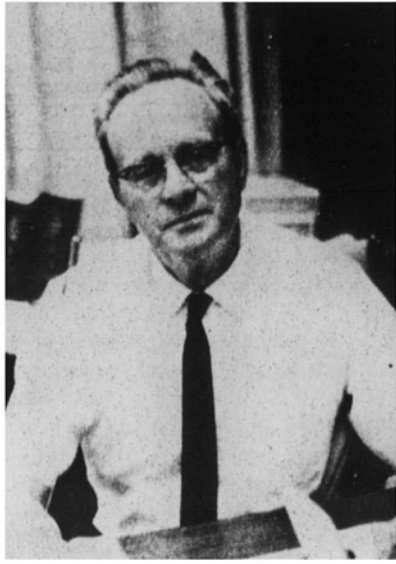


MILLO B. HOWARD, JR.
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Negro Candidate Opposes White Mayor

'Come on, Tuskegee, Let's Do It Too!'



CHARLES M. KEEVER



THOMAS REED

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
TUSKEGEE, Ala.--s your future mayor of Tuskegee," Thomas Reed told his campaign kick-off rally two weeks ago, "I will deal with problems not heretofore dealt with."
But Reed--Tuskegee's first Negro candidate for mayor--didn't seem to be having any problems himself.
More than 100 people turned out to listen and applaud Reed's half-hour speech about the city's needs, Macon County Sheriff Lucius D. Amerson opened up the courthouse for the evening rally, and said a few words that sounded like an endorsement.
The mostly-black audience sang along when three young ladies burst into

Reed's victory song: "They did it in Gary, and Cleveland too. Come on Tuskegee, let's do it too!"
And everyone listened attentively when Reed read a letter from the Rev. Roy L. Walker, a Negro businessman and minister who announced his plans to run for mayor several months ago.
Walker wrote that he was withdrawing in favor of Reed, and added, "This should dispel once and for all the idea we (black people) cannot come to a common objective."
This week, Walker said he quit the race to avoid splitting Tuskegee's majority Negro vote, "Reed has had a little taste of politics," he noted, "This was something he wanted to do."
That leaves Reed--a successful businessman who lost a race for the state Legislature two years ago--with only one opponent. The other candidate in

the Aug. 13 election is incumbent Mayor Charles M. Keever, a white moderate elected four years ago to head Tuskegee's first bi-racial City Council.
"Now let's distinguish slinging facts from slinging mud," Reed said at the start of his rally. "When you hear of trouble in Montgomery, you hear of Mayor Earl James. When you hear of trouble in Selma, you hear of Mayor Joe Smitherman..."
"But when there was trouble in Tuskegee, I have not heard one statement from the mayor of Tuskegee... When we had confusion on the campus, when the institution came within a few minutes of being torn up, he should have taken a positive stand."
Reed was talking about the night of April 6, when Tuskegee Institute students imprisoned a group of trustees in the campus guest-house. The captives

were released only moments before the National Guard--called in by Sheriff Amerson--arrived on the scene.
"If I had been mayor, I would have had something to say," Reed claimed. But when someone asked what he would have said, the candidate drew back a little.
Did he blame the "confusion" on the students, visiting SNCC workers, the National Guard, or the sheriff's office? the questioner demanded.
"I don't want to get into that aspect of it," Reed replied.
But he went on to discuss some of the city's other problems in detail. "We need water," he said. "Houses within two minutes of City Hall have been burned to the ground... Your home and my home stand in danger while the city's proposed new water system is being used as a political football."
He promised to build recreation centers "in each neighborhood," establish 24-hour nurseries for children of working mothers, increase job security for all city employees, and move the garbage dump outside of town.
He also stressed the importance of new industries and small businesses. The city has no Chamber of Commerce and an "inactive" Industrial Development Board, he charged.
"Millions of dollars are waiting for the asking" in the federal Small Business Administration, Reed said, but "Tuskegee has not invited the SBA in."
He suggested that the city has operated for the benefit of its middle- and upper-class residents, at the expense of the poor. There is "a wide gap between those who have and those who have not," Reed said. "We're going to have to involve every citizen in the community if we're going to make progress."
At his office this week, Mayor Keever agreed that the city government needs "citizen participation." And, he said, "we've done everything we can to encourage it."
In his campaign, the mayor said, "I'm doing my best to make a personal call to each home." Keever said he's simply telling the voters that he has four years of experience in the job, and a number of "projects in process" that he would like to see through.
But he replied sharply to some of Reed's accusations. "We have a chief of police that is very capable of handling all situations in Tuskegee without my advice, or that of anyone else," the mayor observed. "We've got no business whatsoever on the Tuskegee Institute campus without being asked."
As for a new water supply, Keever said, "we've been working on it more than three years." He pointed out that the federal government has now agreed to pay almost half the cost of a \$1,100,000 system--if the city can somehow raise the rest.
The mayor agreed that Tuskegee needs a Chamber of Commerce and new industries. But getting them takes hard work, he went on, and "I think we're getting nearer and nearer to that point."
He said his administration has paved streets and extended services in all sections of town. The city's two largest departments--sanitation and police--are now headed by Negroes, he noted.
Keever said he won't argue with anyone who thinks it's time for Tuskegee to have a black mayor. "I wouldn't say there shouldn't be," he explained. "I just feel there's a lot more I'd like to do for the city."

