

7 Convictions and a Warning

MERIDIAN, Miss.--Twelve white Mississippians made history last week, when they found seven men guilty of conspiracy in the deaths of three civil rights workers.

As far as anyone could remember, it was the first time anyone had been convicted in a Mississippi civil rights killing. And the convictions came in the most important--and the most shocking--of all the civil rights cases.

The seven men--including Neshoba County sheriff's deputy Cecil Ray Price--were convicted on a federal charge of conspiring to violate the civil rights of Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney.

In the two-week trial, the U. S. government accused the defendants of plotting and carrying out the execution of the three young civil rights workers early in the Freedom Sum-

mer of 1964.

A 13th white Mississippian--a very angry Judge Harold Cox--added to the surprise of the occasion last Friday by declaring, "I enter very heartily into this jury's verdict." Cox had thrown out two earlier indictments based on the 1964 slayings, and he had delayed this trial several times.

After the verdicts were announced, Cox put two of the convicted men--Price and Alton Wayne Roberts--in jail immediately, without bond. "I'm not going to let any wild man loose on a civilized society, and I want you locked up," Cox told them.

On Oct. 19, when the jury of five men and seven women was reported to be "hopelessly deadlocked," Cox had called the jurors back into court and given them the "dynamite charge." This is a set of instructions designed to get a jury to agree on a verdict.

Last Friday, Cox quoted Roberts as saying, "Judge Cox

just gave that jury a dynamite charge. We've got some dynamite for 'em ourselves."

"There's not a power on earth that can frighten this court," Cox said. "We're not going to have any anarchy down here, not as long as I'm on this bench."

Cox was still angry last Monday, when he agreed to set a \$5,000 bond for Price and Roberts in a hearing in Jackson.

"I don't want any more strong-arm stuff in the Southern District of Mississippi, and I mean it," he said. "It's out the window. That's not being good citizens."

Roberts told Cox he had meant no offense, and was only talking about the judge's charge to the jury.

But Cox called Sam Holloway Bowers Jr.--another of the seven guilty defendants, identified as the Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan--before him, along with Roberts and Price.

He told the three men that he was writing a very unusual condition into their bonds. He warned them that if there were "any explosives used in any sort of violence in any of the 45 counties of the Southern District, I will cancel your bonds. I will presume you guilty."

The judge also accused the defendants of sending "one of your crowd to visit one of the jurors."

Besides Price, Roberts, and Bowers, the convicted men included Jimmy Arledge and Jimmie Snowden, both Meridian truck-drivers; Billy Wayne Posey, operator of a service station on the outskirts of Philadelphia; and Horace Doyle Barnette, a former Meridian salesman.

Eight men were found not guilty, including Neshoba County Sheriff Lawrence A. Rainey.

The jurors could not reach a verdict on the other three defendants--incoming Neshoba Sheriff E. G. "Hop" Barnette, Jerry McGrew Sharpe, and Edgar Ray Killen.

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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TEN CENTS

Houser, City Ask Rulings

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--For four long days in federal court this week, U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. heard different versions of what happened last June in Prattville.

Dozens of witnesses--including civil rights leaders, law officers, and newspaper reporters--gave conflicting and often confusing accounts of the events before and after the June 11 arrest of Stokely Carmichael.

In the hours that followed Carmichael's arrest, ten more Negroes were arrested, two policemen and a doghandler were shot, and civil rights leader Dan Houser was severely beaten.

Houser and Mrs. Sallie Hadnott are asking Judge Johnson to issue an order directing Prattville and Autauga County officers to give Negroes equal treatment.

Where's Stokely?

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--For several weeks, people have been asking, "Where's Stokely Carmichael?"

Last week, The Southern Courier received a press release from SNCC. It tells where Carmichael is, and indicates that he hasn't changed much.

The release says: "CONAKRY, Guinea--An official of the United States Embassy visited the hotel where Stokely Carmichael is staying on his visit here and demanded his passport. Mr. Carmichael refused, whereupon the Embassy officials left. This is the second time that the United States has tried to stop Carmichael's visit. "Carmichael said, 'Whenever an Afro-American is visiting his mother country, it seems that any white man that wants to can try to revoke his passport. The white man thinks that he owns the world and all of its inhabitants. The white man is not my master. I will go where I please.'"

'It Depends on You,' Says Guyot at Rally

BY ESTELLE FINE

BOLTON, Miss.--Hinds County's four Negro candidates spoke at a rally last Sunday in Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

"I will fight to submit bills to meet the needs of poor people," said Al Rhodes Jr., candidate for state representative. "People want to work themselves out of poverty with jobs."

Rhodes is the only black candidate in the county who has not been disqualified under a Mississippi law barring independent candidates from voting in party primaries. But the other candidates--hoping a federal court will put them back on the ballot--are still campaigning.

L. C. Leach, candidate for beat 2 justice of the peace, told the crowd that as a boy, he had heard the story of Rip Van Winkle. When Rip Van Winkle began his long nap, said Leach, there was a picture of King George III on the wall. When Rip woke up, the picture was changed to one of George Washington. Leach said he used to think this story was just a tale about a long sleep. But now, the candidate said, he realizes the



BROWN GREETS CARMICHAEL AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM JAIL

ment. The police, on the other hand, want an order against disturbances or other illegal activity by civil rights groups.

Houser testified that Sheriff Phillip Wood lured him out of his house the night of June 11, and then turned him over to the Prattville police.

"They just harassed me so, beat me so, really I can't think of all the things that happened," Houser said. He said he suffered skull fractures, a broken nose, and eye injuries.

Wood, Police Chief O. C. Thompson, and other officers said no Negroes were mistreated.

In seeking an order against Rap Brown of SNCC and other civil rights figures, defense attorney Joseph D. Phelps tried to question witnesses about Brown's speech at a June 13 demonstration in Montgomery. But Judge Johnson said the case was limited to events in Prattville.

"If you implicate Brown in the activities in Prattville, you'll get your injunction," the judge told Phelps. "But you can't get an injunction by what Carmichael's doing in Hanol."

At the end of the testimony, Johnson gave both sides until Nov. 22 to file written statements of what they think they have proved.

So far, the only concrete result of the trial has been a ten-day jail sentence for SNCC worker William Payne of Selma. Judge Johnson found him guilty of contempt of court, for giving the signal of the raised, clenched fist in the courtroom.

story's true meaning:

"Rip Van Winkle slept through a revolution! Don't you do that. Vote!"

Another candidate who spoke, Dan Lofton Mason, has sent out 3,000 letters to Negro and white voters, outlining his qualifications for the job of beat 2 supervisor. He said he will appear on television (Channel 12 in Jackson) at 4:30 p.m. this Sunday.

The Rev. John L. Brown, candidate for beat 3 supervisor, spoke mainly in support of the beat 2 candidates. Lawrence Guyot, state chairman of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, assured the people that all the independent candidates will be on the ballot.

