



DR. KING GREETES FRIENDS IN MONTGOMERY

'Things Are Not Right In This Country'--King

BY V. ENGLISH, B. WILCOX, AND B. LABAREE
MONTGOMERY, Ala.--"Things are not right in this country," the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. told a quiet audience of about 70 people in the Maggie St. Baptist Church.

The SCLC president described an "America which has lost its sense of direction; an America which has no sense of priorities; an America which will spend one-half million dollars to kill every Viet Cong, and \$53 to help every person in poverty."

As he spoke here last Friday, Dr. King was tired and hoarse from two days of rallies in Mississippi, Birmingham, and Selma. He was seeking support--in money and people--for SCLC's planned poor people's protest in the nation's capital.

Chairman of New Party Urges Support of LBJ

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
MONTGOMERY, Ala.--"I don't believe we're a bunch of rinky-dinks," Alvis Howard Jr. said last Saturday in a meeting of his National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDP).

Howard was explaining the purposes of the new party, one of two set up to put the national Democratic presidential nominee on the Alabama ballot next November. He said the party would also run candidates for state and local offices, and would send a delegation to challenge the regular state party at the Democratic National Convention.

"Too long has the national party gone along with local politics because it was expedient to do so," said Howard, who is chairman of the NDP.

The NDP convention delegation will probably be opposed by a regular party group controlled by independent presidential candidate George C. Wallace.

"(The convention) is going to have to make that choice," said Howard. "It could have a profound effect on the national election."

Selective-Buying Drive Threatened in Greene

People Ask Prisoner's Release

BY JIM PEPLER
EUTAW, Ala.--Greene County Negroes have threatened to begin a selective-buying campaign if Johnny Coleman--a Negro charged with murdering a white man--is not released from jail.

At a mass meeting last Monday night, the Rev. William M. Branch asked for and got many signatures on a petition asking county officials to set Coleman free.

Coleman was convicted and sentenced to death in 1962, but the U. S. Supreme Court threw out the conviction last October.

A judge in Montgomery ordered Coleman released from Kilby Prison's "death row" last month, but as Coleman left the prison, he was re-arrested by Sheriff Bill Lee. Coleman is now in the Greene County Jail, and the state plans to try him again on the murder charge.

The petition asked county officials to free Coleman, because his conviction was based on circumstantial evidence. "It is in your hand to free Johnny Coleman, according to due process of law," the petition said.



REV. WILLIAM M. BRANCH

In Monday's meeting, Branch hinted at what would happen if the petition is not "respected."

"The economy of Eutaw depends largely on Negro patronage," he said. "If Negroes stay out of stores 90 days... the whites will have to go

"We are going to Washington to demand justice," said Dr. King. "We are going on the highways of the nation. When we reach Washington, someone is going to look out his window and ask, 'Where are they coming from? They seem to be a number that no man can count.'"

"And we will answer, 'Comin' up out of years of poverty.'" This protest will be different from the marches of the past, Dr. King said: "We are going to Washington to demand what is ours. We are going on to camp, to build shanties, to stay until something is done."

Last Friday was the first time in three years that Dr. King had been to Selma. Surrounding him on the speaker's platform in the Tabernacle Baptist Church were people who hadn't been together since King was last in town--during the time of the Selma-to-Montgomery march.

The group included Mrs. Amelia Boynton, the Rev. P. H. Lewis, the Rev. L. R. Harrison, the Rev. L. L. Anderson, SNCC project director Theophilus Smith, and SCLC state chairman Albert Turner.

Dr. King praised Anderson, who is running for mayor without the backing of the mostly-Negro Dallas County Voters League. "Negroes all over the United States--and many white people--would have hearts full of joy to see a Negro mayor of Selma," he said.

"I used to hear Jim Clark talk about what would happen over his dead body. I don't know if he's dead, but a lot has happened. Today I came in, and it was the black deputy sheriff who picked us up at the airport."

Dr. King's speech drew cheers and shouts from the audience in Selma Friday morning. The night before, a full house in Birmingham had heard him say:

"When there's massive unemployment in the black community, they call it a social problem. When there's massive unemployment in the white community, they call it a depression. Many poor people, Dr. King added, have "full-time jobs for part-time incomes."

"I wish I could give you more details (about the protest)," he concluded, "but I'm here to solicit your support. I want to know if you're going to Washington."

"YES!" was the answer.

Branch said the people are "standing up for Johnny Coleman, if it means we have to go from here to anywhere else to get what we need to buy."

The minister said the people have the backing of "the unwanted (Stokely Carmichael and Rap Brown)," "the pronounced and renowned (the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.)," and others--"but most of all, ourselves."

"This is one time there's liable to be bloodshed," Branch said. "If any Negro violates our laws, let's whip the devil out of him."

"We thought in 1965 we would get our freedom that summer," added the Rev. Thomas E. Gilmore. "Well, let's get our freedom this summer."

Then the meeting turned to politics. "We need black people to run for every office there is, all over the U.S.," said the Rev. Richard Boone of Montgomery, the guest speaker.

"People say, 'Y'all can't do this, 'cause yo' black,'" Boone told about 150 listeners. "But a thousand years before white Europeans were able to blow their nose, there were black civilizations in

Africa."

ASTA Sues to Stop New Auburn Branch

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
MONTGOMERY, Ala.--The Alabama State Teachers Association has challenged the state's right to build a four-year branch of Auburn University in Montgomery.

In a federal-court suit filed late Wednesday, the Negro teachers group charged that construction of the new college is "a legislative plan to perpetuate a dual system of education based on race."

The ASTA suit points out that Montgomery already has a four-year institution of higher learning--mostly-Negro Alabama State College.

The "sole purpose" for building another college "is to continue the state's official policy of denying to Negro citizens of Alabama a quality education," the suit contends.

It says the state is "arbitrarily and discriminatorily denying adequate financial support" to Alabama State College, "while at the same time diverting funds to a predominately-white school (Auburn)."

Last summer, the Legislature passed a law authorizing a \$5,000,000 bond issue to pay for construction of the new school, and for its first year of operation.

The suit asks the federal court to de-



JOE L. REED

clare that law "unconstitutional," and to prevent the state from building the college.

Besides violating the Negroes' federal rights, the suit says, the Legislature ignored a section of the Alabama Constitution prohibiting the sale of bonds for a school's "current operating expenses."

The suit was filed by the ASTA, which has a membership of about 10,000 Negro teachers, and by five Negro citizens--including three Alabama State College students.

"If Alabama State College is unfit for whites, it is unfit for Negroes," charged Joe L. Reed, ASTA's executive secretary, at a press conference announcing the suit.

Reed also attacked Governor Lurleen B. Wallace's appointment of several Negro educators to an "advisory subcommittee" of Alabama's new, all-white Education Study Commission.

By her action, the governor suggested "that Negroes are unfit to serve on the main committee," Reed said. "(This) is repugnant to us as a people."

In addition, he said, the subcommittee "does not represent the rank and file of Negro education," since all but two of the members are college administrators.

Nevertheless, Reed said, the ASTA has "the utmost confidence" in the individual members of the subcommittee.

This week, some of the Negro appointees said they don't know what their job will be. "I don't have the least idea," said T. A. Lawson, president of Wenhatch State Junior College in Birmingham.

Lucious Smiley, director of Trenholm Trade School in Montgomery, said he was asked to join the subcommittee to give advice on vocational education--not to represent the state's Negro citizens.

But he agreed that Negro educators probably know more than whites about the needs of Negro students, and said he will "definitely" try to tell the commission what those needs are.

Should Negroes be members of the regular commission, instead of just a subcommittee? "That's water over the dam," said Levi Watkins, president of Alabama State College in Montgomery.

But, he added, "it would have been nice to have some Negroes on there. If we're going to look at educational needs across the board, it should be a bi-racial committee."

Will the Negro subcommittee raise questions about school integration and the division of state money between white and Negro schools? "Those are current issues," said Leon Kennedy, a Birmingham school-teacher. "But I don't know yet what we will be doing."

Miss. Shootings

HATTIESBURG, Miss.--Shots were fired into the homes of two civil rights leaders here last Tuesday morning.

The Rev. J. C. Killingsworth, head of the Forrest County Action Committee, said he and his family were awakened by the noise. But Dr. C. E. Smith, president of the local NAACP, said his household slept through the shooting. No one was injured.

Local police and the FBI are investigating the incident. "It was nothing out of the ordinary," said one city detective. "It's happened before in different places."