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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Protest Over Jackson 'Y'

BY STEVE VAN EVERA
JACKSON, Miss.--Negro leaders are threatening to close down all the YMCA's in Jackson unless they are desegregated.
At a meeting called to organize action against the "Y," Alex Waites, assistant field secretary of the Mississippi NAACP, said "From what I have heard at this meeting, we not only have to close the College Park YMCA swimming pool.

To prove these points, Evers led a group of Negroes down to the Central YMCA building last week. Those who held YMCA memberships tried to use the Central Y's swimming pool, and those without memberships tried to purchase them.
After a confrontation with Bob Dye, manager of the Central Y, the group was turned away from the swimming pool. Those who wanted to join the Y were told that membership decisions are up to the board of management and board of directors "under unusual circumstances, which this is."
Evers said he thought the only thing "unusual" about the circumstances was that the applicants were Negroes.
"We don't feel we should have to wait until the board meets," Evers said. "We've got a right to swim in that pool, and we're gonna swim in it, or ain't nobody gonna swim in it." He said the College Park pool and the Central Y will be picketed.
Evers also met for two hours with the metropolitan Y board, but, he said, "nothing was accomplished." He said he had asked the board to close the College Park pool, and to allow Negroes to sit on the presently all-white metropolitan board.
White YMCA officials were candid about segregation at the Y. "I don't think that there's any argument that the Central YMCA is segregated," said Jim Campbell, a member of the metropolitan board.
Asked if Negroes were turned away from the Central Y solely because of their race, Milton Milstead, a member of the Southern area YMCA staff, admitted, "That's what it boils down to."



CHARLES EVERS

We have to close down the Farish Street YMCA. And we're going to try to close down the metropolitan Y."
Charles Evers, the NAACP field secretary, said, "We told the president of the national YMCA to get someone down here and find out what kind of a Y they're running."
The present YMCA controversy can be traced back to 1963, when the city of Jackson decided to close its three swimming pools. James Lewis of the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee said the city had been ordered to integrate the pools, and that the closing was "an obvious retaliation against Negroes for suggesting that they have the right to use city facilities."
Negroes challenged the city's action, and the case is still in the courts.
But meanwhile, the Jackson YMCA bought the pool at College Park from the city last fall at the request of the (Negro) Farish Street YMCA branch. The pool was opened in early July--as a pool for Negroes.
Many Jackson Negroes were angered by this move. "Mayor (Allen C.) Thompson was wrong for selling the pool, and the YMCA was wrong for buying it," said Evers. "The College Park pool was opened for one reason only--to eliminate the possibility that the city pools will be opened on an integrated basis."
Waites added, "You know and I know that the College Park pool was opened to keep the State Street (Central YMCA) pool segregated, and to keep the city pools closed."
Rowan Taylor, president of the metropolitan board of the YMCA, said this isn't so.
"Our main concern is getting a pool out there for a bunch of kids who have nowhere to swim," he said. "We have no axe to grind with the Committee of Concern (a mostly-Negro civic group), or with Mayor Thompson either."
A Negro YMCA official said he understands the argument of the people who oppose opening the College Park pool: "They say that by opening the pool, we would take pressure off the city to open its pools."
Jackson people also say Negroes are not allowed to swim in the Central YMCA pool, and are not allowed to purchase memberships in the Central Y.



DONALD A. JELINEK (RIGHT) ADDRESSES FOOD RECIPIENTS IN LINDEN

Commodities Recipients Get Beef From SRRP

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
LINDEN, Ala.--A Volkswagen bus, a couple of cars, and a rented truck lurched into Linden last Monday morning, carrying about two dozen civil rights workers, a priest, a dog, and about 1,500 pounds of fresh ground beef.
The beef was for the poor people of Marengo County, who came to Linden to get their federal surplus commodities.

The civil rights workers were members of the Selma-based Southern Rural Research Project, which bought the beef with money sent by viewers of the CBS-TV show "Hunger in America."
As the SRRP truck arrived at the food-distribution site, the area swarmed with commodities recipients, distribution workers, newspaper reporters, TV cameramen, and interested onlookers. Though SRRP workers had thought someone might try to stop them, there wasn't a policeman in sight.
After an SRRP worker tied the group's emblem--a black farmer under a yellow sun--to a post outside the free food warehouse, SRRP Director Donald A. Jelinek told the people where the beef had come from.
The fresh meat "is not being given to you by the government," Jelinek said. "It's being given to you because the government won't feed you." He said the beef came from people all over the country who "heard the government won't give you enough food."
By the government's own standards, Jelinek said, a family of six needs 52 pounds of meat, 108 pounds of milk and cheese, and 148 eggs per month. But, he said, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's surplus food program gives a family of six just 11 pounds of meat, 18 pounds of milk and cheese, and no eggs.
"The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of Agriculture are the murderers of black babies here in the South," Jelinek charged.
After the people picked up their regular commodities, SRRP workers gave each of them half a pound of ground beef for each member of their family.
Each recipient was also given the name of someone in the North who had written to SRRP after seeing the TV special on hunger. If the people write to these Northerners, Jelinek said, they "may send you enough money for (food for) a whole year."
Many of the people said they couldn't remember the last time they ate fresh beef. "It was less than two years," said one lady. "But it's so hard, we can't ever buy it."
Van Daniels, supervisor of the regular commodities distribution, said it was "perfectly all right" for SRRP to give the people meat.
Agriculture Department officials have argued that the free food is not supposed to be a complete diet, but merely a supplement. SRRP contends that most recipients have to rely on the