If the lower federal courts won't put them on, said Guyot, the case will be taken all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The black candidates "have identified themselves to be beaten, shot at, or forgotten," Guyot told the crowd. "It all depends on you."

Ministers Go to Jail; B'ham People March

BY ANDREW J. MCKEAN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--"While you sacrifice in jail we will mourn." The placards all said about the same thing.

About 150 people gathered at the Birmingham Airport last Monday morning, to show their support for the Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth and three other Negro ministers, who were about to go to jail.

Supporters of the civil rights leaders had planned a welcoming celebration and a march to the jail. But the Jefferson County sheriff's office had other plans.

Plainclothes officers had boarded Shuttlesworth's plane at Atlanta, Ga.

When the plane reached Birmingham, they arrested Shuttlesworth and two local ministers, the Rev. J. W. Hayes and the Rev. T. L. Fisher.

Another Birmingham minister, the Rev. J. T. Porter, was arrested as he walked into the airport.

In all, eight Negro ministers will serve five-day jail terms in the next two weeks. They were convicted of contempt of court in 1963, for holding demonstrations in violation of a state-court order. The U. S. Supreme Court twice has refused to throw out their convictions.

Besides the four arrested last Monday, the ministers include the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. A. D. Williams King, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and the Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker. These four men will surrender on Monday.

Before his arrest, Shuttlesworth--head of the Alabama Christian Movement--had said, "We feel this to be another sacrifice on the part of the non-violent movement to purify American society."

"We must endure this unjust suffering," he said, "because we have learned that unearned suffering is necessary to redeem the soul and conscience of America."

And Porter said last week that he was not reluctant to go to jail: "There can be no apology for marching without a permit to the courthouse, to pray and to dramatize the deplorable conditions which existed four years ago."

At a rally Monday morning in Kelly Ingram Park, Negro leaders said there will be two protest marches a day while the ministers are in jail.

"I can't go in jail with them," said

a participant in the first of these marches. "But I can walk to the jailhouse, that's for sure."

The Rev. T. Y. Rogers of Tuscaloosa, SCLC's director of affiliates, said there will be a mass march on the county jail next Monday, when Dr. King is scheduled to go to jail. And, said Rogers, there will be an around-the-clock vigil for the entire period that Dr. King is locked up.

Tuskegee Gets Funds After All

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--Governor Lurleen B. Wallace's office said this week that a \$117,500 check has been sent to Tuskegee Institute.

Hugh Maddox, the governor's legal advisor, confirmed the release of the money--the first quarterly payment of the state Legislature's \$470,000 appropriation for the Institute this year.

After the Legislature passed the appropriation bill, Governor Wallace said she wouldn't hand over the money unless the federal courts uphold Alabama's newest tuition-grant law.

Does the payment mean the governor has changed her mind? "I don't know the reason for it," said Maddox. "It was just done."

He also said he doesn't know whether the governor intends to make the next three quarterly payments to Tuskegee. "There has been no decision on the tuition-grant measure yet," he noted.

State Senator Tom Radney, sponsor of the appropriation bill, said he was "delighted that the governor decided to do right by Tuskegee."

Courier Reporter Beaten

MOBILE, Ala.--Edward Rudolph, Mobile correspondent for The Southern Courier, was beaten by a gang of Negro youths last Monday night. Rudolph suffered injuries to his left eye, right shoulder, and left hand. He said he was also kicked in the side before being left unconscious.

The victim said one of his attackers told him, "The stuff you are writing will cause you to be in a box one day." Rudolph has written stories about the Non-Partisan Voters League, the Mobile County welfare office, and the Mobile anti-poverty program.

Rudolph said about four men jumped him from behind as he was

leaving the Kairos-Mobile "ghetto" office on N. Warren St. Earlier, he had attended a meeting on food stamps in the Mobile County courthouse.

The reporter said he was knocked down by a blow to the head. When he tried to get up, he said, he was floored by another blow to the head.

After Rudolph came to his senses, he said, he crawled back to the Kairos office and let himself in.

One of the two Mobile policemen who investigated the beating told Rudolph, "There isn't much we can do, unless you recognize the guys on the street. Get their names, and call us."

Only More So, Says Editor

Negroes Should Be Like the Jews

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--Negroes can get political power and racial equality in America by following the example of the Jews, author Harry Golden said here last week.

An alliance between "Negro voters and the white working man holds the secret of the future," said Golden.

To build such an alliance, he continued, Negroes must do what the Jews did--get educated, get together, and get the help of people who want the same things they do.

The Jewish humorist--who canceled his membership in SNCC after its summer newsletter criticized Israel--said Negroes must not listen "to those within Negro society who preach their own radical racist ends."

Golden edits and publishes the Carolina Israelite, a liberal bi-monthly pa-

It's Easy

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--When Harry Golden visited Tuskegee Institute last week, someone asked for his opinion on the war in Viet Nam.

In the past, the author has suggested several "Golden Plans"--one-sentence solutions for the world's most complex problems. He had an original idea about Viet Nam, too.

Golden said the United States should immediately "declare victory and pull out"--thus satisfying both the "hawks" who want to win and the "doves" who want to leave.

If the President follows his advice, added Golden, the war "would be forgotten about in six months."

per, at his home in Charlotte, N. C. He came to Tuskegee Institute to address a \$12-per-couple dinner for the United Negro College Fund.

At the dinner, Golden spoke to a friendly crowd of about 175 people. But afterward, a small group of militant Negro students and white faculty members gathered around him.

Michael F. Wright, a SNCC worker, suggested that some people--including Golden--had deliberately misinterpreted SNCC's newsletter. Wright pointed out that SNCC attacked Zionists (supporters of Israel), not all Jews.

But Golden insisted that the newsletter was "anti-Semitic." "That's my interpretation," he said. "That's the interpretation of everyone who can read."

Golden said he opposes SNCC because its leaders have "made a mockery of non-violence--Stokely Carmichael and Rap Brown asked Negroes to arm themselves."

A white faculty member reminded Golden that Jews fought Germans during World War II. "Do you think there's so much difference between Nazis and white Southerners?" the instructor asked.

"The Nazis had governmental sanction" in Germany, Golden replied. "The U. S. government stands for equity. You can't accuse (it) of genocide."

Golden agreed that civil rights laws are not always obeyed. But, he said, "non-violence is the only method" for Negroes to demonstrate their grievances.

A white woman asked whether that was the method Israel used to defeat



STUDENTS CONFRONT HARRY GOLDEN (RIGHT)

the Arabs in the six-day war last spring.

"You cannot practice non-violence during a war," Golden replied.

In his fund-raising speech for the 36 schools supported by the United Negro College Fund, Golden said "education is the only chance the Negro has. He must use the classrooms of America as the Jews used the classrooms of Europe."

"Bloc voting is the only way" Negroes can succeed in politics, Golden

added: "Do not be intimidated by those who say the Negro can prove his patriotism by voting for his enemy."

Golden said Negroes must also win the support of other minority groups, as the Jews did in New York 50 years ago.

