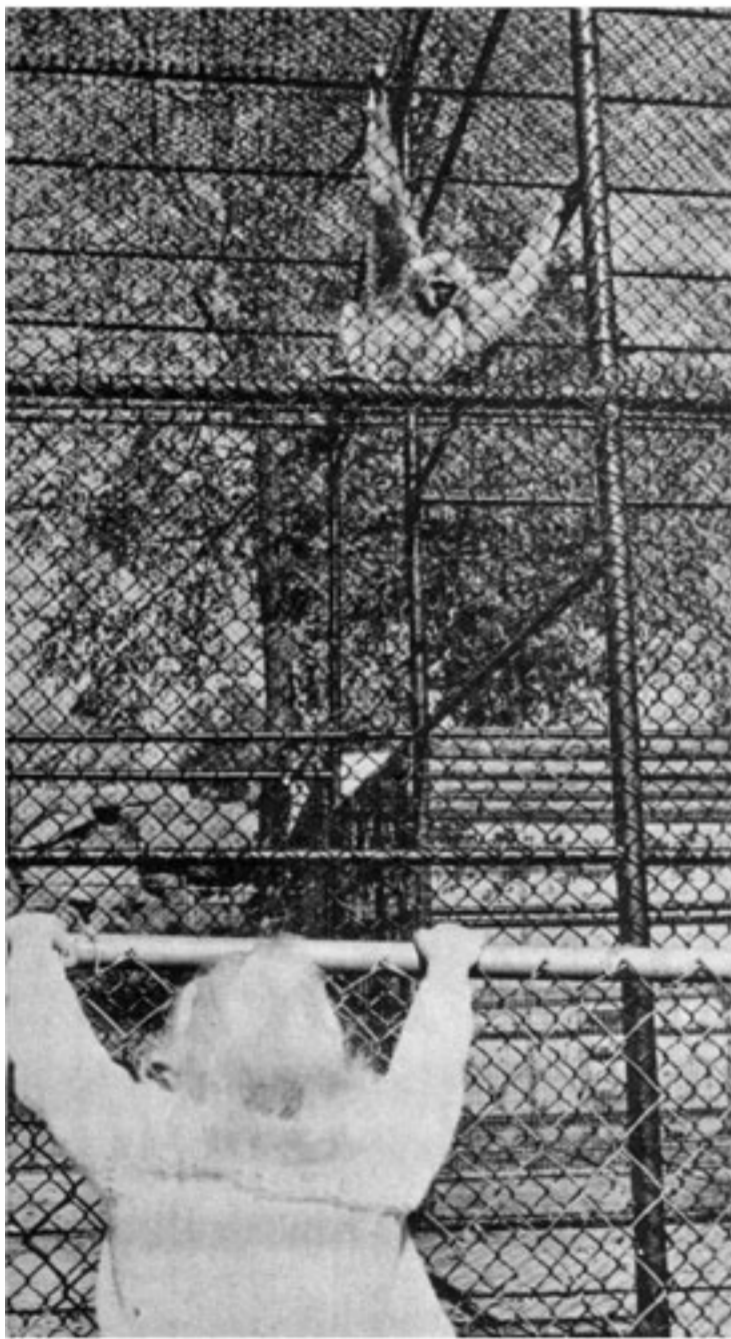
But Wilson and Biswas were on the same side this time. The new tax was also endorsed by the Education Association of Macon County and by the PTA's.

The five-mill tax--approved for a 20-year period--will be added on top of a 30-year-old seven-mill tax. School officials have promised to use some of the new funds to improve buildings, equipment, and curriculums.



*People
Are
Welcome*

Livingston Park Zoo, Jackson, Miss.



Photos by Jim Pepler





MRS. SCOTIA MCKINNEY

'I Did My Best for the Children'

No Retirement Pay For Miss. Teacher

BY PERRY WALKER

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. -- Mrs. Scotia McKinney began teaching in 1919 at Henry Elementary, a one-room Negro school in the Gatewood community near Holly Springs.

"I liked teaching when I first started," she recalled. "Only thing I didn't like, there were no conveniences."

The single room of Henry Elementary held about 50 students, enrolled in the first through eighth grades. They sat together on long benches and shared each other's books.