commodities for most or all of their diet.
The beef might not have made it to Linden, if it had not been for a friendly Citgo tank-truck driver.
SRRP's refrigerator truck went off the road into a hopelessly deep ditch at the county line, but the Citgo man--with probably the only vehicle in the county that could do the job--stopped and pulled it out.
The beef distribution was scheduled to go on this week in Linden and Greensboro, and to continue next Monday and Tuesday in Demopolis.

Abernathy Freed SCLC Campaign Ends Washington Activities

BY JOHN CREIGHTON
WASHINGTON, D. C.--The Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy walked out of the District of Columbia jail last Saturday, into a cheering crowd of Poor People's campaigners and back into the hungry eyes of the television cameras.
Later in the week, Robert Henson--the young Birmingham, Ala., man who had hauled himself along on his crutches at the head of every march and demonstration in the campaign's two-month history--boarded a big silver-and-yellow Trailways bus alone.
Gripping his crutches and fighting back tears, he waved good-bye to no one, as the bus roared out of the Washington terminal.
The last of the faithful, about 300 campaigners, were sent home this week, as the Poor People's Campaign shut down its direct-action phase in the nation's capital.
The shut-down began when Abernathy got out of jail, after serving 20 days for picketing on the Capitol grounds. About 200 veteran campaigners had waited for him in an all-night vigil, singing and half-jokingly shouting the announcements that had been a familiar part of life in Resurrection City.
A cheer went up when the SCLC leader was spotted, walking alone across the huge parking lot of the jail. Then a young man scaled the ten-foot wire fence, and raced to help Abernathy carry his belongings.
Abernathy looked around for his staff, but they were all in Virginia, in a week-end-long strategy conference.
Speaking to the crowd, Abernathy pledged "all my determination, and all the energy in my body--to work with you

in making the dreams of our founding fathers and of Martin Luther King a reality for all citizens of America."
The final curtain was rung down last Tuesday. Abernathy announced the formation of a "51st delegation--from the state of hunger," that will take a small number of "well-trained people" to both political conventions, to present the issues of the Poor People's Campaign to convention delegates.
Then came the final workshops, and the "We Shall Overcome" choruses, and the rocking, gospel-shouting final meetings of the campaign staff.
"A lot of things have come to poor people because of what you've done," the Rev. Andrew Young of SCLC told the workers.
(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 3)



REV. RALPH D. ABERNATHY

Boycott Splits Black Indianola Community

BY MARION SYMINGTON
INDIANOLA, Miss.--Just after midnight on June 28, Selester "Dink" Brown, 56, a Negro, was shot and killed while driving through a Negro neighborhood in Indianola. There were more than 15 bullet holes in the window and door of his car.
Two days later, Robert Love--the supervisor of federal "Title P" funds in Sunflower County, who lives in the neighborhood--was arrested and charged with murder. He has been released on \$2,500 bond until the grand jury meets in September.
Meanwhile, various factions in Indianola have been trying to fix the blame for the killing.
Jack E. Harper Jr., president of the Chamber of Commerce, charged that "the death of Dink Brown was caused by the tense situation created by members of the NAACP movement in Indianola."
But the president of the Indianola NAACP, Carver Randle, said the killing was "just a dastardly act" on the part of one individual. He said the police and the Chamber of Commerce are trying to blame the NAACP for what someone else did.
For the last month, there has been tension in Indianola. On May 15, the NAACP began a boycott of white merchants in the city under the leadership of Randle and the Rev. Walter Smigiel of the St. Benedict the Moor Center.
Part of the black community, led by members of the Civic Club, opposed the boycott from the beginning. Love--the

accused killer--was a member of this group.
These people have met with city officials, and have urged breaking the boycott. They are satisfied that the demands of the Negro community have been met.
However, leaders of the boycott said last week that their demands for hiring of Negro clerks, use of courtesy titles, and equal pay for white and black clerks have been met with "near-tokenism." Randle said that "accommodations have been made only to a few 'Uncle Toms.'"
Since the beginning of the boycott, Police Chief Brice Alexander has reported two convictions for threats made in connection with the boycott. Threatening phone calls have been received by people who have continued to shop, Alexander said, but the calls have not been traced.
There is tension between "the Toms and the movement," said Dan Smith, vice-president of the NAACP. "They (the Civic Club) are afraid of the movement," he said, "but that does not justify pulling a gun on any strange man."
Brown, the shooting victim, was not associated with the movement in any way, his widow said, and no weapon was found in his car or on his person. All he had with him was a few cigarettes.
Brown was buried July 7, but the police are still investigating the case. Chief Alexander said he has no report of an autopsy.
A separate investigation is being made by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