When he was a boy in New York City, the author recalled, the Jews formed a political alliance with the Irish and the Italians. "They didn't speak to or marry each other," he said, "but they voted together."

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Editorial Opinion

Silent Government

The Southeast regional branch of the Office of Economic Opportunity is in charge of the federal war on poverty in six Southern states, including Alabama. The OEO office in Atlanta, Ga., is supposed to see that local community action agencies run their anti-poverty programs on a democratic basis.

But in the last two months, OEO hasn't shown much interest in local democracy. Instead, the regional office has used its power to limit public control and smother public criticism.

When the Macon County Community Action Program board tried to replace its paid director last August, the regional OEO office suddenly discovered that the CAP's personnel rules were illegal. OEO has suspended funds until the board meets several requirements.

The timing of OEO's action made some board members suspect that the regional office's real concern was to protect the present director, Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson. And many of OEO's demands will strengthen Mrs. Johnson in her continuing battle with the CAP board.

In District 24 (Barbour, Dale, and Henry counties), militant Negro board members complained for more than a year that CAP director Charles L. Weston and white board members were discriminating against Negro job applicants. Last month, OEO finally investigated the charges and suspended federal funds.

But when the Barbour-Dale-Henry CAP board met to discuss the matter, an OEO regional staff member sat idly by while the usual coalition of white segregationists and Negro school-teachers voted to close the meeting to the press. The board then fired its president, W. T. Money, a white man who had defended Negro rights. The group also authorized CAP director Weston to act on OEO's demands.

Afterwards, The Southern Courier complained to the Atlanta OEO office. We suggested that the public has a right to know what public officials are doing with public money.

We think our readers would be interested in the alarming--and contradictory--replies we have received from OEO.

According to John Dean, regional administrator of CAP programs, OEO "policy states that all meetings of the board of directors shall be declared open to the public, except for special situations involving personnel. The meeting was called to deal with a personnel situation; therefore, the regional office would consider the action of the board to declare the meeting closed in order."

But Ralph A. Phelps Jr., OEO regional director, wrote: "There is no OEO regulation requiring governing bodies of its grantees to open any meeting in its entirety to the public at large." Nevertheless, he added, "OEO encourages its grantees to open their meetings to the public at all times. Most of them do so, as far as I have been able to ascertain, except a meeting or that part of a meeting involving discussion of sensitive personnel matters such as unverified charges reflecting derogatively on the character of a staff member."

Both replies ignore the specific situation--and the facts. If anyone at OEO has bothered to ask for a copy of the minutes, he knows that the Barbour-Dale-Henry CAP board did not discuss "sensitive personnel matters" at its private meeting. Instead, the board took administrative actions which were a matter of vital public interest.

The real reason why the board members closed their meeting is obvious and inexcusable. The white segregationists intend to control the anti-poverty program, doling out jobs and money only to those Negroes who behave in a properly subservient manner. The white people do not want hundreds of Negro newspaper readers to know what they are doing, because these readers might raise embarrassing questions.

Apparently, OEO has different rules for different CAP agencies. In Macon County--where most board members are Negroes--the regional office has ignored local wishes. In Barbour, Dale, and Henry counties--where white bigots still have a strangle-hold on local government--OEO has bowed to some of their demands.

We are glad that the regional office decided to crack down on the Barbour-Dale-Henry board for discrimination against Negroes. But we think OEO should be equally concerned with the public's right to complete and accurate information. Most people cannot regularly attend meetings of their local CAP boards. The press is their representative--the only representative with the responsibility and the means of publishing the truth. By allowing CAP boards to close their meetings--and then lie about their actions--OEO is perpetuating the "silent government" which has for so long stifled democracy in the South.

SWAFCA Members Discuss Co-Op's First Three Months

BY BETH WILCOX

SELMA, Ala.--Nearly three months have passed since SWAFCA (the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association) received its \$400,000 grant from the federal government. In that time, the ten-county farm co-op has set up a permanent office, hired most of its paid staff, and marketed several crops. But this week, several farmers said they have some complaints about SWAFCA.

Nathan Payne of Orrville, a former SWAFCA board member, charged that prices were not figured fairly on the produce he sold to the co-op. "We were supposed to be paid by the pound, not the bushel," he said.

A SWAFCA advisor, Lewis Black of Greensboro, said farmers in Hale County borrowed money from the local credit union to buy seeds for a crop of fresh market cucumbers. The cucumbers were never sold, Black said, and now the farmers are in debt to the credit union.

"That was the one black mark on our record--those fresh market cucumbers," admitted Albert Turner of Marion, another advisor. "But it was a problem of volume."

SWAFCA President Joe Johnson said the cucumber problem wasn't caused by the co-op. He said prices fell because SWAFCA's markets were "cut off." "People got paid," said Johnson, "but they didn't get what they thought they would get."

Some farmers said SWAFCA should use written contracts, showing how much the co-op will pay per pound. "Until they start showing us they are going to pay what they say, not many



ALBERT TURNER people here are going to deal with the co-op," said a Lowndes County farmer.

"When someone starts complaining about what they were paid," commented a SWAFCA office worker, "the real story is how much he owes SWAFCA."

Other crops fared better than cucumbers, Turner pointed out. "Perry County supplied 80% of the okra for SWAFCA, and I carried checks to a lot of people," he said. "They got paid all right--one man made \$240 in one check."

Mrs. Agatha Harville of Selma--who worked closely with SWAFCA for some time--raised the question of trainee positions open at the co-op. "So far, the co-op hasn't been training anyone," she said.

OEO's Demands Anger Macon Board Members

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--The Southeast regional branch of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) still isn't satisfied with the Macon County Community Action Program.

Ralph A. Phelps Jr., OEO regional director, has told the CAP board to correct "several deficiencies" in its newly-revised personnel rules before hiring any staff members.

In a letter last week, Phelps sharply questioned the plans for four projects --health, rural resources, Head Start, and child day care.

He noted that the board's job descriptions make the project coordinators "accountable" to the board through a special committee.

"Are we correct in assuming that this means that they will not be accountable to your administrative staff director and assistant?" Phelps asked. "The regional office questions the soundness of this arrangement."

"We further question the need to employ an administrative staff director at a salary of \$12,000 per year and not have (project coordinators) accountable to this person."

The regional OEO office in Atlanta, Ga., suspended the Macon County CAP's funds last August, when the board voted to replace its present administrative staff director, Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson. OEO said Mrs. Johnson--and all other staff members--must be retained until personnel procedures could be straightened out.

At last week's CAP meeting, the board agreed to try again to satisfy the regional office. But some board members spoke angrily about their continuing problems.

The Rev. Robert Smith--a member of the board's personnel committee--said OEO's requirements "seem to be directed toward a specific person as well as a specific position."

Judging from experience, he added, some of the demands won't work: "Our

Says New Tuskegee Councilman

'I'm the Working Man's Friend'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"I'm the working man's friend," said William T. Peterson, with a broad smile, moments after his election to the Tuskegee City Council.