"Back then, parents had to buy the books," said Mrs. McKinney. "Some were able, but others couldn't afford to. We never had enough books to go around."

School was held in split sessions only four months a year--one month in the summer and three months in the winter. During the winter, a wooden stove was used to heat the school.

There were no lights in the building at all. "We had one or two windows on each side," Mrs. McKinney remembers, "but no kind of light except sunlight." A former student recalled that "on cloudy days we had to throw open the doors so's we could see to read."

And the only toilet was a wooden privy, located outdoors 20 yards from the school building.

Each morning and afternoon, in all kinds of weather, Mrs. McKinney walked the three miles from her home to the school--across pastures, log roads, and ditches.

"Of course it was a hard job," she said. "I just did the best I could."

In 1945--at the age of 56--Mrs. McKinney retired. During her 26 years as a teacher, she was paid a salary of \$27

a month, a total of \$2,797. She received no bonuses or benefits--and no retirement pay.

A recent letter from the Public Employees Retirement System of Mississippi explained to her that teachers who retired because of age before 1952 are eligible for retirement benefits only if they have 30 years of teaching experience, the last 20 of them in Mississippi.

Mrs. McKinney taught in the state for 26 years--which means she is four years short of the required experience.

Now 79 years old, Mrs. McKinney can think of many uses for retirement pay, if she could get it. But she doesn't expect to.

"I won't get the money," she said. "There's no use even in thinking about it."

But, she went on, she doesn't regret all those years of tramping bad roads and trying to make the best of teaching in a tiny school without books or facilities. "I did it just for the good of the children," she said.



MISS ARIA MAE PETTWAY

Miss Pettway Goes to the Prom, Rural Family Gets a New Stove

BY ESTELLE FINE

GEES BEND, Ala.--"It sure did help me wonderful," Mrs. Lillie Mae Pettway said about the \$65 she received last month from Wilcox County's new emergency loan program.

Mrs. Pettway heard about the program one Saturday night when John Gragg, senior loan counselor for the Anti-Poverty Coordinating Committee of Wilcox County SCLC, spoke at a community meeting.

She got the application on Sunday, returned it to the loan office on the Wilcox County Training School grounds two days later, and picked up the money Wednesday morning.

Thanks to the loan, Mrs. Pettway's two oldest children--Abell Pettway, 18, and Miss Aria Mae Pettway, 17--were able to attend their school prom that same Wednesday night.

Pettway used \$12.50 of the money to rent a tuxedo and \$8 to buy a pair of shoes. Miss Pettway bought shoes, stockings, and a necklace. The loan also paid for prom dues--\$15--and transportation to the dance.

Without the loan, Mrs. Pettway said, she couldn't have sent her children to the prom: "I didn't have a cent." But she was sure she could pay back the money in a few weeks, when she harvests her cucumber crop.

Mrs. Pettway is one of some 125 people who have received loans averaging \$200 since the new program began operating in April.

The program--funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity--was originally scheduled to begin last July. But it was delayed for several months, after a veto

by the late Governor Lurleen Wallace.

Now Gragg--the senior loan counselor--has a total of \$180,000 to use by the end of this month. "If we don't lend the money by then, we'll have to give it back," he said, unless OEO agrees to extend the grant.

But there isn't much chance that the money will go to waste. Word has spread throughout the county about the emergency loans of up to \$300 at only 2% interest. The borrowers have as long as a year to pay the money back.

Charles Williams, the junior loan counselor, said borrowers must meet OEO's standards for poverty, but must have some income, even if it is only seasonal. They must be unable to get a loan from local sources.

They must also need the money for an "emergency." For instance, a borrower can get a loan to fix a leaking roof, but not to add a room to his house.

Loans may be granted for special job training or tools, for paying off debts to an insistent creditor or high interest on an old loan, for transportation to a job, for fixing a car or truck needed to get to work or to help with farming, for special medical, educational, or food expenses, or for "unusual circumstances where the family can benefit from the immediate payment of outstanding bills."

Borrowers can also get money for other emergencies. One lady received a loan for transportation to her brother's funeral. Another borrowed money for a gas stove after her ancient wood stove broke down.