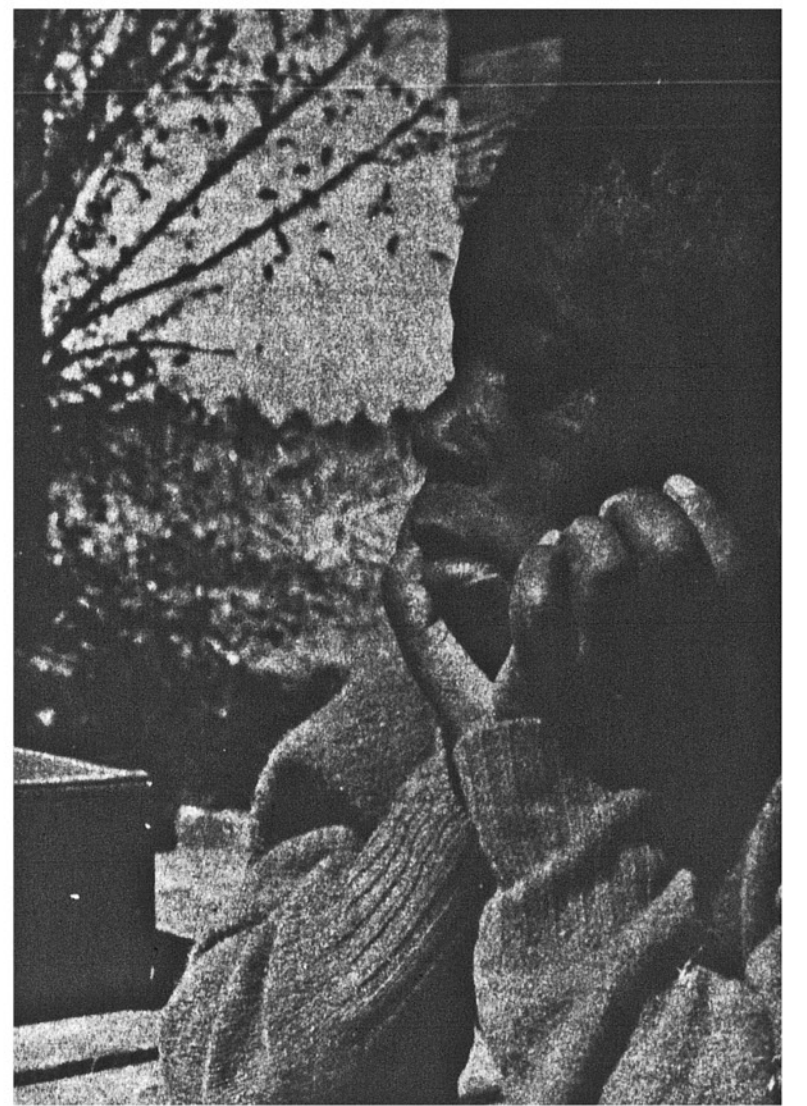


The Nixon Family

Poverty in Autauga County

BY JIM PEPPLER
 AUTAUGAVILLE, Ala.--John Nixon, now 38 years old, joined the Army at 18 and stayed in for "nine years and 11 days." He was wounded three times in Korea. While in the service, he also received the equivalent of a high school education.
 When he was discharged at age 27, Nixon applied to Alabama State College, but "the waiting list was too long" that semester, and he never went back. In-

stead, he went to work at a brick-yard, and made a fair living for his wife and children--until he was laid off. He hasn't had a steady job since.
 Now Nixon, his wife, and their four children live in a two-room shack. They have no water, no electricity, no windows, and no toilet facilities--"we have to use the field."
 Asked about the Army, Nixon said, "The United States can burn to the ground before I go back to fight again."



Photos by
Jim Pepler

One More Dream for Mississippi

Democratic Group Seeks Open Convention

BY GARY HOUSTON
CHICAGO, Illinois-- "In free and open competition," said Allard K. Lowenstein of New York, "almost 80% of the Democratic voters have made clear their support for candidates committed to new policies and new leadership."

"And so to the... questions about the war (in Viet Nam) and the domestic crisis," Lowenstein went on, "must now be added the over-riding and deeply disturbing question of whether the American system as currently practiced permits the will of the people to be expressed effectively, even on matters of national life and death."

In other words, Lowenstein--and more than 1,000 white and black delegates from almost 40 states--were in Chicago last June 29 and 30 to stop Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey from getting the Democratic nomination for President at the party convention next month.

The conference was called the Coalition for an Open Convention. Lowenstein, its director, last month won an upset victory for a Democratic congressional nomination from Nassau County, Long Island, in the New York City suburbs.