Tuskegee Students Tell Of Deaths in Carolina

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"I saw one of the bodies," said Warren Hamilton. "He had been shot in the chest and the back. Another boy's back was almost blown out."

Hamilton, president of the Tuskegee Institute Student Government Association, led a group of five students on a fact-finding visit last week to South Carolina State College in Orangeburg.

The Negro college was the scene of racial violence for several nights earlier this month, after students tried to enter a segregated bowling alley.

On Feb. 8, white policemen opened fire on a crowd of black students--killing three and wounding 40 others. Two of the dead youths were 18 years old. The third was a 17-year-old high school pupil.

The night after the shootings, Tuskegee Institute students held a street demonstration "to show people we were sincerely interested and affected," Hamilton said.

But at an angry meeting after the demonstration, several students said they wanted to do more. They agreed to investigate the killings--and to send their findings to black campuses throughout the nation.

During their visit to South Carolina State, Hamilton said, the students discovered widespread distrust of official reports about the incident.

The police have claimed they shot in self-defense. But, said Hamilton, "we talked to eye-witnesses. They said people were shot as they were trying

The Kids From SHAPE



SELMA, Ala.--SHAPE (Self Help Against Poverty for Everybody), a mostly-Negro anti-poverty group, recently got a \$950 donation for the day-care center its members have been running for more than a year at St. Paul's AME Church in Selmont. But SHAPE workers said they need much more than that.

"We're still hoping to be funded (by the federal government)," said Mrs. Alonza West, a volunteer day-care worker, "so we can get some salaries for the people who work out here, and fix up the building." SHAPE has submitted an application for a \$250,000 Head Start program, but the proposal has not been approved.

Dallas County's mostly-white Equal Opportunity Board has also submitted a Head Start application. There is no Head Start at present.

The Rev. E. M. Bradford, SHAPE chairman, said some money will be used for gym equipment. "The ladies looked downtown yesterday," Bradford said. "They said a gym set would cost about \$44." The rest of the money, he said, will go for food for the children and other expenses.

"We've been running on whatever we can get--about \$15 a week," said one worker. Another volunteer, Mrs. Agatha Harville, added, "Sometimes we don't have that much--then we just go in somebody's garden."

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Table with 2 columns: City, Alabama and Phone Number. Lists various Alabama cities and their corresponding phone numbers.

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor: I am sending \$1 for three months paper. March, April, & May. I am sorry I can't take it for a year any more, because I don't have work. Work here is so hard to find for women my age 59. I have five in my family and I only work two days at \$5 and car fare.

into questions of disarmament and foreign policy, for I regarded the nuclear and military danger as being only periodically attended to by either colleagues or students, and I've stayed on this front even when the civil rights movement was at its height, and when I could get almost nobody to look at what was slowly beginning to happen in Viet Nam (or nuclear policy either).

Selma Man Turns Down Reinstatement by Coke

BY BETH WILCOX SELMA, Ala.--The Coca-Cola Bottling Company gave J. C. Scott a \$750 check for back pay last week, and offered to reinstate him in his old job. But Scott--who claims he was fired for his union activities--decided not to return to the Coke plant. "I'm not looking forward to going back," he explained.



SCOTT (LEFT), JENKINS (RIGHT)

Where Jesse Parham Disappeared

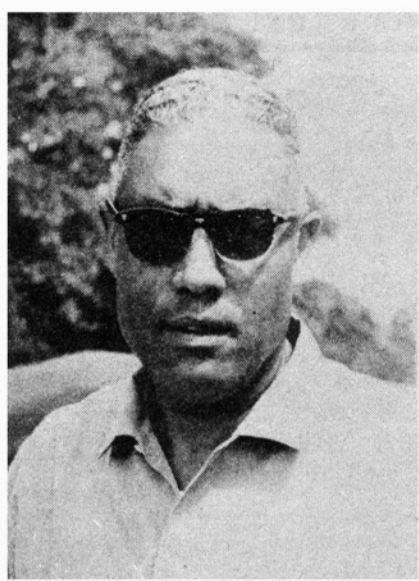
BY BOB LABAREE BESSEMER, Ala.--Last November, people in the Pipe Shop area of Bessemer were upset by the sudden disappearance of Jesse Parham and his family. Without a word to even his parents, the people say, Parham just left town, leaving everything but a few clothes behind.

Farmers Visited, Lose Case

Macon's 'Yield' Figures Studied

BY MARY ELLEN GALE TUSKEGEE, Ala.--What happened when four representatives of the national office of the U. S. Department of Agriculture visited Macon County last week?

According to Negro farmers, the USDA officials told the white men who run the county's federal farm programs to stop discriminating against black people. According to a member of the all-white county ASCS committee, the federal officials helped explain "rules and regulations" to the Negro farmers.



JAMES H. M. HENDERSON co-op (among Negro farmers) to get the yields up.

"We know the whole problem back of this thing is money," Henderson went on. "You can only do so much with a one-horse plow. The big land-owners irrigate their farms. No one's going to give Negro farmers credit to establish irrigation systems."

In Roosevelt City 1st Mayor Elected

BY BOB LABAREE ROOSEVELT CITY, Ala.-- Five months ago, Roosevelt City was incorporated as Jefferson County's 35th municipality. Except for one family, only Negroes live there.

Last week, Freddie C. Rogers--the owner of a popular night club in Fairfield--was elected mayor of the new city by a narrow margin in a run-off election. He defeated William M. Pruitt, the principal of Scott Elementary School, by 84 votes out of a total of 674.

Rogers said he, along with other Negroes in the area, felt that many important services had been neglected by the county authorities. The people petitioned several of the cities in the area to take them into their boundaries, Rogers recalled, but they all refused. So, he said, the Negroes started their own city.

BY MARY ELLEN GALE TUSKEGEE, Ala.--The Washington office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) has refused to throw out the results of last fall's farm elections in Macon County.

After a "careful and thorough review" of an appeal by five Negro farmers, the national ASCS office said, "the elections as held will be allowed to stand." In fact, the written ruling praised the county ASCS committee for using "reasonable judgment" in the conduct of the elections.

But Bob Valder, executive director of the Alabama Council on Human Relations, called the ASCS decision "three pages of nothing." Instead of investigating the complaint that white ASCS officials discriminated against Negro voters, the national office "just denied it," Valder said.

In their appeal, the Negro farmers charged the local ASCS officials--all white men--with several violations of federal law. The Negroes said the county committee ignored Negro voters, sought out white voters, and threw out Negroes' ballots without legal reasons. The result was "to once again prevent the honest election of a Negro county committee member" in mostly-Negro Macon County, the appeal charged.

But Ray Fitzgerald, a deputy administrator in the national ASCS office, said "the county office included all known eligible voters on the eligibility list." Since farms are always changing hands, he ruled, it is "virtually impos-

sible" to keep the list "completely up-to-date." "Some responsibility for obtaining a ballot must be assumed by the voters when they do not receive ballots with the regular mailing," Fitzgerald wrote.

And, he said, "there is no evidence to show that ASCS officials either solicited white voters who were not on the eligibility list...or solicited white eligibles who had not voted, to vote in an effort to benefit white candidates." At a hearing before the state ASCS committee last fall, the Negro farmers said they could not get direct evidence, since the ASCS records were not open to them. But they pointed out that there was a sudden surge of white votes in the last days of balloting.

Fitzgerald's letter also upheld the ASCS county committee's decision to invalidate several ballots from Negro farmers. One Negro farmer--James H. M. Henderson--said he spoke with a dozen Negro voters who didn't understand that they had to sign the ballot. But the national ASCS office ruled that the ballot contained "sufficient instructions."

As for 35 ballots discarded because of doubtful signatures, Fitzgerald said a handwriting expert had examined them. "We did not find a single case in which the county committee had disqualified a ballot which clearly should have been counted," the letter said.

The farmers' appeal pointed out that in each of the three contested community elections, the ASCS ballot listed the names of only three white candidates--and nine or ten Negroes. The farmers said local ASCS officials added Negro names to split the Negro vote. But the national ASCS office replied, "The election procedure does not prohibit the community or county committees from nominating minority group members, just because some are (also) nominated by petition.

"Procedures do place limitations on total nominees by the committees. These nominating procedures were complied with by the (ASCS) committees in Macon County."

Advertisement for 'RUBBER TALKING BUSINESS' and 'NECK SUE FOLKS AND HERS TOO' featuring a woman in a dress.