Gragg may approve emergency loans up to \$200 on his own, but he usually

consults a local committee of poor people. There are five such committees--in Camden, Castonburg, Pine Apple, Coy, and Pine Hill-Peachtree.

Loans between \$200 and \$300 must be approved by a central loan committee--two representatives from each of the five areas and the counselors.

Why is the emergency loan program necessary? As SCLC puts it, "Wilcox County has banks, an office of the state Department of Pensions and Security,

and branches of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. None of them, however, have exhibited a commitment to working with the poor.

"The poor are not a good credit risk for banks," SCLC's program guidelines explain. "The state welfare system is inadequate and punitive. The agricultural services are well-known to discriminate against the poor. This has left the poor to loan sharks and credit buying."

Law Alone Cannot End Racism, Attorney Tells Tuskegee Group

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"This nation is in trouble--serious trouble--in the field of civil rights," said Samuel W. Allen, chief counsel of the federal Community Relations Service.

"The American system thus far has failed a very large number of American citizens," he said, and as a result "we are faced with a question not of morality but of survival."

Besides being a well-known lawyer, Allen is also a sociologist, a literary critic, a historian, and a poet. He spent five weeks at Tuskegee Institute this spring as a "poet-in-residence."

Most of the time, Allen spoke privately with student groups. He talked about his poetry--which, he said, "concerns itself with the situation of a person of African descent in the Western world." But on one occasion, Allen spoke to a bi-racial group of some 50 people about "the civil rights movement from the perspective of the Community Relations Service," an arm of the Justice Department which tries to settle racial disputes before they turn into crises and to cool off riots when they do occur.

That job, Allen said, is getting harder all the time.

He praised the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders for its controversial report naming "white racism" as the major source of the trouble.

In the "American search for identity," Allen suggested, people in the United States have too often emphasized "exterior factors"--like money, formal education, and race.

Because of the "competitive nature of our society," he said, many people have a stake in the misery of others--like the whites who say, "I may not be educated, but I'm not a nigger."

"Understandably, there is objection to the term 'honkie,'" Allen noted, with

a grin at some of his white listeners. "But America is the master of racial epithets, and now another one is on the scene."

Although poverty has a lot to do with riots, Allen said, another important cause is "the rage which is generated in being considered subhuman."

"This is what starts Watts," he said, "From this grew black nationalism and black power."

Although "there is a danger" in black

power, "I feel there is much that is healthy in this," Allen went on. "It is an effort to find our own identity and stand on our own two feet. The Afro-American, as every man, must come to this--and take responsibility for his own fate."

At the same time, he said, the people who want to burn down America are wasting their energy: "They're not counting the odds."