Lowenstein said the coalition's purpose is to show the leaders of the Democratic Party that most of their followers do not want to nominate

Humphrey. He pointed out that the Vice-President has lost ten of 12 state primary elections.

Besides trying to make sure that the Democratic convention is "open"--not sewn up by Humphrey's supporters--most coalition members are backing Senator Eugene J. McCarthy for President.

And they also want a guarantee from national Democratic Party officials that state delegations to the August convention--especially the ones from Alabama and Mississippi--will represent all voters.

Groups in both states have already announced plans to challenge the "regular" delegations, on the grounds that Negroes are barred from full participation in the state parties.

Three different groups have banded together under the name of the Loyal Democrats of Mississippi to challenge that state's delegation. They are the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, headed by Lawrence F. Guyot; the NAACP, led by Charles Evers; and the bi-racial Young Democrats, headed by Greenville newspaper publisher Hodding Carter III.

The Rev. Ed King, a Methodist minister from Jackson, represented the MFDP at the conference of the Coalition for an Open Convention.

"The regular party officials (in Mississippi) kept the people uninformed about the precinct meetings," King charged. "Our own delegation, which was originally pro-Kennedy (Senator Robert F. Kennedy, assassinated last month in Cali-



PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS HUMPHREY (LEFT) AND MCCARTHY (RIGHT) will consist of black people, white college students and instructors, and others."

King said some members of the challenge delegation support McCarthy, while others prefer Humphrey.

But the minister recalled that Humphrey worked out the "compromise" which gave the MFDP delegation only two at-large votes at the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

"One thing that is clear to Mississippi people is that Humphrey represents the past," said King.

"If Stokely Carmichael stood before you today--which he probably

wouldn't do--or if he were addressing the MFDP," King told the conference's crowded final meeting, "he'd probably say, 'Fools, we told you so.' And he'd be right."

"The blacks in the South are ready to be fools one more time. The only hope left is that the Democrats have an open convention. In Mississippi we are willing to dream one more time."

Dr. John Cashin, a Huntsville dentist and head of the National Democratic Party of Alabama, also attended the conference. The NDP is planning to send an integrated delegation to the national convention, to challenge Alabama's official delegation.

Although the official group includes two Negroes, most of the white delegates are already pledged to support former Alabama Governor George C. Wallace for President--regardless of the national Democratic Party's nominee.

The Rev. William McKinley Branch of Forkland, NDP candidate for Congress from Alabama's Fifth District, addressed the conference delegates.

"As a candidate, I'm out to represent all the people of the United States, even... George Wallace," Branch told a cheering audience.

But the conference was more than just a series of speeches. The coalition was broken up into groups of students, labor leaders, black delegates, and lawyers.

The aim of the smaller meetings was to find areas of mutual agreement between people of different backgrounds and opinions. Each reported to the entire body of participants the resolutions adopted in these sessions.

The black people endorsed three statements:

"1. We cannot accept preachments of law and order when they are meant to stifle change, to violate human dignity and obviate economic, political, and social self-determination of black and deprived people.

"2. We cannot accept the traditional notion of a 'civil rights' plank in national party platforms when those planks only represent attempts to assuage the consciences of white liberals, and are made meaningless by the absence of real commitment to social revolution in America.

"3. We cannot support any presidential candidate who does not support challenging the Democratic National Convention delegations from Mississippi and Alabama."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson of SCLC spoke to the coalition about the Poor People's Campaign and the prospects for non-violent change in the United States.

"Non-violence is having difficulty in the nation," Jackson said, "and yet you must understand that it is not the responsibility of the SCLC to challenge the nation to be non-violent. It is the job of the U. S. government to teach the nation to be non-violent."

Jackson said the racial crisis at home reflects the violence in Viet Nam. "Our competition is not Stokely (Carmichael) and Rap (Brown)," he said, "Our competition is Johnson and Humphrey. That's a fact."

By the end of the conference, some leaders of the Coalition for an Open Convention were talking about the formation of a new national political party, to run its own candidate for President if the Democrats nominate Humphrey. But Lowenstein said the group hopes to work within the Democratic Party if it can.

Like Jackson, he drew a connection between the war in Viet Nam and the problems at home.

"There could be nothing more obscene than a country trying to push its form of government upon another country at the point of a bayonet," said Lowenstein, "unless it's trying to do so when it can't practice that form of government in its own backyard."



JACKSON (LEFT) TALKS WITH MEGGSON

Mobile Inter-Faith Group Begins Project to Aid People in Ghettos

BY JOHN SINGLETON
MOBILE, Ala. -- The Inter-faith Committee for Human Concern has set up a project to aid the disadvantaged people in the hard-core Mobile ghettos. Civil rights leader Sam Jackson--who formerly worked with the juvenile division of the Washington, D. C., police department--has been appointed to the \$10,000-a-year job as director of the ICHC.

The group has also given summer employment to about 40 college students, who are concentrating their efforts on recreation, education, government and citizenship, and economics and employment.