Mobile, Ala. A young Mobile man, Wilmer Scott, has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal of Honor after carrying four children out of a burning house. Scott was returning home from work Feb. 15,



MRS. PRUITT AND CHILDREN when his wife told him that Mrs. Mattie Pruitt's and Mrs. Bessie Edwards' children were trapped in the flames. He kicked down the door of the burning house, and carried the children out two at a time. "Thank God, just thank God," said Mrs. Pruitt when she learned her children were safe. Scott--an employee of Mobile Infirmary and the father of two children--said, "Somebody had to do it."

nah Youngblood; and 12th grade--Betty Barber and Mary D. Hampton. (From W. J. Adair)

Jackson, Miss. The U. S. Department of Justice filed a suit here last week, charging that the Franklin County school board is maintaining segregation by operating two 12-grade schools. Only seven of the county's 1,125 Negro students are attending the traditionally-white school, the suit said, and none of the 1,150 white students are attending the Negro school. High school classes in both schools "have too few students to meet generally acceptable educational standards," the government said, and the Negro school is inferior.

Troy, Ala. An office was opened here last month to sign up applicants for a food stamp program in Pike County. Since the office can only sign up 25 people a day, many applicants have been told to come back. On Feb. 7, 18 people were turned away at 8:15 a.m.--15 minutes after the start of business. William B. Carroll, head of the local welfare office, said he hopes food stamps can be issued by March 4. However, he said, "we will postpone this date if more people come than expected."

Chicago, Illinois John T. Connor, president of the Allied Chemical Corporation of New York, last week urged business leaders to support the colleges that belong to the United Negro College Fund. Connor told 700 leaders at a UNCF luncheon, "It is our job to persuade the white man that he needs the Negro, and all his gifts of spirit and mind. And we have to persuade the Negro that there is an honorable, dignified place for him in American society--and that he is most likely to reach it through channels of education."

Tuscaloosa, Ala. MacDonald Hughes, president of the Tuscaloosa City Teachers Association and principal of Druid High School, has been chosen to participate in a European study mission this spring. Hughes is the only Alabamian among the 25 educators selected by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. On the mission, the principals will study the education systems of Russia, Denmark, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Ireland, and England.

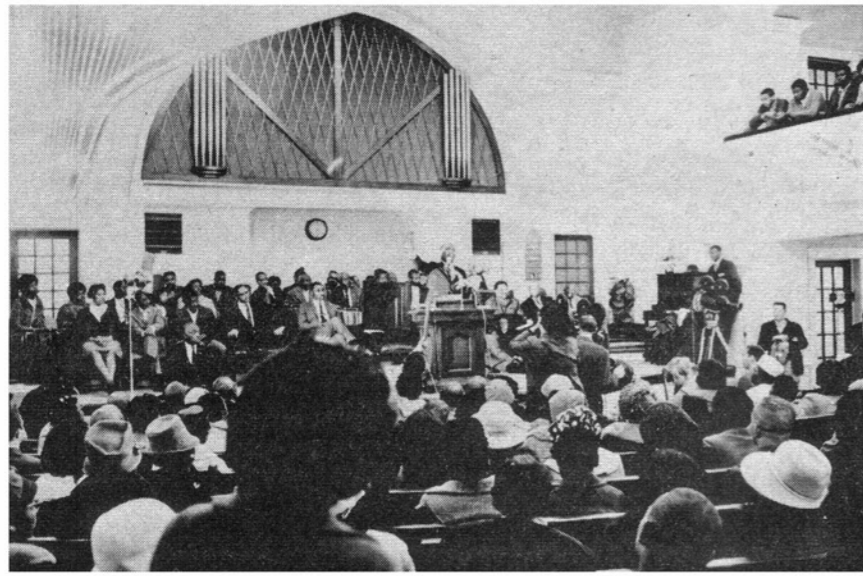
THE SOUTHERN COURIER welcomes letters on any subject. Letters must be signed, but your name will be withheld upon request.

Agreement in Bessemer

BY BOB LABAREE BESSEMER, Ala.--Last November, people in the Pipe Shop area of Bessemer were upset by the sudden disappearance of Jesse Parham and his family. Without a word to even his parents, the people say, Parham just left town, leaving everything but a few clothes behind.

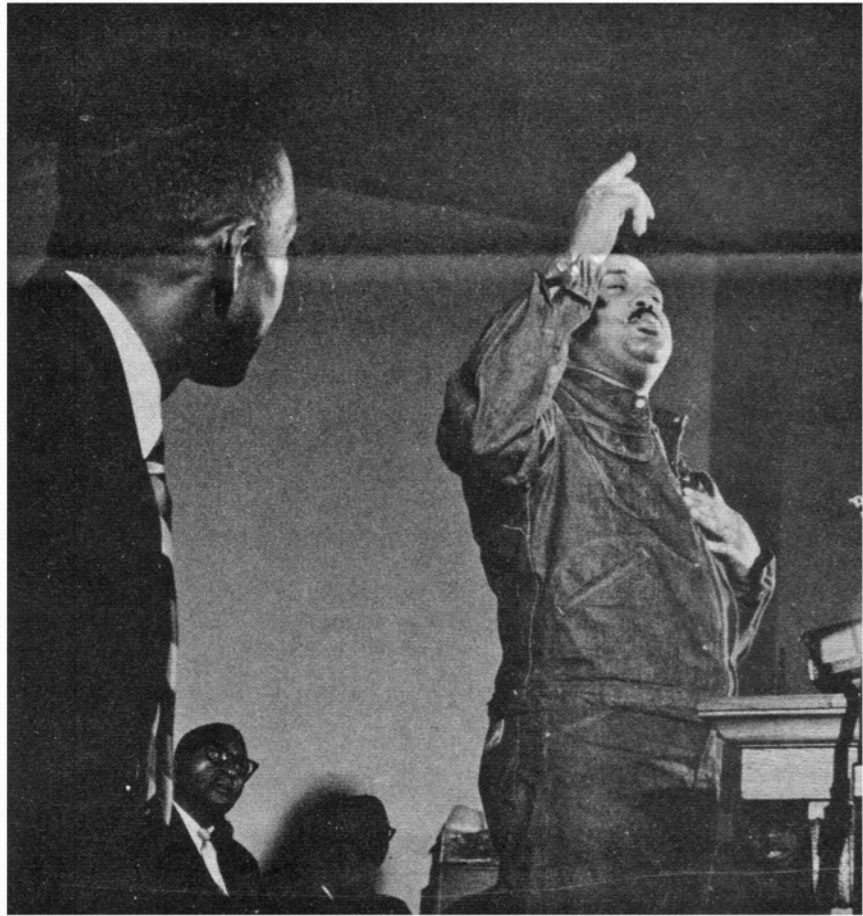
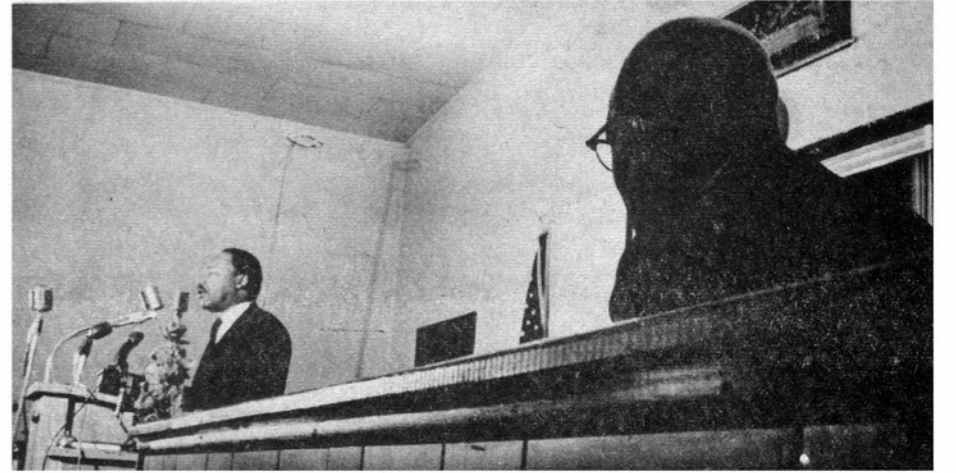
since the incident, fewer and fewer Negroes have been buying at Autry's store. Why? "Because of what he did to Jesse, and because they won't hire no colored," answered one woman. Then too, there were rumors that a white woman who had worked in the store as a cashier for many years had said she would never work next to a "nigger." Although the woman denied the rumor, Autry fired her a month ago, but still the Negroes were staying away.

survey earlier revealed that at least 50% of Autry's trade was with Negroes.) Two Negroes were hired immediately, Williams said--a stock clerk for 40 hours a week, and a cashier starting at 30 hours a week. "All jobs are permanent," said Williams. "And after this, any irregularity with the help will be taken up with the committee." Autry and his mother, who are co-proprietors of the store, refused to comment on the arrangement, but Williams said the owners were anxious to bargain. "He (Autry) said he lost \$1,000 a week over Christmas," said Williams. Williams said he isn't positive the Autrys will get all their business back, even after the news spreads about the agreement. "They (the people) haven't forgotten Jesse," Williams said. But, he said, "we think they ought to trade there. We want this to be a community store."