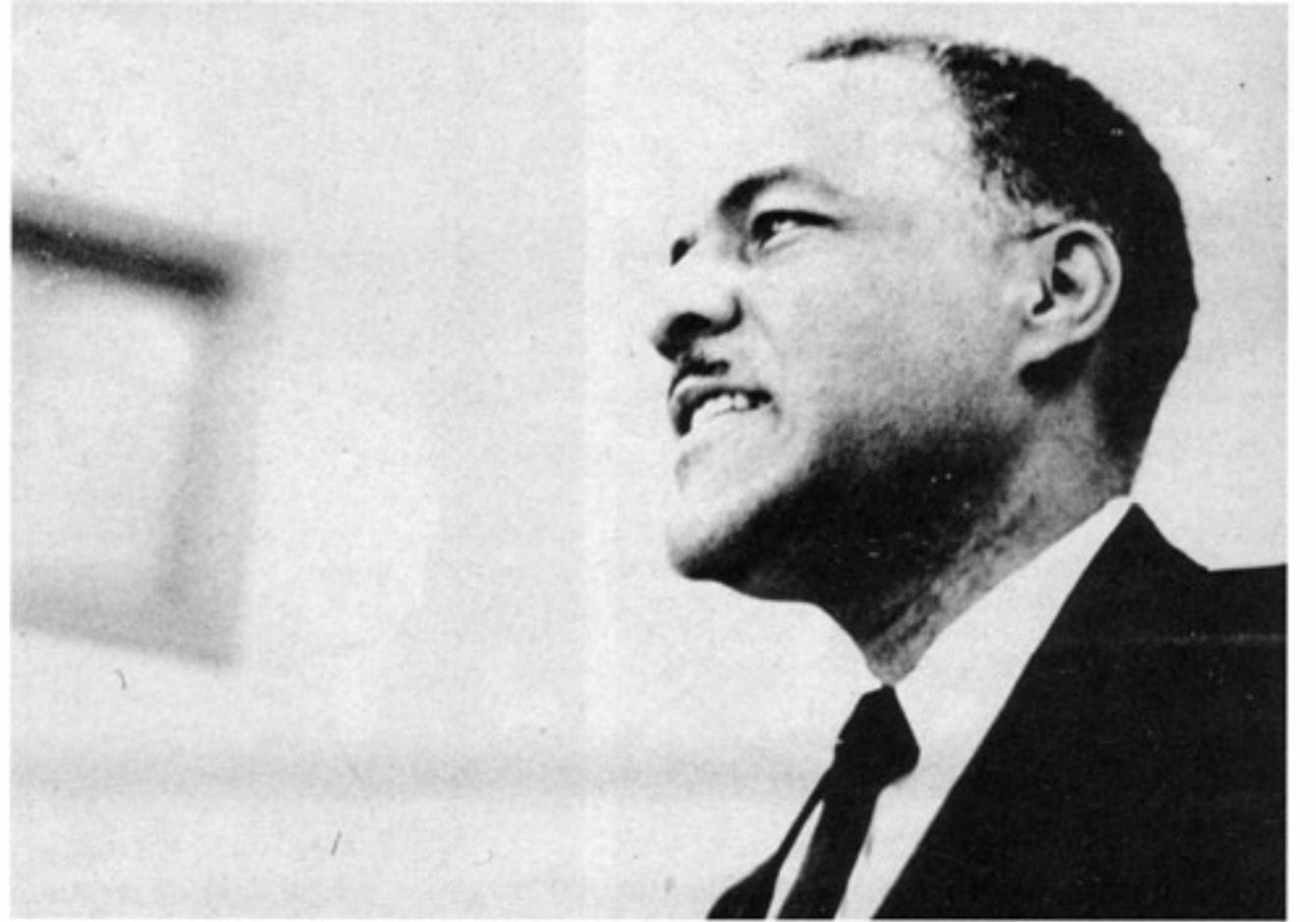
After Allen spoke, a questioner asked

him, "Other than bloodshed, what will make the white man change?"

In reply, Allen quoted actor-comedian Dick Gregory: "I would destroy a man's property, but I would not destroy him." Although he doesn't necessarily agree with that approach, Allen said, it may work where persuasion has failed. "The law will help make him (the white man) change," Allen went on. "It can be educational. But the law alone is not going to do it."



MRS. LILLIE MAE PETTWAY



SAMUEL W. ALLEN

Governor Hits Death-Penalty Ruling

High Court Displeases Brewer

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
MONTGOMERY, Ala.--Governor Albert P. Brewer was displeased with the U. S. Supreme Court again this week. Last week, the governor promised to resist the Supreme Court decision that ruled out freedom-of-choice desegregation plans unless they do away with the dual school system.

In his meeting with the press this week, Brewer criticized the court's recent ruling on capital punishment. The court ruled Monday that a man cannot be sentenced to death by a jury, if all opponents of capital punishment have

been automatically excluded as jurors. Juries are supposed to be a cross-section of the community, the court said, and a large part of the community is opposed to the death penalty.

In Alabama, Brewer said, prospective jurors in capital cases have always been asked if they object to the death penalty.

"If a member of the jury venire has a fixed opinion about capital punishment," the governor said, "then he is biased as to one of the questions he is called upon to decide as a juror."

In the past, said Brewer, such jurors



GOV. ALBERT P. BREWER

have been challenged "for cause." In other words, the prosecution does not have to use its few "strikes" to eliminate jurors who would vote against the death penalty.

But now, said Brewer, the state will have to use its strikes if it doesn't want these people on the jury.