Several church groups are supporting the ICHC. Catholic parishes under the leadership of Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen and the Rev. Thomas M. Nunan have committed \$48,000. Office space has been donated by the Toulminville-Warren Street Methodist Church, and other religious groups are in the process of raising money.

Last month, the project began the first phase of a self-help program designed to give ghetto people the incentive to clean up their yards and repair their run-down homes.

Plans are also being made to have

city inspectors pressure ghetto landlords to repair some of the substandard houses they are renting to the people.

"This is a two-way thing," warned Jackson. "The Negro landlords who are exploiting the exploited are not going to be overlooked."

The group ran into one problem during its first phase--much of the garbage gathered during the clean-up campaign was left standing in front of the houses because local garbage workers were striking for higher wages.

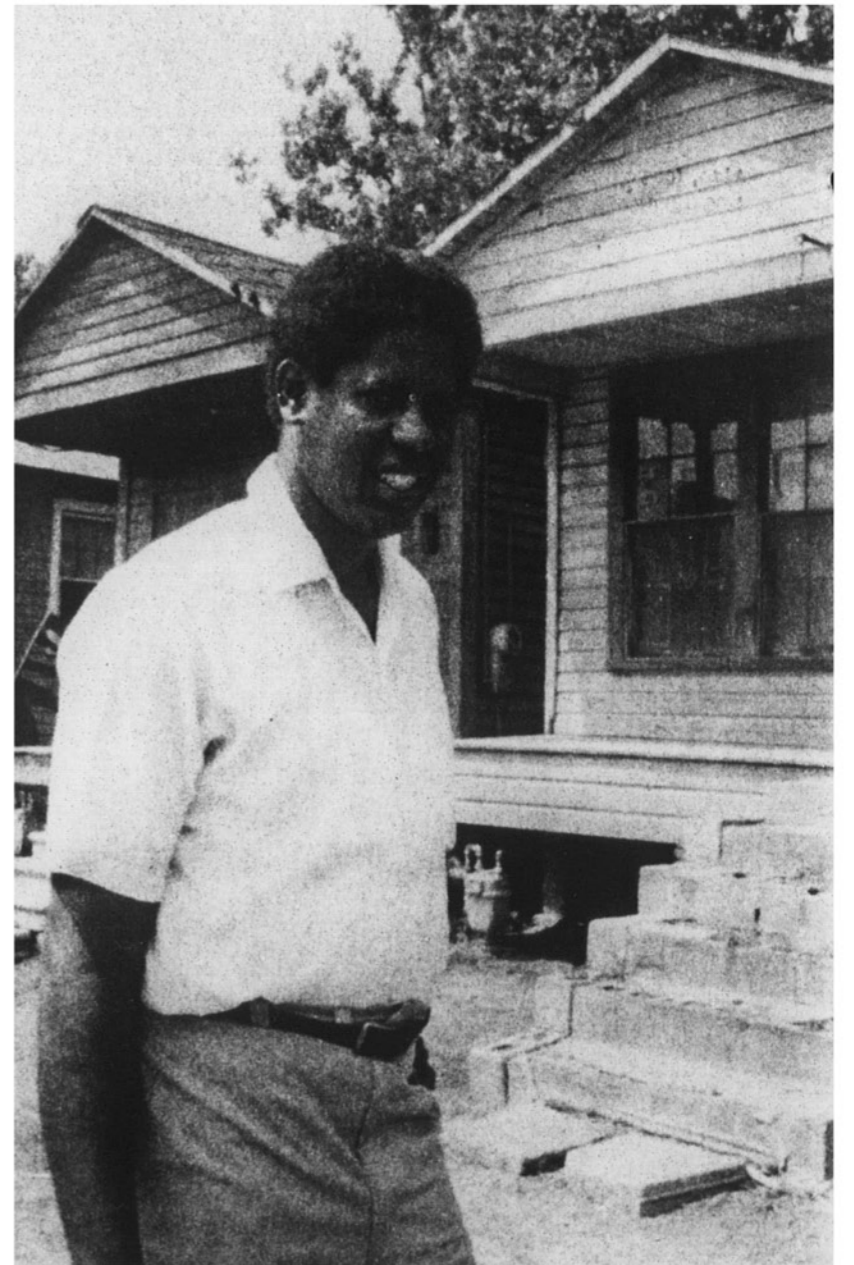
The striking workers emptied garbage in some streets and in front of City Hall. But after some of their demands were met, most of the men went back to work--and the trash was removed from in front of the ghetto homes.

The college youths working for ICHC also took about 150 ghetto children to the anniversary of the Alabama State Docks. The kids rode in boats and on company trains, and were given free Cokes. One youth said he drank 23 cups of Coke.

On the Fourth of July, the ICHC sponsored a big "block party." The police cooperated by closing off community streets--but local businessmen did not respond very enthusiastically to requests for help.

Greyson Mitchell, a Morehouse College student, said some of the contributions were "shameful." For instance, he said, an official at Haas-Davis, a large meat-packing company, told him it was not a charity organization and gave him a box of 46 wieners to feed 500 kids.