"My one desire is to give a greater voice to those who have not had a voice--or very much voice."

Peterson, a Negro, was elected to Tuskegee's bi-racial council at the regular Tuesday night meeting. He will fill the year remaining in the term of J. Allan Parker, a white man who resigned to head the Macon County Board of Revenue.

With Peterson, the council now has three white members--including Mayor Charles M. Keever--and three Negro members.

But the council's vote didn't split on racial lines. Mayor Keever joined Ne-

gro councilmen Stanley H. Smith and Dr. T. S. Williams to give Peterson a majority.

The other two white councilmen--John L. Sides and L. M. Gregg--cast their ballots for Dr. Luther C. McRae, a white man who is medical director of the Macon County Hospital.

Peterson, a 37-year-old native of Tuskegee, teaches art in several Macon County schools. His most successful political venture in the past came when he managed Mayor Keever's campaign in 1964.

Peterson pledged to give "general representation for the eastern side of town"--where he grew up and where many of Tuskegee's less-wealthy citizens live.

In recent months, people from the poorer sections have flocked to city council meetings to ask for services--

"They hired only rich people. There's not more than two poor people working over there now. There's supposed to be a training position for every job around there."

"People are hired on qualifications," replied Johnson. "I am still working for that trainee program. Through the training program, I would like to see the unemployment rate reduced for non-farm as well as farm workers."

"The trainee positions are not turning out as I thought they would," said A. D. Bush, a SWAFCA member from Dallas County. "But I'm not raising a lot of sand about it, because this is the first year. As time goes on, more trainees will be put in the program."

Jesse Brooks of Coy and Payne both complained that they were removed from the SWAFCA board without any warning.

Payne said he was present at a board meeting when Turner, Miss Shirley Mesher, and Mrs. Clara Walker--all of the SWAFCA staff--said he was not

on the board. Payne said he was in on the beginning of SWAFCA, and only refused the chairman's job because his father was ill at the time.

"They really got me at a weak point in my life, because while my father was sick, I did not attend meetings for a while," said Payne. "When I started back working after the death of my father, they said I was no longer a member."

Johnson said Payne "was never on the board."

Payne, Brooks, and Mrs. Harville all charged that the SWAFCA board was letting advisors and other people do its work.

"If we were building a house or some other structure," replied Johnson, "a company would pour the cement for the foundation. The position of the coordinators (now called advisors) was a foundation--to get it organized. The same people (Turner, Black, and Miss Mesher) have continued to work as... unpaid advisors."

Plan for Dallas

BY BETH WILCOX

SELMA, Ala.--Nine officials of the Dallas County Economic Opportunity Board (EOB) met last week with nine representatives of the mostly-Negro Self Help Against Poverty for Everybody (SHAPE).

The purpose of the meeting was to plan for a possible Head Start grant, using the proposal submitted by SHAPE 1 1/2 years ago. The EOB, which controls anti-poverty money in Dallas County, does not have a Head Start program.

Hugh Saussy--from the Atlanta, Ga., branch of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)--presided over the peace meeting between SHAPE and the EOB. Afterwards, spokesmen for both sides said they felt the meeting was a fair one.

"Previously," said the Rev. Ernest Bradford of SHAPE, "it has been our experience that officials came first to confer with the powers to be at the (EOB) office, and it was a foregone conclusion how the meeting was to go--in a word, it was a frame-up of SHAPE."

Joseph Knight of the EOB said, "It was a completely fair meeting."

SHAPE has been trying to be recognized for a year and half, said Bradford. Why was SHAPE's proposal ignored for so long?

"Mr. Saussy said he didn't want to talk about the history of the twogroups at this meeting," Bradford said. "We all agreed we wouldn't."

Mobile People Complain About Anti-Poverty Jobs

BY EDWARD RUDOLPH

MOBILE, Ala.--Some Negro citizens are complaining that Mobile's anti-poverty agency gives its top jobs to white people.

"MACAC (the Mobile Area Community Action Committee) gives all upgraded jobs to the white citizens of Mobile," charged E. J. Mooror. "When it comes to Negroes, they are given the run-around."

When Mooror applied for a job, he said, Andrew Curtis of MACAC said "he would never give me a job, and that I was begging."

Mooror said he inquired about the jobs of assistant director, project director, and employment director on Sept. 12. He said Curtis and MACAC Director Norman H. Davis told him a project director had already been hired.

But, said Mooror, he got a letter from Davis this month, saying that Mrs. Norma B. Haas, formerly of Spring Hill College, had been appointed project

director on Sept. 25.

Another Negro citizen, Mrs. Dorothy P. Williams, said she had applied for a job as a teacher's aide in the Head Start program. Mrs. Williams said the job she wanted was given "to somebody else that did not live in the community."

Mrs. Williams said she was offered a job as assistant cook. "I refused it," she said, "because it wasn't what I applied for."

Davis and Curtis pointed out that MACAC has five centers providing needed services for poor people. The centers can recommend people for jobs, they said, but no center has recommended Mooror.

Curtis said Mooror came to the MACAC office "demanding" a job. "He applied for a job that was already filled," Curtis added.

The MACAC officials also noted that one-third of the agency's board is made up of poor people.

"I can understand why there was mistrust," said Knight. "We are going to try to work together, though."

A major point of the compromise reached in last week's meeting is that SHAPE agreed to be a "delegate agency" under the EOB.

According to Knight, SHAPE may have full control of Head Start. Or, he said, "there could be a new board formed, giving SHAPE 50% of the decision-making power; or a joint program, with SHAPE as delegate agency operating 'X' number of centers and the EOB operating 'X' number of centers."

Bradford said it was agreed that SHAPE would take the initiative in revising its Head Start proposal. For one thing, he noted, only \$250,000 is available for the program, instead of the \$1,500,000 SHAPE requested.

Both Bradford and Knight said they had discussed integration of the program. A previous EOB proposal was turned down because of insufficient attempts to recruit white participants.

Holman Trial Move Denied

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--Circuit Judge Dan Boyd has refused to move the rape trial of James Harrison "Harry" Holman out of Macon County.

Boyd denied a motion for change of venue (county) at a hearing last week. The trial is now scheduled to begin here Monday morning.

In the written motion, Holman--a white man charged with raping a 16-year-old Negro girl--claimed that he "cannot have a fair and impartial trial" in Macon County.

"The alleged forcible rape... has created intense excitement and resentment among the citizens of Macon County," the motion said. "Many citizens of (the) county believe that the racial future of (the) county does in fact depend on the outcome of the... pending trial."

Holman's attorney, Michael T. Blacker, argued that many local citizens have said they think Holman is guilty, have expressed "malice and hatred" toward him, and have made "open threats of violence" against him. Blacker said "adverse publicity" has prejudiced people who might be called to serve as jurors.

In another motion--also over-ruled by Judge Boyd--Holman tried to disqualify Macon County Sheriff Lucius D. Amerson from summoning jurors to court. Holman charged Amerson with "bias and prejudice," and said the sheriff might try to influence the jurors.