No one mentioned it at the press conference, but some people have noted that in the case of Negro defendants, if the state has to use its strikes to get rid of opponents of the death penalty, it might not be able to strike as many Negro jurors.

Alabama law provides a possible

death penalty for murder, rape, carnal knowledge, robbery, burglary, and other charges.

The governor also commented on the shooting of U. S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, calling it an example of the country's "moral degeneration."

"It shocks and grieves all of us in the country that respect for law and order has degenerated to the point that these things seem to be happening with more and more frequency," Brewer said.

Brewer said state Public Safety Director Floyd Mann has been contacted by the U. S. Secret Service about federal protection for former Governor George C. Wallace. President Johnson ordered protection for all presidential candidates after Kennedy was shot.

The governor said, however, that Wallace's state-provided protection will continue. Wallace "likes to dart off into crowds," Brewer observed, and the state troopers who have been with the candidate "know his habits."



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.

Appeals Judge Agrees With Dallas Farmers

BY ESTELLE FINE
NEW ORLEANS, La.-- In 1966, a group of Dallas County tenant farmers filed a suit to get their cotton-subsidy payments back from their landlord. They challenged the federal government's regulation allowing assignment of the subsidy checks as payment for rent.

A year ago in Montgomery, Ala., U.S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. said the farmers could sue the landlord -- J. A. Minter Jr. -- but not the government. Now most of the farmers have gone elsewhere.

But last month in New Orleans, the group finally found a judge who seemed to agree with them -- Elbert P. Tuttle of the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, presiding judge of the panel who heard the farmers' case.

Donald A. Jelinek, attorney for the farmers, told the judges that until 1966, the ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) checks could be assigned to someone else only for "making a crop" -- to pay for planting, or to purchase farm equipment.

But when black farmers learned of their right to keep these checks, he said, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a regulation saying the payments could also be assigned to a landlord for rent. When the Dallas County farmers demanded their checks, their suit said, they were evicted.

In 1966, the farmers said they wanted the checks so they wouldn't have to rely on Minter for rent, food, and nearly everything else. "Whatever price he wanted to give, we had to take," said one farmer, "because we couldn't get anything from anywhere else."

Jelinek told the appeals court that U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman had no right to change the law on assignments. The law, he said, was written to protect the tenant farmers. When the law was introduced in Con-

gress in 1938, Jelinek said, a South Carolina legislator wanted to include assignments for rent, but this proposal was rejected.

Tuttle said there is a "general non-assignment statute." The policy of the U. S. government, he said, is not to allow any assignments, so "this (1938) law was an exception."

As government attorney Norman Knopf was about to begin his defense of Freeman's action, Tuttle remarked, "I would think the government would be here to confess error (admit it is wrong)."

But Knopf argued that the 1966 regulation helped the tenant farmers. It gave them more rights, he said, because they could assign their checks for more things.

"I doubt the validity of that argument," Tuttle replied. "It doesn't make sense to me."

A week before the appeal was heard, Jelinek met with many of the evicted farmers to tell them what was happening. Even though they have been evicted, he said, the appeal is an attempt to prove that they have a right to sue the government over unfair USDA regulations.

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FEDERAL JOBS -- The Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for South Alabama and Northwest Florida is holding examinations for electronic mechanics. Starting salaries range from \$2,34 per hour to \$3,60 per hour. This examination provides applicants with career employment opportunities in the Federal service in the 28 counties of South Alabama and the 10 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, Ala. 36602, or any U. S. Post Office.

BURIAL EXPENSES--The Veterans Administration will pay up to \$250 for the burial or cremation of veterans who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Veterans are eligible if they served during wartime or after Aug. 4, 1964. Veterans who served between Jan. 31, 1955, and Aug. 5, 1964, are eligible if they were receiving disability compensation at the time of death or if they were separated from the service as a result of a disability incurred in the line of duty.

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.

MOBILE HEIGHTS--Residents of Mobile Heights in Montgomery, Ala., have received letters giving the prices for paving the streets and sidewalks. If you don't reply, you will be taken to be in favor of it. Only a few people came to a meeting this week about safety and street improvements. Residents are urged to find out what's going on and what can be done about it.

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.