King & SCLC Tour Alabama

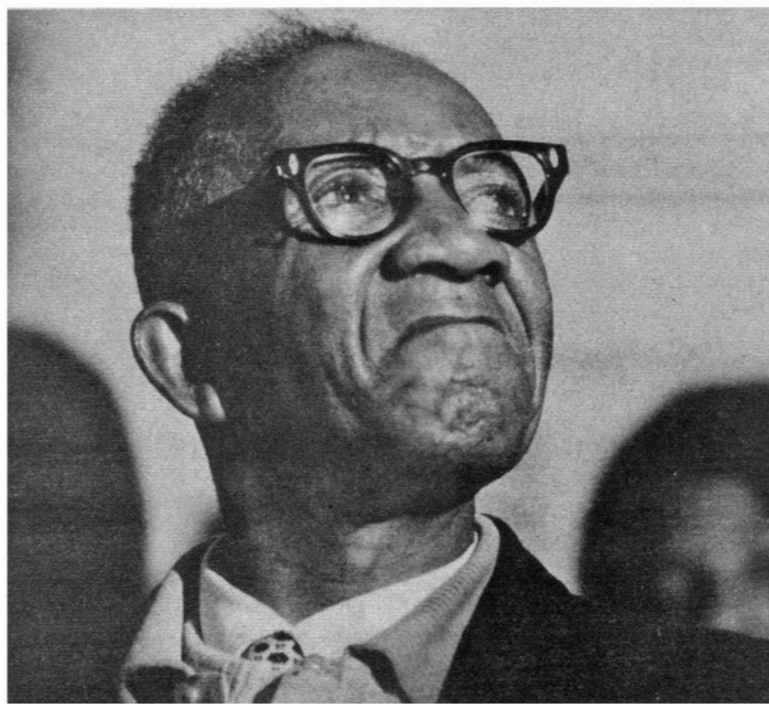
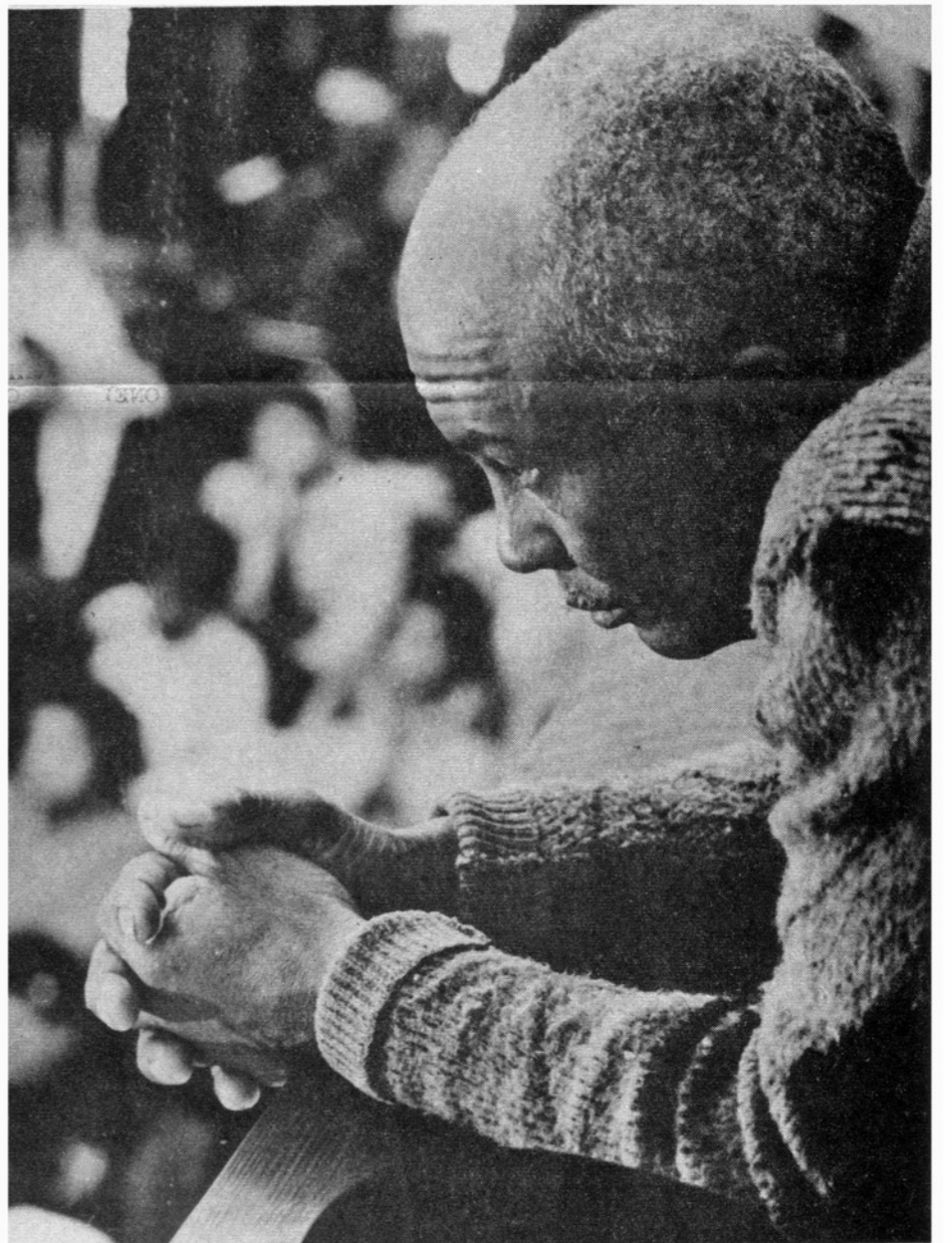
Rallying Support For Poor People's Stay In Washington