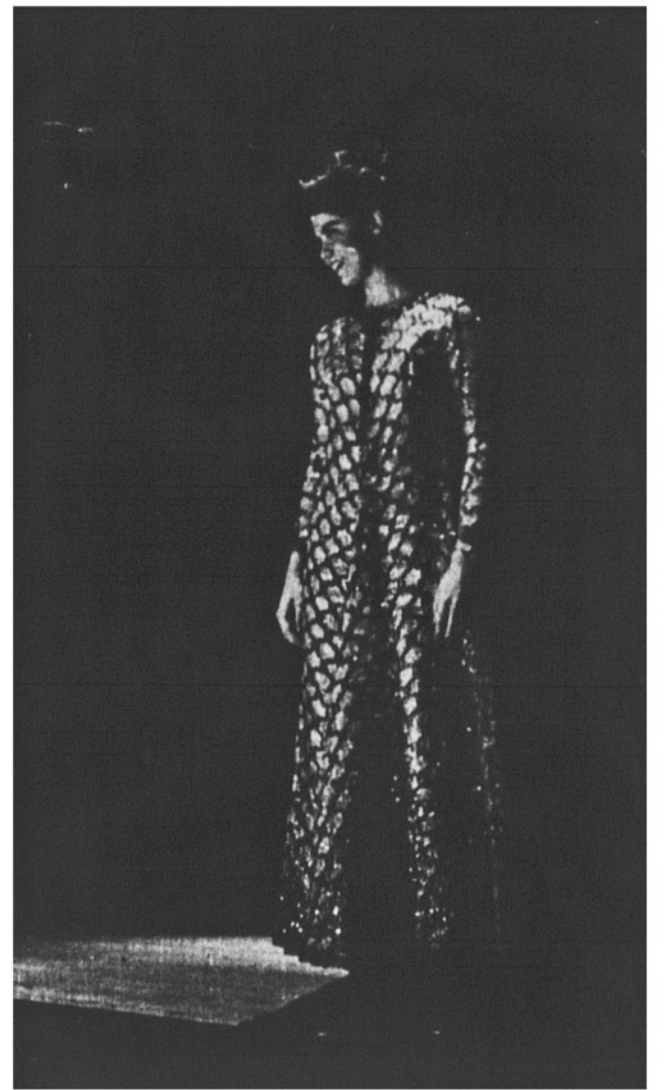
projects" during the 1964 campaign. "I want to see the city grow," he explained. (The new city limits took in about 2,000 additional residents--most of them Negroes who had been ignored by all-white city governments before 1964.)

In trying to help the "working man," Peterson added, he won't forget about the rest of the city. "You can't represent one group or faction," he said. "You have to work for everybody."

"I won't get the big head. I'll do my best for the city of Tuskegee," Peterson said the council elected him "because I had the support of the people. I'm grateful they thought enough of me to want me in there."

And, he said, he hopes the people will think enough of him next fall to elect him for a full four-year term on the council.

Peterson said the expansion of the city limits last fall "was one of my



Not Quite, but Almost

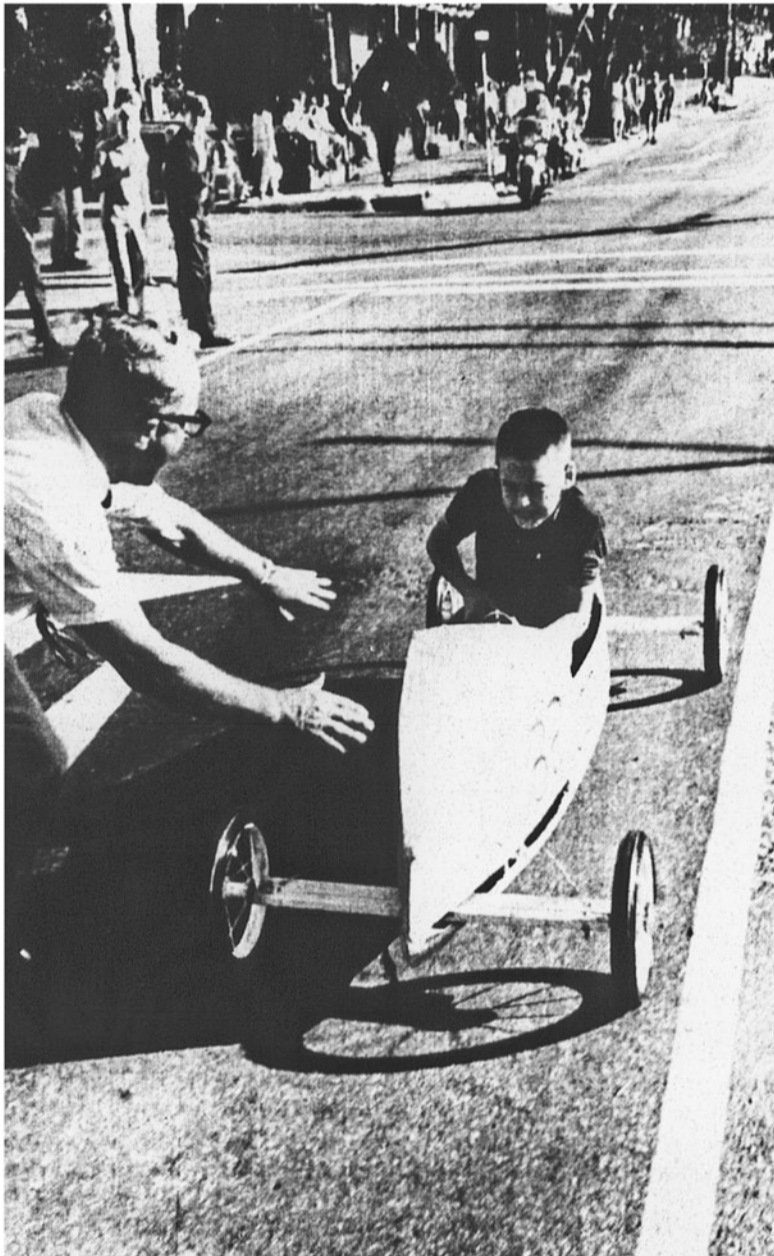
Two of Everything

DOTHAN, Ala.--This year's National Peanut Festival in Dothan was advertised as the 24th annual celebration. But there have been many more festivals than that, if you consider that Dothan's Negro community sponsors its own events--patterned after the all-white affairs, but not listed on the official program.