EBONY MAGAZINE--The Tuscaloosa Citizens for Action Committee is offering one year (12 issues) of Ebony Magazine for \$3. Call the First African Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Ala., phone 758-2833.

DISABLED WIDOWS--Disabled widows may now receive monthly benefits based on their husbands' Social Security record. The widow must be at least 50 years old, and must have a physical or mental impairment that prevents her from doing any gainful work. To file a claim, you should bring your marriage record, your Social Security number, your deceased husband's number, and proof of your age to your local Social Security office.

CHILDREN'S SHOW -- The Maxwell Children's Theater will perform "The Wizard of Oz" at 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 7, and at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 8, in the Weaver Theater at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. Tickets are \$1 for adults, and 50¢ for children under 12. The public is invited.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--"God the Only Cause and Creator" is the subject of the Lesson-Sermon to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, June 9. The Golden Text, which states the theme of the Lesson, is from Isaiah: "Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us."

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.

HOME LOANS--A new law permits the Veterans Administration to guarantee 60% of a home loan for an unremarried serviceman's widow, up to \$12,500 of the loan amount. The widow's husband must have died on active duty or from a service-connected disability, and the veteran's service must have been during World War II or after June 27, 1950. World War II widows have until July 25, 1970, to obtain a G. I. loan. Korean War widows have until Jan. 31, 1975, and post-1955 widows have as much as 20 years. Widows who think they qualify for G. I. home loans can call the V. A. office in Montgomery, Ala. (263-7521), or their local V. A. office.

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'The Hammer' Hits Alex City 'Gettin' Better All the Time'



LOCAL STAR...

BY CHARLEY THOMAS

ALEXANDER CITY, Ala.--James Edward Berry, better known as Ed, has become the first Negro ball-player to participate in the Civitan-sponsored Babe Ruth League here.

Actually, Berry wasn't the only Negro athlete to try out for Babe Ruth baseball competition, but he was the only one picked in the annual draft.

Now he is a prime contender for the city all-star team, which will enter the national Babe Ruth tournament at the end of the season.

Berry has played third base, center field, and pitcher, as his Benjamin Russell team has moved to the top of the standings. His torrid bat has earned the respect of his opponents--and of his teammates, who call him "The Hammer," after Henry Aaron of the big-league Atlanta Braves.

"This boy is exciting to watch," said Berry's former coach, Alfred Cooper. "One day he's gonna be great."

Troy Food

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

staff will do the extra work." Instead of putting people through a lot of paper work, he said, the staff will instantly arrange for a load of groceries for anyone who says his family is hungry. "We'll do the investigation later," he noted.

Schroeder agreed with Mrs. Goodwin and welfare director Carroll that the food stamp program doesn't help as much as it should.

He suggested that federal officials should set a \$1 minimum for everyone eligible, and then apply their complicated formulas to figure out how many stamps a family can get for each dollar it manages to put up.

"Our counselors brought people in from all over the county (to the food stamp office)," Schroeder said, "and couldn't get them to stay. Say it was \$22 or nothing, and they didn't have the money. The program wasn't worth a dime to them."

Washington

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

been the organizer of the "direct-action" marches.

He took over from the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, who is now organizing "action cadres" in Eastern cities close to Washington. These cadres are supposed to provide immediate replacements for Resurrection City residents who may be arrested in mass demonstrations.

The campaign has had some difficulty co-ordinating demonstrations for an "economic bill of rights" with actions that deal with the specific issues concerning Indians and Spanish-Americans.

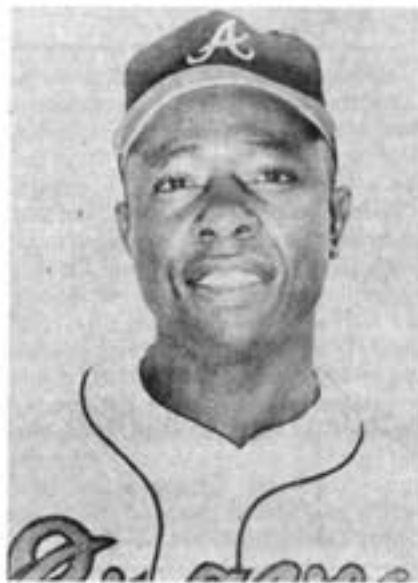
The Indians, for instance, have ridiculed payments made by the Indian Claims Commission, by offering to buy land belonging to commission members at the government's price of \$1.10 per acre.