A white man who runs a business on Davis Avenue--in the middle of the black ghetto--listened to Mitchell's explanation of what ICHC was trying to do for the local children, and then said, "I take care of that through the United Fund."



SAM JACKSON IN MOBILE GHETTO

Man Complains

'Sent Me to the Crazy-House When I Was Asking for Help'

BY JOHN SINGLETON
MOBILE, Ala.--Around 12 noon one day last week, as the sun was beating down on the ragged, cracked pavement of Davis Avenue in the heart of the Mobile ghetto, an old man walked by the office of the Inter-faith Committee for Human Concern.

He was dragging a beat-up Army duffel bag. Inside, he said, were all his worldly belongings.

Greyson Mitchell, a social worker for ICHC, stopped the man and asked what his problem was.

"I'm trying to hitch-hike down in Belle Glade, Fla., to the farm where I used to live, so I can work down there picking beans," the man told Mitchell.

The young social worker persuaded the old man to come inside the ICHC office and sit down. He told the staff members his name was Romley Meggson, and produced two letters he had received after writing to ask President Johnson for welfare payments.

One letter--from John J. Hurley of the Assistance Payments Administration in Washington, D. C.--referred Meggson back to state and local welfare officials.

But Meggson said he didn't trust local officials because of his problems with them in the past.

He told the ICHC workers that he used to live in Atmore. In 1964, when he went to the Red Cross for assistance, Meggson said, he was informed that the agency could not help him any more.

Instead, he said, he was committed to Searcy State Mental Hospital in Mt. Vernon. "They sent me to the crazy-house for asking for help when I couldn't help myself," he complained.

Meggson said his brother in Atmore got him out of the hospital, but law enforcement officials took him back because "a white lady said I cut down some flowers."



ROMLEY MEGGSON

Then, the old man said, a woman who appeared to be white checked him out of the hospital to work. "She didn't give me nothing (in pay), and treated me like a four-legged dog," he said. "She fed me gummy rice and hard bread."

Eventually, Meggson said, he "slipped off" and went to Pensacola, Fla., before coming to Mobile.

Meggson said his troubles began many years ago. "When I was young and coming up, I stayed in jail and the pen," he said. "Half the time I was innocent. I was in Atmore State Prison, Kilby, and a camp in Decatur, Ala., and they beat me like a dog with a six-inch leather strap."

The old man refused to go to the Mobile welfare office with Sam Jackson, director of the ICHC, because he felt Jackson was working with the law.

So Jackson went to the office alone, taking Meggson's letters. John Sellers, a welfare worker, said Meggson is eligible for a pension, but hadn't gotten it because he hadn't done the paper work.

Jackson was told to return the next morning to pick up an "emergency check" for Meggson. Sellers said Meggson will be given a monthly pension in the future.

Jackson said Meggson's case is a typical example in a city that has outgrown an agrarian welfare system. "The city must sophisticate itself," he said. "The city needs more welfare workers and a better understanding of social problems."



GHETTO RESIDENTS GATHER UP TRASH

Being Built in B'ham Neighborhood

People Object to Funeral Home

BY BOB LABAREE
 BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--The foundations of a new building are just visible now, above the plowed earth on a lot in the Tittusville area of Birmingham. The people responsible for the construction talk proudly about the new funeral home that will soon take shape there.

But last week, representatives of the all-Negro Tittusville Civic League showed up at a hearing at the city Planning and Zoning Department, to say that

Bibb NAACP Holds Meeting

BY ETHEL THOMAS
 BRENT, Ala. -- The Bibb County NAACP held a sort of revival meeting this week in Brent.

The guest speaker, the Rev. T. Y. Rogers of SCLC, asked the ministers present to come to Memphis, Tenn., as delegates to the SCLC convention next month. At least five people should come, he said.

Rogers said people must carry on the work of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., --who was killed in Memphis--and must follow Dr. King's successor, the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy.

"When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, we allowed the Vice-President to be President, and accepted him," Rogers said. "Why can't we accept Dr. Ralph? We must follow him."

The speaker urged Bibb County Negroes to unite, and not to depend on the white man for help.

"Your sons and daughters graduate from Brent and the only jobs they can get is washing dishes in white folks' kitchens," he said. "If black people don't help black people, who's going to help them?"

they are not at all proud of the new addition to their neighborhood.

"Tittusville is one of the finest Negro sections in the city of Birmingham, and here they are putting up a funeral home right in the middle of it--something nobody would want to live next to," said W. L. Williams, one of the lawyers representing the group.

In the hearing, Williams and the group's other lawyer, David Hood, argued that the construction of this kind of business in a predominantly residential area was made possible by illegal "spot-zoning."

But Charles Healy of the zoning department said no zoning regulations were violated when the building permit was granted. The plot under construction is part of a relatively small area that was zoned for light industry as far back as 1961, he said.

"They should have complained then," Healy said. "People had the opportunity to call in and protest it, if they wanted to."

The civic league's July 11 appeal was denied, and this week the construction continues.

Brown-Service, the company responsible for putting up the new funeral home, says it can't understand why the people are complaining.