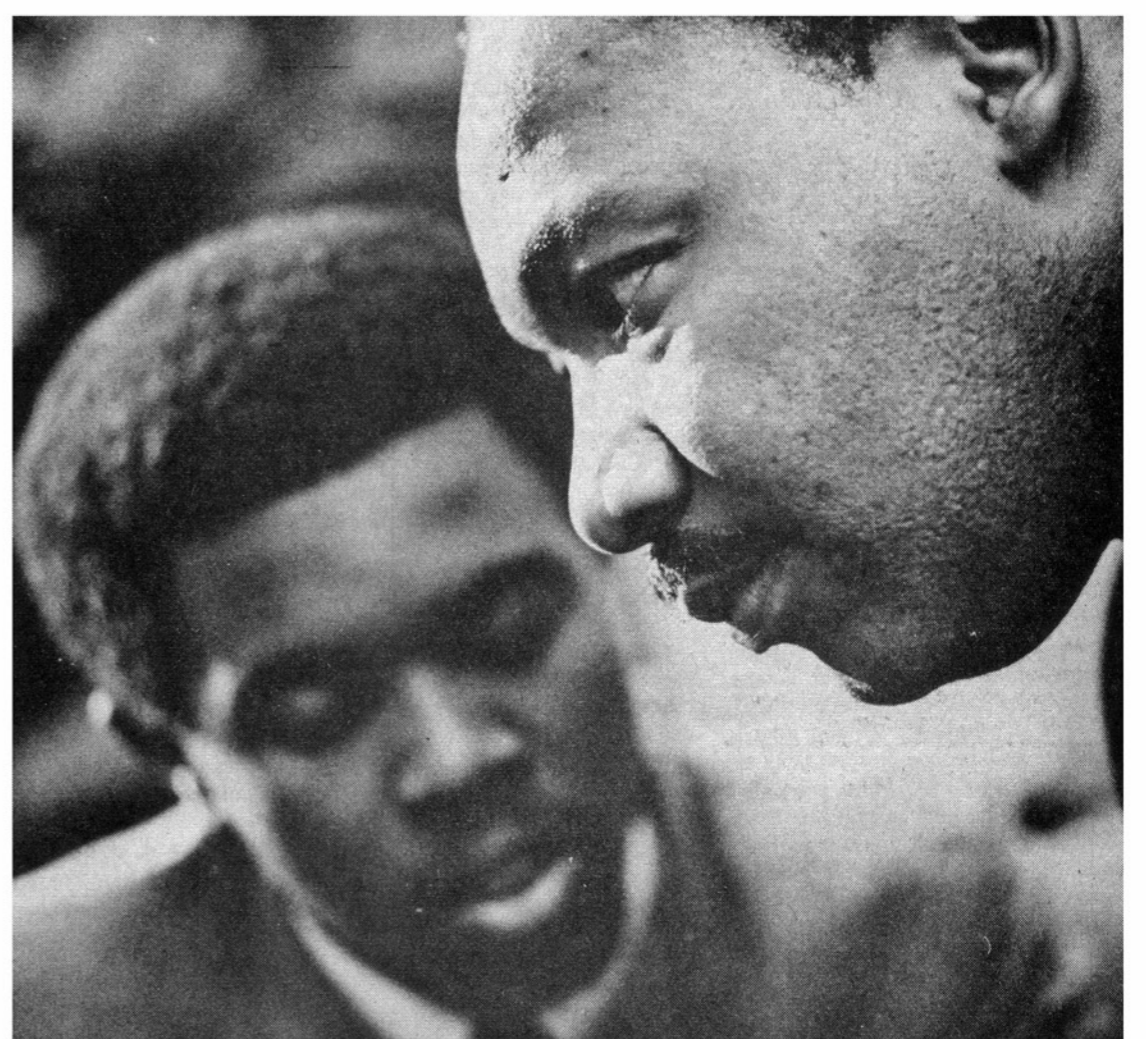
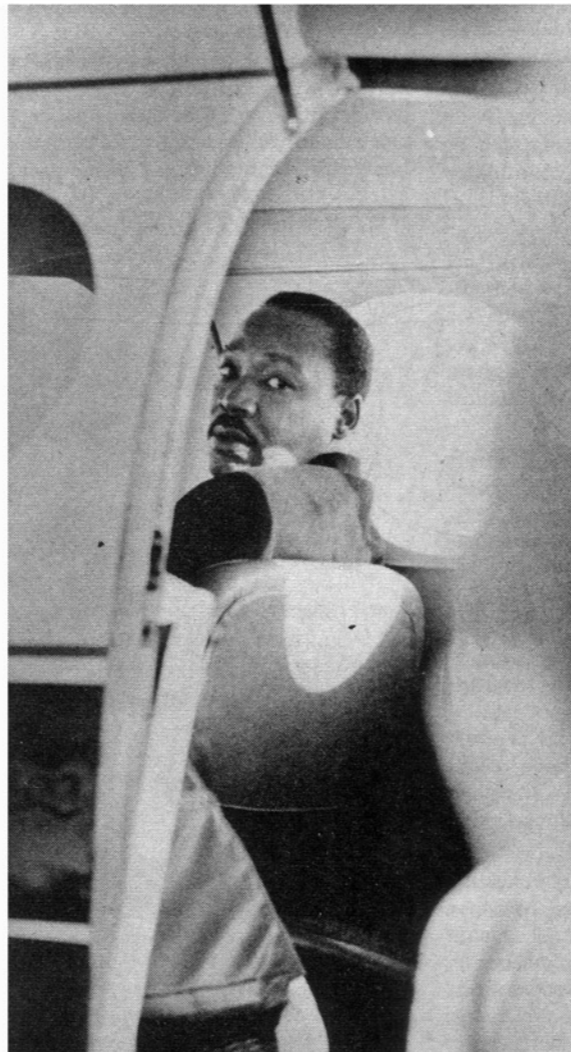
Last weekend, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. toured Alabama, seeking support for SCLC's campaign to lead "waves of the nation's poor and disinherited" to Washington, D. C., on April 7.

This campaign is "NOT a march," says SCLC. "We will go there, we will demand to be heard, and we will stay until America responds."

Dr. King said he hopes to start the campaign with 3,000 poor people from ten cities and five rural states. The objective: "Poverty will no longer be a secret--it will be a visible fact."



Photos by Jim Pepler



Macon Kids Eat 3 Meals a Day

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY MARY ELLEN GALE
TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"That's my pineapple," said the little girl. She handed it up to an adult visitor, waited a moment, and then asked for it back.

A few moments later, she clambered onto a tricycle and went whizzing around the room. Like the other children at the day-care center in Greater St. Mark's Baptist Church, she seemed happy and healthy.

But she wasn't always like that. When the Macon County Community Action Program opened its three day-care centers 18 months ago, staff workers discovered that most of the children needed medical attention.

"They came with sores so bad that you had to grease their stockings to get them off," recalled Mrs. Irene Wilson, director of the day-care centers.

The children got the treatment they needed. And they also began eating three meals a day--in most cases, for the first time in their lives.

The 90 children enrolled in Macon County's day-care centers are even younger than Head Start children. Most are between 2 1/2 and 4 years old. They come from poor families who need to work during the day--but can't find anyone to take care of their children.

For instance, said Mrs. Mary Turner, a teacher at the St. Mark's center, one little boy's mother earns just \$10 a week. "She was paying a lady \$3 a week to keep him," Mrs. Turner said.

When the boy first came to the day-care center, he was afraid of children, his age. "Now he's part of a group," she said. "He can run and play along with the others."

But the day-care centers are more than a baby-sitting service. "We teach them indirectly," said Mrs. Turner. For example, she said, "they're discovering numbers by playing with domi-

noes."

They also make finger-paintings and clay-modelings. They go on nature walks and bring back whatever they find--grasshoppers, a turtle, stones, wild-flowers.

The little girl's pineapple was used for an informal lesson last week. While the children clustered around, Mrs. Turner cut it up and gave each of them a piece to taste.

The children ate the pineapple with their fingers. But their regular meals at the day-care center are also a lesson in table manners.

And the kids, in turn, are teaching their parents. "One lady told me, 'When we sold our first cotton, the first thing I did was buy some spoons,'" Mrs. Turner said.

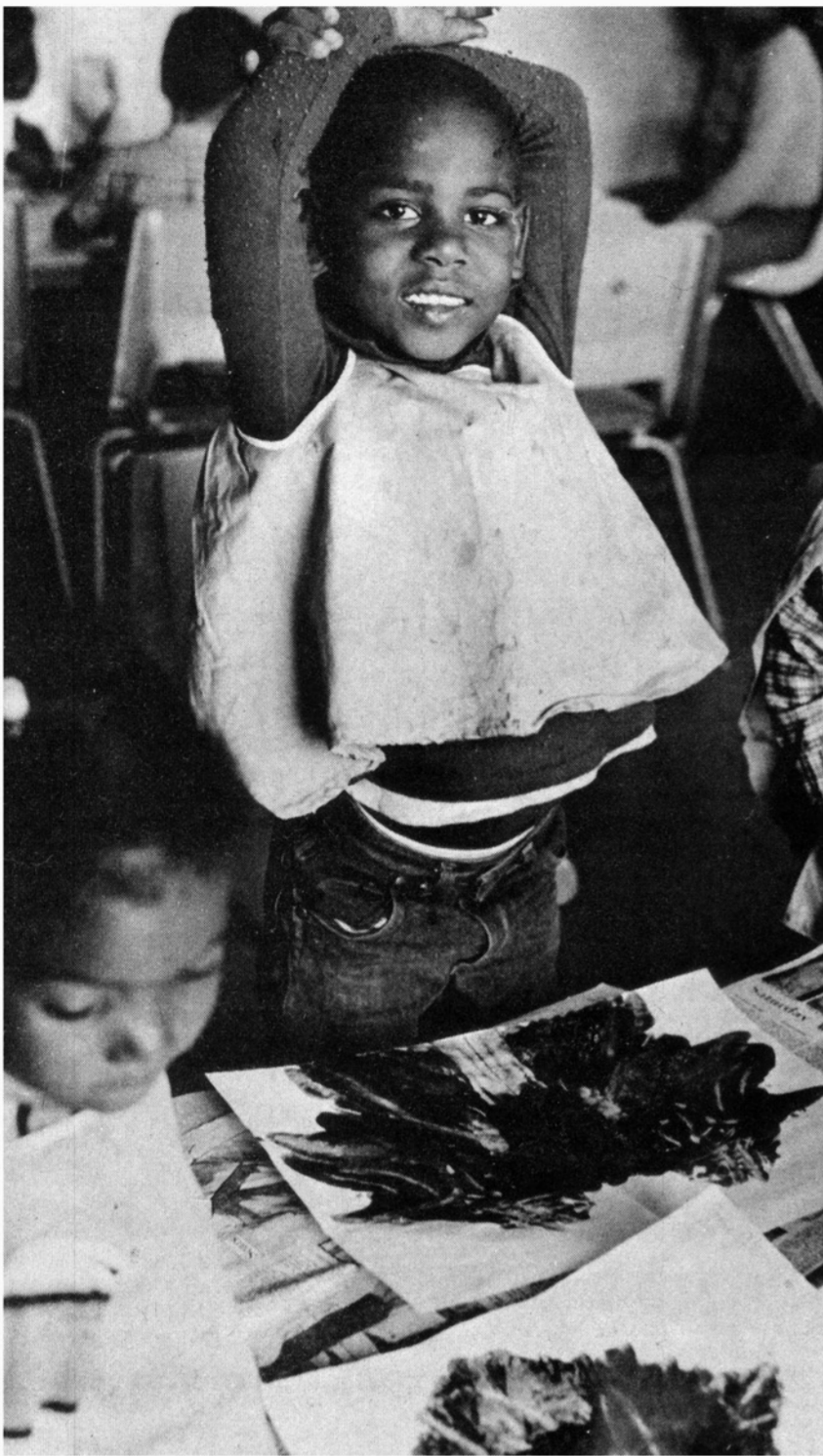
Macon County is 85% Negro, and so are the day-care centers. Only four white children have enrolled.