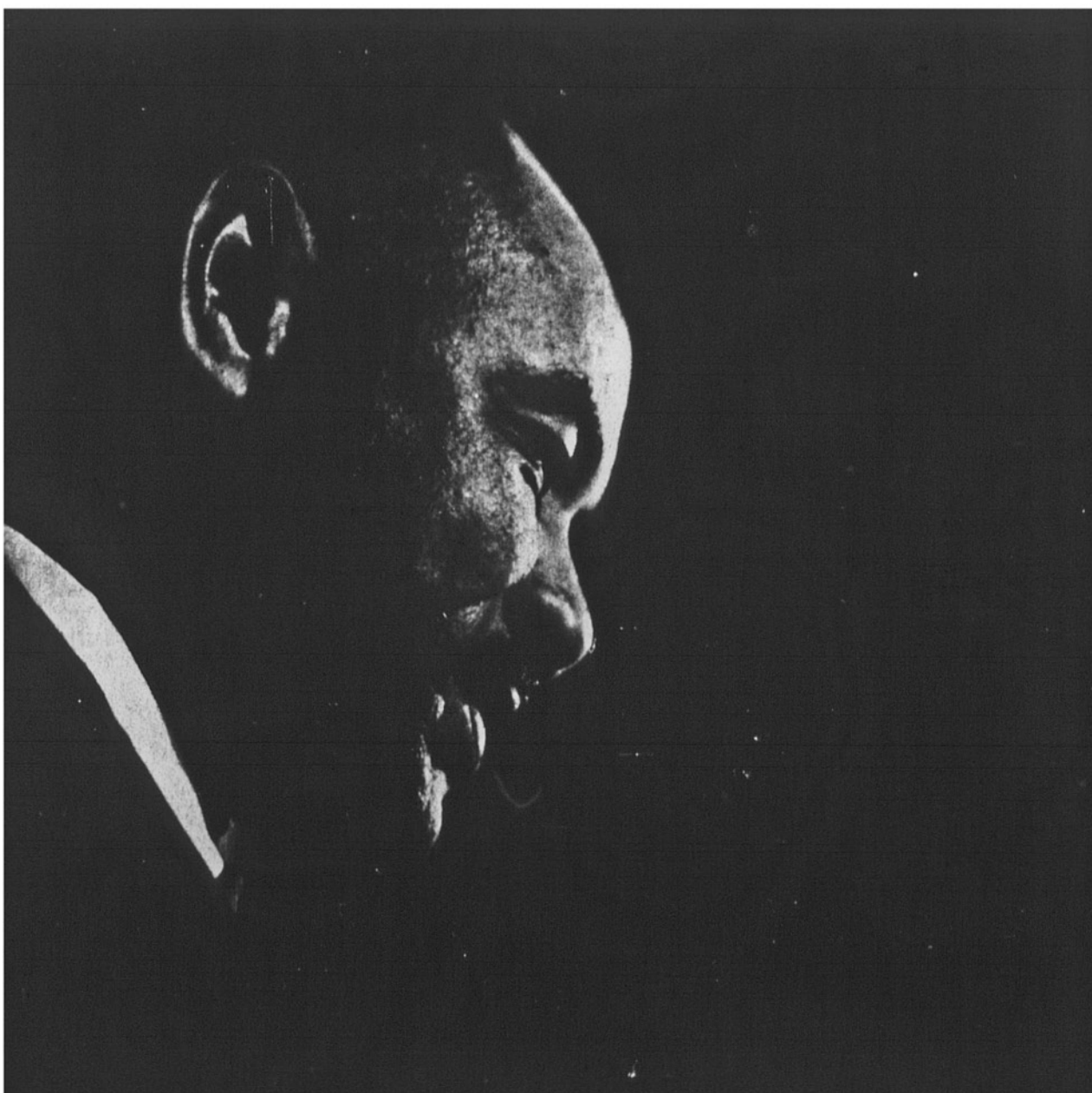
On Oct. 9, James Hall and Mrs. L. Ruth Jackson were chosen Dothan Man and Woman of the Year at a banquet at the Negro Elks Club, with Herman Harris, president-elect of the Alabama State Teachers Association, as the featured speaker. On Oct. 17, police Sergeant Ralph McCord and Mrs. Bob Coats were chosen Dothan Man and Woman of the Year in a ceremony at the Houston Hotel, with Harry Philpott, president of Auburn University, as featured speaker.

And so it went, with but a few exceptions. Miss Patricia Ann Martin was chosen Miss Bronze Peanut at the City Auditorium Oct. 17, and Miss Donna Martin was crowned National 1967 Peanut Queen at the Houston County Farm Center Oct. 20. Bob Knight was named Farmer of the Year at a dinner in the Elks Club Oct. 19, while no white Farmer of the Year was honored. Roger Cassidy won the Soap Box Derby held Oct. 20 on E. Newton St. (near a Negro neighborhood), and Mark Stevens won the Na-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 4)



Next Week:
The Integrated Festival
Photos by
Jim Pepler





CORN FLAKES FOR BREAKFAST



CHILDREN PLAY OUTSIDE HEAD START CENTER IN GEIGER

Children From Evicted Families Flock to Sumter Co. Head Start

BY BETH WILCOX

GEIGER, Ala. -- "I can't get her ready fast enough in the morning," said Mrs. Melinda Shields about her young daughter. "And when she's out of school, she says she gets corn flakes and milk (there), why can't she have that at home."

Mrs. Shields' daughter --also named Melinda-- is one of nearly 150 children attending Head Start classes on a 56,000-acre farm near this Sumter County town.

According to the program's director, Mrs. Elizabeth Rice, more than three-fourths of the Head Start children are from families which have been evicted from their homes.

"Sumter County is known for that, I suppose," said Mrs. Rice. "Families are moved off the land and pay \$15 a month for house rent, and get a little plot to have a garden. That's all--all cotton acreage has been disallotted."

Mrs. Rice taught adult classes on the side during eight years as a home economics instructor in the Sumter County schools. She organized a group called the Community Mothers Improvement Club.

In 1966, the club applied to sponsor a Head Start program and received a grant for summer classes.

Mrs. Rice said the children and their parents were enthusiastic about the classes. But the club's application for a year-round program wasn't approved until last May 1.

"At the beginning, we had quite a few problems," said Mrs. Rice. "We had tried before (in September, 1966) and failed to get something going without federal money."

In the first month of the year-long program, she said, there were only three qualified teachers. "We have had trouble getting people because of the insecurity of the job, and the fact that it is hard for people to get leaves of absence from the school system," Mrs. Rice explained.

But the program hasn't had any trouble winning community support. When some children "graduated" into the first grade at the end of the summer,



PARENTS VISIT REGULARLY

Mrs. Rice said, the parents made caps and gowns for a ceremony.

"There were about 300 parents there," she recalled. "We had to hold it outside, there were so many people."

Parents and Head Start volunteers attend family-service classes at the center every Thursday.

"We have better-breakfast demonstrations, family-planning classes--birth control classes, really," said Mrs. Rice. The sessions are held during the day, so that poor families can save money by riding the bus in with their children.

Mrs. Rice said the Community Mothers Improvement Club also hopes to start an adult-education class for farmers who have lost their homes. The class would teach basic skills, to give the farmers enough education to learn a trade or get a different job.

There is great need for such a program, Mrs. Rice said: "We made a survey of people in Sumter County, and found that in beat 17, there is only 2% home ownership." If federal funds are available to pay adult students, she continued, "we might be able to help these people over the winter."