Late last week, half of the campaign's Indians returned to the state of Washington, to begin "fish-ins" in protest against a U. S. Supreme Court ruling. They were given a warm send-off by Abernathy, who said he will join them as soon as the campaign in the capital is over.

However, the militancy of the Spanish-Americans and their leader, Reles Tijerina--who are seeking restoration of their land and their rights under a century-old treaty--has caused tension.

The Spanish-Americans have been feeling left out of the campaign planning, and have been visiting the Mexican Embassy and the State Department on their own.

On the other hand, people from all ethnic groups, led by Tijerina, joined in two days of demonstrations at the Justice Department. On the second day, Attorney General Ramsey Clark listened for two hours to criticism from 100 demonstrators.



...A NEW HENRY AARON?

The past year has seen other breakthroughs by Negroes in activities formerly reserved for whites.

Berry also attended previously all-white Benjamin Russell High, where he starred on the freshman football and basketball teams.

Last year, Cooper--Berry's baseball coach at Laurel High--awarded a trophy to "The Hammer" as Laurel's most valuable player. The team had lost only one game all season.

Berry tried to get these same teammates to join him this year in his escapades on the other side of town, but none would.

"I carried one boy over there to try out," Berry recalled. "But when the coach called the boy out on the field, he left, because he was scared he might miss a ball."

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--Hundreds of people attended the 12th anniversary celebration of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. But most of the talk was about two men who weren't there--the Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The people in St. James Baptist Church last Monday were told that Shuttlesworth, the president of the ACM, had missed his plane from Cincinnati, Ohio. And of course, Dr. King was killed by an assassin's bullet last April 4.

In 1956, when the ACM was formed, recalled Mrs. Bernice C. Johnson, the people had to fight "a corrupt city government dedicated under oath to keep the black man in his so-called place." This government, she said, was headed by Eugene "Bull" Connor.

"But for every Pharaoh, God created a Moses," said Mrs. Johnson. "God gave the people of Birmingham and Jefferson County Fred L. Shuttlesworth."

Other speakers, too, recalled Shuttlesworth's leadership in desegregating Birmingham schools and in the massive demonstrations of 1963. As a result of his efforts, said Mrs. Johnson, "the black folk of Birmingham, Ala., began to walk the streets of Jefferson County with a new-found dignity."

"But time marches on," she continued. "On this occasion we further resolve that our great leader Martin Luther King shall not have died in vain."

In giving the occasion, Mrs. Johnson asked the people to keep working "until the vision of our great fallen leader Martin Luther King is realized--until every valley be exalted and every hill made low, the rough places made smooth and the crooked places made straight, and the glory of the Lord be re-



REV. EDWARD M. GARDNER vealed to all flesh both black and white."

There were also praises for the Rev. Edward M. Gardner, who has served as

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 10, in the Metropolitan CME Church, 1600 Ave. K, Ensley, the Rev. L. H. Whelchel, pastor.

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FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

In Alabama all our yesterdays are marred by hate, discrimination, injustice, and violence. Among the organizations working for a better tomorrow on the principle of human brotherhood is the Alabama Council on Human Relations. Membership in the Council is open to all who wish to work for a better tomorrow on this principle. For further information, write the Alabama Council, P.O. Box 1310, Auburn, Alabama.

ACM vice-president for the past 12 years. Gardner--who conducted the meeting last Monday--obliged by making his famous observation that "everything's lovely--gettin' better all the time."

John Drew, a Negro insurance executive, brought greetings from the Chamber of Commerce, the New Birmingham Committee, and the Downtown Action Committee. "Twelve years ago," he said, "no Negro could stand up here and bring you greetings from the Chamber of Commerce."

The Rev. J. S. Phifer of White Plains, New York, was the featured speaker Monday night, and the Rev. W. J. Sankey of St. John Baptist Church, Pratt City, spoke on Wednesday. Shuttlesworth will give his annual report this Sunday.

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Alabama Christian Movement For Human Rights



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