Mrs. Wilson said they get along fine, except for occasional squabbles that have nothing to do with race relations. For example, she said, one white child grabbed a tricycle away from a Negro child.

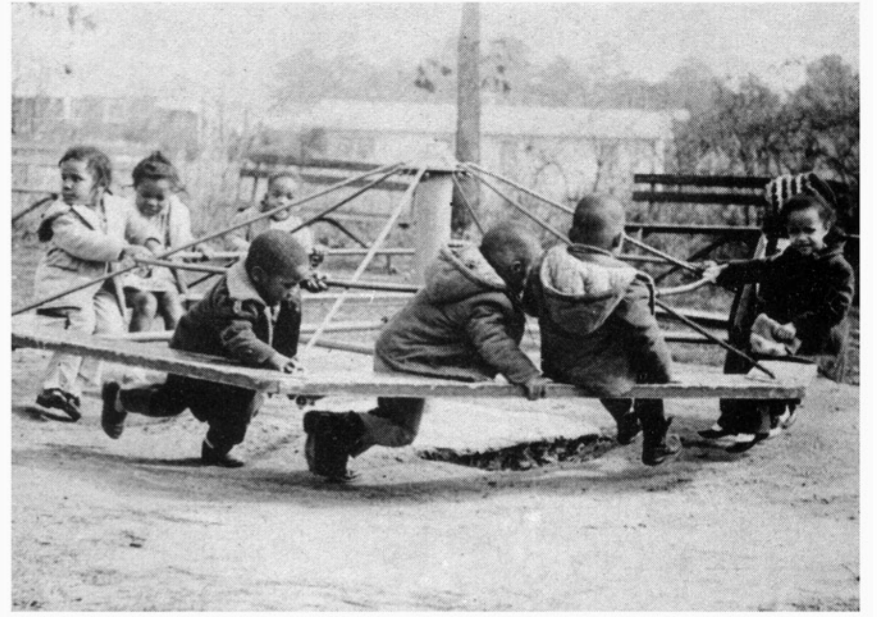
"The next day (the white boy) told his mother there wasn't going to be any school, because the school-house had burned down," Mrs. Wilson said. "He just didn't want to face the other boy. But he did, and now he's learning to share with other children."

The day-care program's buses travel about 300 miles a day, carrying children from all over the county to the centers in Tuskegee.

"The sad part about it is we can only take one or two out of each little community," Mrs. Wilson said. "If we had centers out there--but I guess that's just wishful thinking." She said the program has more than 200 children on its waiting list.



FINGER-PAINTING



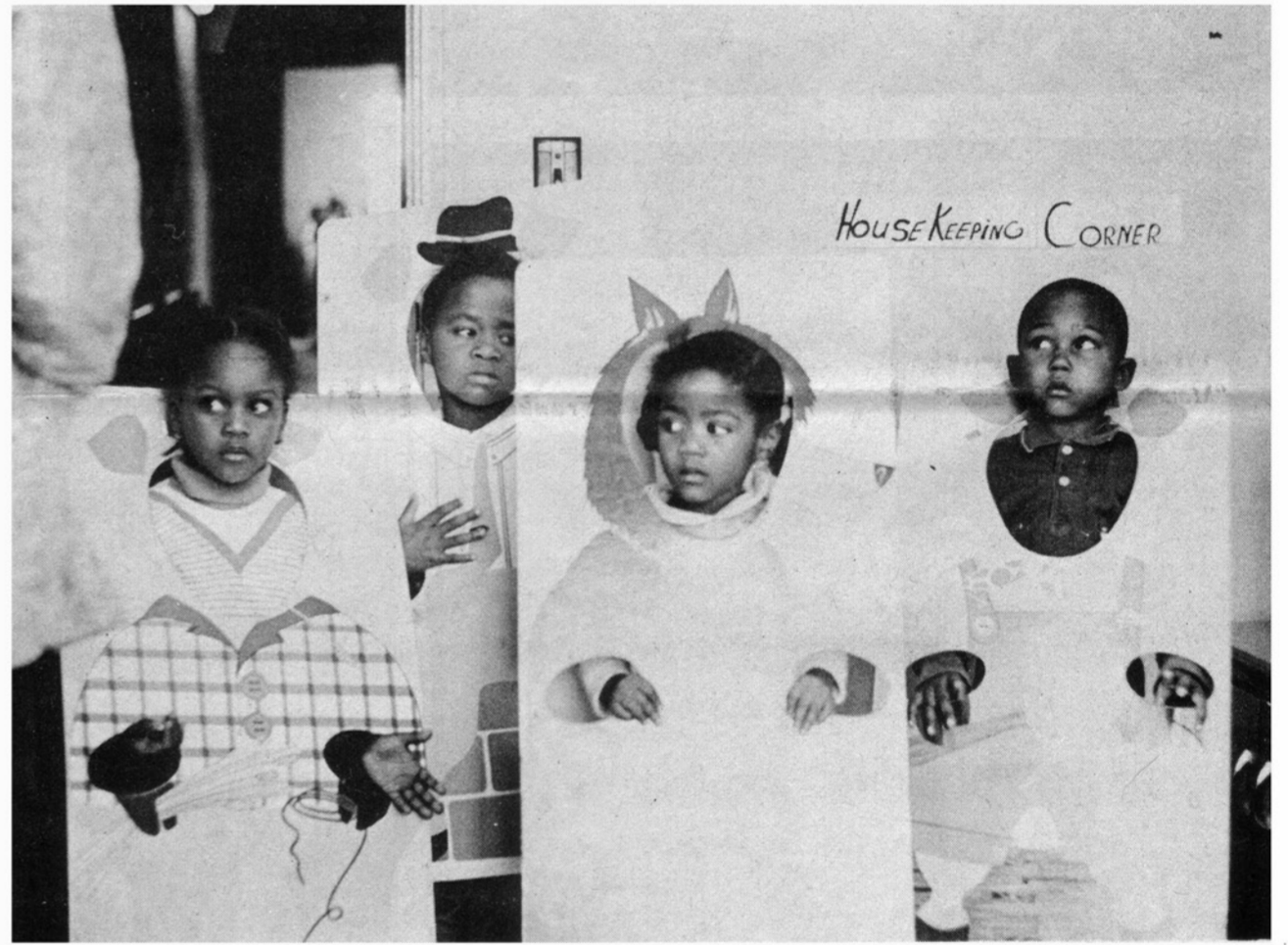
PLAYING OUTSIDE ST. MARK'S



HOT FOOD FOR LUNCH



LEARNING WHAT PINEAPPLE TASTES LIKE



GETTING READY TO ACT OUT A STORY

Alabama Minister Leaves to Work in Watts

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
TUSKEGEE, Ala.--The Rev. Robert Smith preached his first sermon at the Riverside Park Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, on a quiet Sunday morning almost nine years ago. Only 13 people showed up to hear him.