The Head Start program rents a cluster of small buildings--formerly tenant houses--from the owner of a livestock company, the Sumter County Farm.

"The people here on the farm have been very good to us," said Mrs. Rice,

whom they can identify."

Many Head Start experiences are new to the children, she said. "One day we carried them to the dairy bar. Some had never had hamburgers. Another time we had popsicles. We found that many children had never had popsicles. Isn't that amazing?"

The children are taken regularly to see a dentist and a doctor in nearby Columbus, Miss. They have also visited supermarkets and fire stations.

Regular classes are held in the converted houses. Mrs. Rice said the staff likes using the small, separate buildings, because they "give a more home-like atmosphere."

The classroom walls are decorated with the children's finger-paintings and with paper cutouts. There are flocks of bluebirds, each carrying a letter of the alphabet, and long trains with a different letter on each car.

"We do not teach the alphabet as such," Mrs. Rice said. "But the children learn it by association. They all have a toothbrush with their name on it, so they do know what their names look like."

After classes, the children play on swings, climbers, and slides. Sometimes, a teacher leads them in circle games like ring-around-a-rosy.

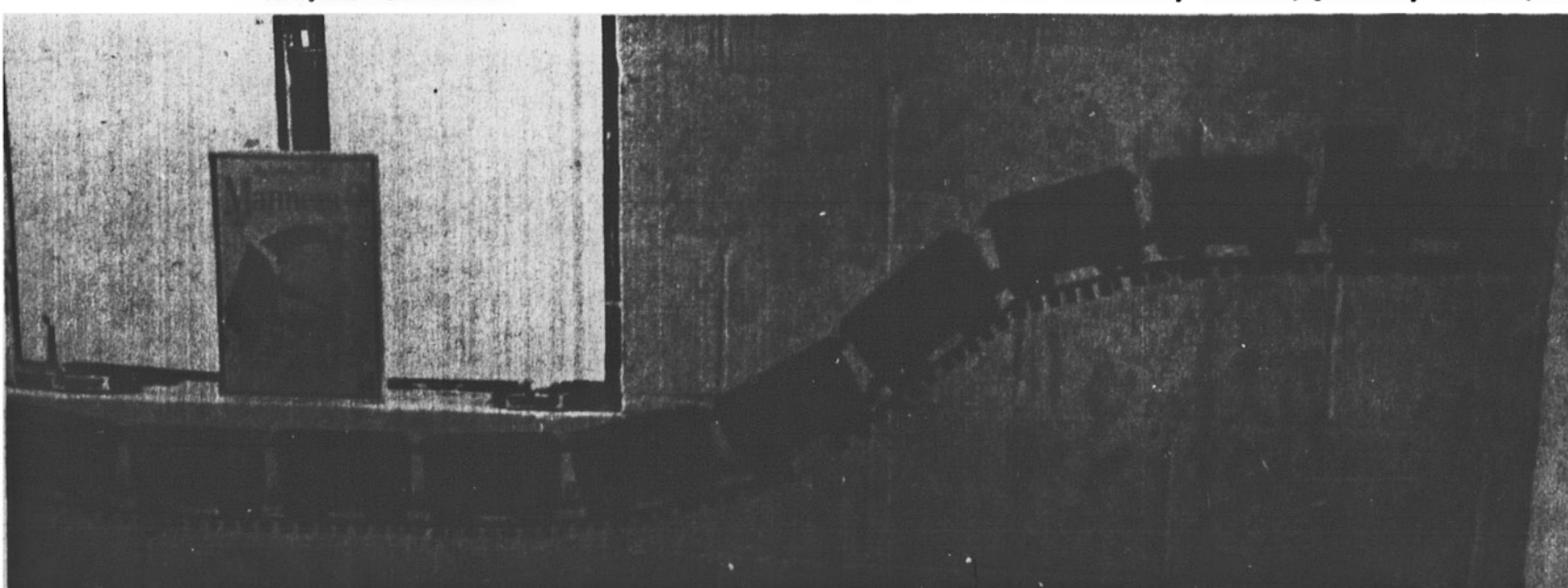
"It's very good to get these kids to do anything together," explained Brooks. "We try to teach commands, such as 'foot forward, foot back.' Coordination is important."

Early in the afternoon, brightly-colored buses pull up to the Head Start center to take the children home.

"We painted the buses red, white, and blue because the kids had a hard time distinguishing their bus from the regular yellow school bus," Brooks said. He rubbed his back, remembering, "The staff really pitched in on that, with the lettering and all of that painting," he said.



MRS. ELIZABETH RICE



Photos by James E. Lytle

Ladies Form Co-Op In Greene, Hale Counties

BY ANDREW J. MCKEAN
 GREENSBORO, Ala.--Mrs. Juanita Walton watched carefully as her pupil, Mrs. Gertrude Jackson, tried to do the "backstitch," a special sewing technique. The thread skipped. "A sewing machine is like a car," Mrs. Walton warned. "If you feed it too much, it will run away with you."

Mrs. Jackson is one of 20 Negro women from Greene and Hale counties who have joined together to form a sewing cooperative.

Before a training session began last week, many of the women had never worked a sewing machine. Now they plan to make money by selling the goods they sew.

Lewis Black of Greensboro helped organize the project, along with the Rev. Thomas E. Gilmore and the Rev. L. A. Lee. Black said Randolph Blackwell of the Southern Rural Action Project helped get the co-op going, by contacting Van Bible, president of World Wide Enterprises of Atlanta, Ga.

The firm agreed to supply sewing machines, instruction, and work assignments for the women of Greene and Hale counties. A training period for 20 women began Oct. 17 in the Stephine Memorial School in Greensboro.

"There's a beginning, but no end," said World Wide representative Fred Free last week, as the sewing machines buzzed in the brightly-lit basement. "This place can grow as big as the folks themselves want it to. We can assure them of contracts. All I've seen is enthusiasm."

Free, who is heading up the training project, said the Greensboro co-op is the fifth such "plant" World Wide has worked with. (The others are in Georgia.) "We're not crusaders," he said. "We're just businessmen. We'll help whites and Negroes who desire gainful employment."

In the training program, Free demands perfection. "There's a right and a wrong, ladies, no in-between," he lectures the co-op members. "If you were in a store and picked up a pair of pants and saw they weren't sewed right, you'd look somewhere else."

Training will continue for three or four more weeks. Then the ladies will begin earning money.

"I hope this place becomes to be a large plant, to help us colored people," said Mrs. Lillie Mae Walter of Akron. "This is for poor people. If people against us could come down and see what we're trying to do, they'd probably change their minds and join in and help us."

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'Johnson or Jesus' in 1968

BY PATRICIA JAMES
 MERIDIAN, Miss.--"There is just one other person whom I would vote for besides President Johnson" in 1968, said Clarence Mitchell. "And that is the Lord Jesus, who is not available as a candidate."