By the time Smith left Indianapolis in late 1965, the Riverside Park Church was a center for community action--and a recognized political force.

Its 400 members--nearly all of them black people with low-income jobs--were running their own anti-poverty program. They had organized baseball teams for high-school youths, birth-control clinics, a pre-school program like Head Start, and several other projects.

Smith was president of a civic league which registered hundreds of voters, and organized them block by block. Then, Smith recalled, "We went down to City Hall and rapped on their doors."

As a result, the Riverside Park area got new playgrounds and street lights, better garbage pickup, and more street-cleaning. As Smith explains it, the city officials "had come to see us as a pretty significant political factor. They listened to what we had to say."

When Smith ran for the Indianapolis school board in 1964, he received 22,000 votes--just a couple thousand

short of the number needed for election. In the fall of 1965, Smith came to Tuskegee Institute as director of religious extension. For the last 18 months he has been trying to promote his ideas about the church's role in the community among rural ministers in the Black Belt.

"We've been using Bible study as bait to teach community organizing," said Smith. "We've been trying to teach ministers how they can lead the congregation, and get the church involved in the community to meet human needs."

In addition, he has helped develop new civic groups--like the recently-formed West Macon Improvement Association--to concentrate on grass-roots organizing among Negro farm families.

And he has tried to get Black Belt farmers to see the church as an ally in their struggle for a better life.

"If all the people want (from their ministers) is whooping and hollering, that's what they'll get," Smith said. "If they begin demanding something else--community leadership--they'll get that."

In an effort to improve race relations--and to create an "ecumenical dialogue"--Smith organized meetings of black and white ministers from several counties in Alabama.

The most successful conference--held in Montgomery--attracted 75 ministers and laymen, including some white students from Huntingdon College.

But early this month, Smith left Tuskegee Institute to become pastor of St. John's Methodist Church in Los Angeles, California--at 105th St. and Santa Ana Blvd. in the center of Watts.

Smith said the church is just two blocks away from "Charcoal Alley No.

1"--103rd St.--where violence flared during the long, hot summer of 1965. "They don't call it a riot in Watts--they call it a revolution," he noted.

"Two years ago, in an effort to respond to what people are saying by rioting, a lot of programs moved in--public welfare, social services, a wide variety of OEO (federal anti-poverty) projects.

"But the churches have not yet begun to move in. Now, the Methodist Church wishes to do a special type of ministry to the people in the Watts area."

Smith said he has no "preconceived ideas" about what that ministry will be. But he talked about "effective community organization for development of a significant power base." "We're not interested in any band-aid treatment which smacks of welfare colonialism," he said.

"The Methodist Church is definitely interested that church leaders establish communication with black-power leaders in the area. We can't pretend they're not there."

Instead of telling people what they ought to want, Smith thinks the church should "listen to what THEY want." Since November, he said, a committee of church members has been "exploring community problems and needs," and a full-time worker has been "doing door-to-door work--kind of a hang-out ministry to get the feel of things, what people are saying."

Once Smith and his new congregation have studied their problems, he hopes to begin work on "a tight block organization that will give people a chance to express themselves, and become a potential political threat"--much as his civic league did in Indianapolis.

"The threat Watts is using now is, 'We'll riot,'" Smith said. "Let's try it another way."

"I'm not saying another riot might not be necessary. I'm not advocating riots--but if Los Angeles won't listen any other way..."

Any effective community organization in Watts will have to be "highly disciplined," Smith said. "If people just run out to the home of a slum landlord with their garbage, these people can get killed off."

Smith said he 's leaving Tuskegee In-

stitute because he wants to get back to "personal ministry" and because Watts is a challenge to the church.

But he claimed that "direct-action tactics" can work in the rural South as well as in big cities. "Numbers are the Black Belt's greatest asset," he said. "But people have been disfranchised in many ways--socially, politically, economically."

"The question is, how do you begin to get people involved in community organization when they live so far from each other, and are accustomed

to the sharecropper system--and when, in too many areas, leaders are reluctant to rock the boat?"

One answer, he said, is "umbrella" organizations--like the new South East Alabama Self Help Association (SEASHA), which spreads over 12 counties. "That way you don't have 50 different groups, running off in different directions saying (about each other), 'We have the answer--they're no good.'"

But Smith also said local groups won't get anywhere until they "analyze the power structure."

"Take Birmingham," he said. "The people who could really bring about change are not living there. They're in New York, Massachusetts, and California--on the boards of the big industries and investment companies."

He noted that Tuskegee Institute recently received a "nice grant" to study race relations. "We've studied this stuff to death," he said. "Instead, we should study who controls Black Belt Alabama--find out who owns the land and industry."

National civil rights groups like the NAACP and the Urban League are "going to have to get off their high horses and get with it, to help people get what they need," Smith added. "The NAACP knows where the pressure points are. It should start pressing."

In Alabama, Smith said, "Tuskegee Institute is at a particularly strategic position in terms of helping people use their power--especially the ballot--to force change."

"By bringing people here for civic education," he said, "Tuskegee could determine the way elections go" in many counties.



REV. ROBERT SMITH

In Bullock School Vote

Strange Ways of White Folks

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

UNION SPRINGS, Ala.--Negro leaders in Bullock County were shaking their heads this week over the strange ways of white people.

"Every once in a while they think they need us, so they call on us," said Clinton Thornton, president of the all-Negro Bullock County Improvement Association.

In particular, he said, the white members of the Bullock County Board of Education called on Negro voters to help pass a five-mill school tax.

When the board members spoke about the tax referendum at Negro PTA's, said H. O. Williams, another Negro leader, "they even sent buses to haul people to the schoolhouse and back."

The reason, he said, was that many white people "are just not going to support a property tax. They figured since the Negroes didn't own much property, they would."

And, said Williams, the school board was right. In last Tuesday's election, Bullock County residents voted by a 3-to-1 margin to renew the five-year-old tax for another five years.

About 60% of the county's registered voters are Negroes, said Williams, and "they made all the difference."

But, he went on, the same elected officials who solicited Negro votes for the school tax have tried to discourage Negroes from getting into politics themselves.

Rufus C. Huffman, a Negro teacher, came close to winning the race for county tax assessor in the May, 1966,

Democratic primary, Williams recalled.

Since then, he said, the school board has ruled that any teacher who runs for public office will have to resign.

"It's aimed at the teachers," Williams said, "but it's scaring everybody." When the Negro civic association tried to persuade a school bus driver to become a candidate this spring, Williams said the man replied, "Not me. I plan to keep my job."

R. E. L. Cope Sr., chairman of the school board, said "the tax is for the benefit of all the schools in the county. We asked everyone to vote for it."

Although the Negro votes helped, he added, there were plenty of white votes for the measure. "There's some anti-public-school sentiment in this county," he said, "but it's not too widespread."

As for the rule against teachers running for office, Cope said it has an "obvious purpose." "Teaching is a full-time job," he said, "if a man is going

to devote the months of March, April, and May to a political campaign, he's not going to have his mind on his job or be performing his duty."

Cope conceded that Huffman's campaign led the board to write the new rule. "We never had occasion to consider it before," he said. "He was the first teacher to run for office."

But the school board chairman pointed out, "we didn't adopt the rule (during Huffman's campaign) because it would have been manifestly unfair. We waited until afterward."

And Cope denied that the rule is meant to intimidate potential Negro candidates. He said it applies equally to white

teachers.

"There's no reason a candidate shouldn't resign," Cope added. "I assume he could get back into teaching later if he wanted to."

Tuskegee Choir Sings

The Montgomery Tuskegee Alumni Club will sponsor a concert by the Tuskegee Institute Choir at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, in the City Auditorium, Montgomery, Ala. Admission will be 50¢ for students, \$1 for adults.



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.

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.