"I don't care who is against him (Johnson)," said Mitchell. "I am for him, and I hope you are, too."

Mitchell, head of the Washington bureau of the NAACP, was the guest speaker last Sunday at a rally in the First Union Baptist Church. The rally, sponsored by the Meridian NAACP, was called to raise funds for the NAACP. About 75 people attended.

"We have come a great distance," said Mitchell. "You people who are here are responsible for what has been done."

But, he added, "we have a lot of problems in this country. The NAACP knows that there are a lot of problems in the U. S., and we are not afraid to fight the problems."

However, said Mitchell, "there are some people who are so busy making money that they just think of themselves all the time."

Another speaker--Dr. Robert Kornegay, vice-president of the Meridian NAACP--referred to the conviction of seven men in the Neshoba County civil rights case.

"The Klan wasn't afraid of the FBI," he said, "but it was afraid of the FBI's reputation to bring justice."



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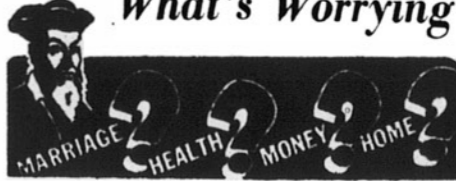
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Director Hits 'Mud-Slinging'

CDGM Denies Charges

BY ESTELLE FINE
JACKSON, Miss.--The annual battle over the way CDGM handles money was in full swing this week.

U. S. Senator John Stennis of Mississippi, a long-time enemy of CDGM (the Child Development Group of Mississippi), charged that Senate investigators have not been allowed to see certain CDGM financial records.

Game of the Week

A Close Battle In Greensboro

BY ANDREW J. MCKEAN
GREENSBORO, Ala.-- Tuskegee Institute High School didn't surprise anyone by defeating Hale County Training School, 12 to 6, in last Friday's football game.

However, few had expected such a hard-fought contest. The game was up for grabs until the final buzzer.

The Hale County Trojans were the first to enter the scoring column. Early in the second quarter, Tommy Jones put the home team ahead, 6 to 0, with a 48-yard run. The Trojans--with only a 2-3 record going into the game--held off Tuskegee's Baby Tigers until half-time.

But the tables were turned in the third quarter. With 10:12 remaining in the period, Tuskegee's Frank Stakley tied the contest up, 6 to 6, on a 30-yard pass play after an interception.

The winning score came with 4:47 left in the third quarter. Harry Richardson lifted the Baby Tigers to a 12-6 lead with a two-yard run.

But the Rev. Charles F. Thomas, executive director of CDGM, denied the charge. "Our books have been made available to the Senate Appropriations Committee," he said.

Thomas said investigator Paul Cotter has been making "unreasonable" demands on CDGM and its accounting firm, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company.

"Annually, during the period when CDGM is to undergo negotiations for re-funding, Mr. Cotter arrives and begins his process of mud-slinging," Thomas said.

"We are willing to cooperate with the Senate Appropriations Committee, and any other governmental agency which is interested in the welfare of this organization as it relates to the poor people of Mississippi," said the director.

"However, I hope something can be done to curtail such unethical methods and procedures as those which Mr. Cotter demonstrated this past week."

According to published reports, the investigators are interested in CDGM's purchase of about \$60,000 worth of equipment and office supplies from the Jackson Office and School Supply company.

The company is owned by R. L. Bolten, a worker in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and a board member of the Community Service Association, another Mississippi anti-poverty project.

Bolten said this week that his company has sold supplies to both CDGM and MAP (Mississippi Action for Progress, another Head Start program like CDGM). He said these groups buy from him because his prices are lower.

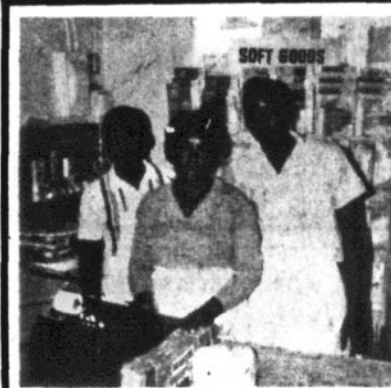
"Stennis just doesn't want CDGM to buy from a black man," Bolten said. "The investigators didn't ask to see records from white businesses."



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PEANUT FESTIVAL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)

Annual Peanut Festival Soap Box Derby held Oct. 19 on St. Andrews St. (downtown).

Of course, the festival fair was open to all races, two Negro boys participated in the Calf Scramble and Greased Pig Contest, and the parade was integrated.

In fact, a float from all-Negro Carver High won third prize in the civic division of the parade, and in a unique gesture the trophy was mailed out, to save the Negro representative the trouble of having to attend the awards ceremony held that night at the Queen's Ball.

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights
The weekly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30, in St. John's A.M.E. Church, 708 N. 15th St., the Rev. C. E. Thomas, pastor.

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SALESMAN WANTED-- Part-time salesman wanted in Central Alabama area for automobile purchasing service. Contact J & J Auto Sales and Purchasing Company, 2209 Hathcox St., Mobile, Ala. 36617.

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Montgomery will hold their weekly fireside at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at 1925 Kenny Ave. in Montgomery. For transportation or information, call 263-6938 or 265-4394.

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

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, or call 263-3474. If it is more convenient, go directly to the Head Start location nearest you.

WORK FOR FREEDOM--Interested in direct action for peace, student power, human rights, and free food programs? Work for Kairos-Mobile, and get to the nitty-gritty in Mobile and other places. Come by or write to Director, Central City Headquarters, 304 N. Warren St., Mobile, Ala.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES-- A directory of accredited private home-study schools, listing 95 schools with quality courses, may be obtained free by sending a postcard to National Home Study Council, 1601 18th St. NW, Washington, D. C. 20009.

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, Alabama.

CARD OF THANKS--The family of the late Mrs. Lizzie Flowers of Wetumpka, Ala., acknowledges your kind expression of sympathy.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS-- "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." This verse from Proverbs is the Golden Text of this week's Christian Science Lesson Sermon, titled "Everlasting Punishment."

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Tuskegee will hold their informal, public discussion at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Gordon, 33 Gallard in Tuskegee. No collections, no obligations.

SOCIAL SECURITY-- Household workers who fail to give their Social Security numbers to their employers may lose part or all of the payments they have coming. Social Security payments are based on earnings. If a worker's Social Security number is missing from the earnings report filed for him by his employer, he gets no credit for his wages. That can mean lost money for him and his family. If a household worker earns \$50 or more in a calendar quarter (three months), the employer is required to report these earnings to the Internal Revenue Service for Social Security purposes.

EASY MONEY--Sell The Southern Courier in Jackson, Ala. Call Roscoe Jones, 485-5257 in Meridian, Miss.

LOWNDES HEALTH PROGRAM--A vacancy has occurred on the board of the Comprehensive Health Program. The Lowndes County Christian Movement will hold a county-wide meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30, in the First Baptist Church, Hayneville, for the purpose of electing a person to replace D. Robert Smith.