CERAMIC SHOW--The Ceramic Hobbyists Guild of Greater Birmingham, Ala., will sponsor a ceramic show Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 24 and 25, in the Industrial Arts Building on the State Fair Grounds. Anyone may enter the show competition, but only pieces made of clay or glass will be accepted. Entries will be received in the Industrial Arts Building from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, and will be judged Friday, Feb. 23. The show will be open to the public from 1 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

PHOTOGRAPHERS--The Southern Courier is now accepting applications for the position of staff photographer. Candidates should be willing and able to travel. They should have a driver's license, imagination, and ambition. Experience will be considered, but it is not a necessity. Salary: \$30 a week plus expenses. Write to Jim Pepper, The Southern Courier, 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104.

CERAMIC EXHIBIT--The public is invited to view the ceramic works of Amos White, a graduate of Alabama State College. The exhibition is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until Feb. 28, in Kilby Hall, Alabama State College, Montgomery, Ala.

WILCOX COUNTY NAACP--There will be a special meeting of the Wilcox County NAACP at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, in the Pleasant View Baptist Church in Lower Peachtree, Ala. The main item on the agenda is appointing committees for 1968. All members and prospective members are urged to be present and on time. Mrs. Leroy Randolph, president.

SPARE-TIME INCOME--Write orders for hosiery. Earn up to \$10 an hour servicing racks in stores. Recruit other agents (easily done by mail), and receive up to \$2 for each \$5 they earn. Franchise, complete outfit provided. NO FEE. Write Joe N. Ross Jr., Agent Manager, 101 University Blvd., Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35401.

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Montgomery invite you to their weekly fireside at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at 3222 Santee Dr. in Montgomery. For transportation, call 265-4394. Meet Baha'u'llah.

ALL TEACHERS--The Association of Classroom Teachers of the Alabama State Teachers Association is in the process of selecting the administrator of the year. Any teachers who would like to submit their principal for this honor should base their selection on the following criteria: personal characteristics, principles of management, community relationships, and professional attitudes. Letters of recommendation should be post-marked no later than March 6, and mailed to Mrs. Catherine W. Caswell, 643 Oak St., Montgomery, Ala. 36108.

KING'S CAMPAIGN--All people interested in the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s anti-poverty campaign are invited to come to a state-wide meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, in the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Selma, Ala.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--"Mind" is the subject of the Bible lesson to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, Feb. 25. Golden Text for the lesson is taken from Romans: "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26, in the St. Luke A.M.E. Church, 2817 21st Ave. N., the Rev. A. W. Thomas, pastor.

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Dothan Edges Quincy Folks Act After Fatal Fire

In a Battle of Lions

BY VICTORIA ENGLISH
 DOTHAN, Ala.-- The Carver High School Lions of Dothan proved last week that they can roar louder than any cats from out of state.

The Quincy, Fla., Lions came 80 miles Feb. 13 to play a basketball game here with the Carver Lions. Both schools had already put away 20 wins this season. But when the game was over, the visiting Lions had been de-whiskered by a score of 73 to 66.

Ron Anderson of Quincy opened the scoring with a basket from outside the key. But the home team struggled to a three-point lead, by driving around the Quincy defenders. "We're gonna beat, beat, beat down in our hearts," chanted the Dothan fans.

By half-time, though, the Carver supporters were quieter. Their Lions had fallen behind, 40 to 37. Dothan's Eugene Curry ended the half with a desperate pass that wound up in the rafters.

In the third period, Carver could not quite solve Quincy's zone press defense, and Dothan's lay-ups were not going in. It took six tries before Curry finally made a shot that bounced on the rim and wobbled through the hoop. But Henry Collins' rebounding kept Carver in the game.

And in the final period, Roger May of Quincy got the visitors off to a bad start with a broken dribble. From then on,

Carver could not be stopped. With six minutes left, Carver's Mazie Miller put the home team into a 63-61 lead. Carver started stalling, and the Quincy defense began making costly mistakes.

Two points by Harold Johnson and two baskets by Curry padded the Carver margin. Miller topped the scoring for the evening, with 27 points.

112 Points!

BY T. C. GREEN
 MACON, Miss.-- The Liddell High School junior varsity took the heart out of the Moor High JV's on Valentine's Day. Liddell spanked Moor, 112 to 59.

After Liddell passed 99 points, its baskets could not be registered on the score-board. But the boys received a standing ovation for the points that wouldn't fit on the clock.

The honor of busting the clock--scoring the 100th point--went to Ernest Taylor. He also poured in 19 other points, for a total of 20.

Others in the Liddell scoring stampede were Bobbie C. Foote with 18 points, J. B. Clemons with 21, Roosevelt Mitchell with 22, and Tommy James Sykes with 24.



BY JOHN SISSON

CLEVELAND, Miss.-- A group of people from Cleveland's mostly-Negro South End met last week to discuss building a nursery center in the community. A notice for the meeting announced that "during to accidents that has happen in our community recently we the citizens of the South End has decided to wake up and take action."

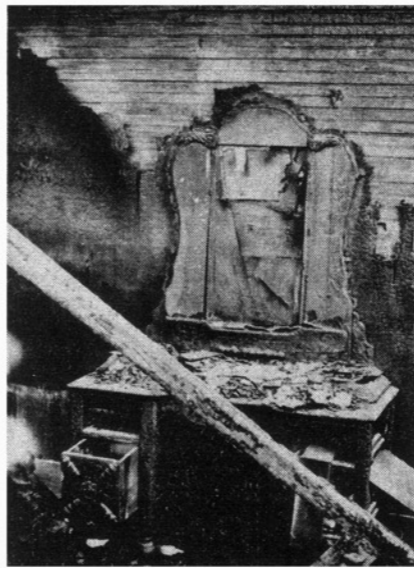
The accident that woke up the community was a fire that killed two Negro children and badly burned their baby brother last Feb. 2.

Mrs. Daisy Lee Booker was at work when the fire swept through her three-room "shotgun" house and killed her children. She had left her three youngest children in the care of her oldest child, 10-year-old Leon Booker, but Leon had gone to a nearby grocery to get some orange juice when the fire broke out.

Larry Norton, a neighbor, recalled that he heard "a lady outback hollering about a house on fire and kids inside." When Norton ran to help, he said, no one had gone into the house. So, Norton said, he and another man broke a window and went in.

They found the nine-month-old baby in the front room, and the other man carried him out. But, said Norton, "I couldn't get in the middle room--there was too much smoke."

When William Bell--a youth who teaches at the Beloit Tutoring Center in Cleveland--arrived at the scene, he said last week, the fire department was already there. Carl Booker, 2, and Greg, 4, were still in the house. "Everybody was saying there was two kids in the house," Bell recalled, "but didn't nobody try to go inside. They (the firemen) tried to prevent anybody else from going inside."



AFTER THE FIRE

But Norton said "it wouldn't make sense for anybody to go in at that stage, because the fire was too far gone." Bell --who helped bring the bodies of the two children out after the fire was brought

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.

Mobile Head Start Opens After Message From OEO

BY JONATHAN GORDON
 MOBILE, Ala.--Mobile's Head Start program went back into operation last Monday, after shutting down for two weeks because of lack of funds.

The Mobile Area Community Action Committee (MACAC) was supposed to take over the program the first of the year, with a new grant from the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen's anti-poverty group was to be the delegate agency, under MACAC.

However, said MACAC Director Norman Davis, last fall's controversy over who should run Head Start delayed the application for this year's program. "We couldn't prepare an application for funds until we knew who was running the program," said Davis. He said the application was finally submitted in January.

During the last two weeks in January, Head Start employees worked without salary. But on Feb. 3--with no word about the new grant--the program had to shut down.

of OEO, it usually takes 90 days to process and approve a Head Start application, and at least another two weeks for the grant to be paid.

But, OEO said, a telegram was sent to MACAC this week, authorizing the group to borrow money and re-open the program. The Atlanta office said the new grant for Head Start should arrive within a month.

Until then, said Davis, "we've got to come up with money on a day-to-day operation."

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under control--agreed that "people don't put too much blame on the fire department."

Some people say the real problem is the lack of day-care facilities for the children of working mothers. Mrs. Booker--who earns \$30 a week as a maid--had been having a girl stay with the children during the day. But, she said, "It's real hard to get someone to keep the children."

"We need to build up the community," said Ernest Smith, a Negro store-owner who is leading the drive to build a nursery center. "We need to put restrictions on parents. No children should be left alone."

"I think it's some our fault," he added. "You can't wait on people and let things go by."

Although there were only 15 people at the meeting on Feb. 14, Smith said, volunteers are going to get out and work the neighborhood. He estimated that the land and building for the center will cost around \$13,000, and said he hopes it can be completed by the end of 1969.

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