"This came as a complete surprise

to us," said William Houghton, speaking for the company. "We thought we were doing something that would be a credit to the colored community."

"Why doesn't he build it next to his house, if he thinks it's so good?" Williams asked. "People are always doing 'good' things for us."

Williams and others say one of their main objections to the funeral home is its ambulance service, which they say will create an unpleasant traffic of bodies being carried in and out of the building, often with sirens wailing.

"We don't want our children exposed to this sort of thing," said Erskine Charles Hayes, president of the civic league. "With so much violence nowadays, for them to see this every day isn't good."

Houghton, however, said this will not be a problem, since the new funeral home will not be operating an ambulance

service. "Of course, the bodies have to be brought in," he said, "but that's done in a tasteful way, through the rear of the building."

The two lawyers also see another issue in the dispute. Williams noted that Brown-Service is owned by white people, but the new business, when it is finished, will be operated by Poole's, a "colored" funeral establishment.

"They wouldn't be pushing this off on us (Negroes) if it weren't for the fact that these people here are Negroes," Williams charged.

And, said Hood, the people in the housing project next to the controversial site are too poor or too old to do anything about their new neighbors, whether they like them or not.

The people putting up the funeral home, he said, are "harming the people who can least protect themselves."



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.

G. I. BILL STUDENTS--Veterans who plan to enter school this fall under the G. I. Bill should apply now for their Veterans Administration Certificate of Eligibility, and avoid the fall rush. Veterans already in training under the G. I. Bill who plan to change programs or schools this fall must also obtain new Certificates of Eligibility from the V. A. Veterans entering school for the first time should contact their nearest local V. A. office, and veterans who are changing programs should contact the V. A. regional office which maintains their records.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DAY--The Peoples First Friendship Baptist Church will hold Men's and Women's Day on Sunday, July 21, in the church at 935 Early St., Montgomery, Ala. Men's Day will be celebrated at 11 a.m., with Levi Watkins, president of Alabama State College, as guest speaker. Deacon Robert Avery is general chairman. At 2 p.m., Mrs. Eloise Jones Blair of Wetumpka will be guest speaker for the women. Mrs. E. B. Ashley is general chairman. The public is invited. Mrs. Gladys Avery, reporter.

LOWNDES COUNTY RESIDENTS--Applications will be taken until Monday, July 29, for the following positions which are now open in the OEO-sponsored Lowndes County Board of Health Community Health Project (P. O. Box 236, Hayneville, Ala. 36040): one executive secretary, one administrative secretary, one fiscal purchasing officer, one clerk-typist-receptionist, three clerk-typists II, one clerk-typist III, one training co-ordinator-counselor, and one bookkeeper. Job descriptions and application forms are available at the Project Office, located in brick building across from the Post Office in Hayneville, Ala. Applicants must apply in person, and only residents of Lowndes County will be considered.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--The subject of the Lesson-Sermon to be read in Christian Science churches Sunday, July 21, is "Life." A verse from Revelations serves as the Golden Text: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."

WELFARE RECIPIENTS--Welfare recipients and other poor people seeking to defend themselves against injustices in the welfare system--and to change that system--have organized into the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO). NWRO's 171 groups in 31 states have more than 6,000 members, who directly represent the 25,000 welfare recipients in their households. Together they fight for adequate income, dignity, justice, and democracy. There are presently welfare rights groups in the South in Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Anyone wishing to join a group or help form one in his community should write to National Welfare Rights Organization, 1762 Corcoran St. N. W., Washington, D. C. 20009.

TRAINING JOBS FOR VETERANS--Government agencies can now hire Viet Nam-era veterans for jobs under special, non-competitive "transitional appointments." These jobs--paying from \$3,776 to \$5,565 a year--are for veterans with less than one year of training beyond high school, who have the required qualifications for the jobs. The veteran must also agree to take at least the equivalent of one school year of education or training under the G. I. Bill. Veterans must have had at least 181 consecutive days of active duty--some part of it after Aug. 4, 1964--to be eligible for these jobs. Veterans remain eligible until one year after their discharge or Feb. 9, 1969, whichever is later. Interested applicants may contact any government agency they prefer, or any office of the Veterans Administration or the Civil Service Commission, or the Veterans Assistance Center in Atlanta, Ga., or New Orleans, La.

HELPING THE POOR--The Neighborhood Organized Workers (NOW) are trying to help deprived people obtain needed income, jobs, and medical treatment. We assist citizens by writing up and filing job complaints and racial-discrimination complaints with the federal government. Equipment, office supplies, and volunteers are desperately needed to aid the poor. To get help, to volunteer, or to make contributions, contact NOW Inc., 1100 Davis Ave., Mobile, Ala. 36603, phone 432-3252.

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Montgomery invite you to their weekly fireside at 8 p.m. this Saturday, at the Community House, 409 S. Union St., Montgomery, Ala. For transportation, call 265-9992. Meet Baha'u'llah.

VETERANS--If you are returned from the armed forces because of a disability, and you have not filed a claim for compensation from the Veterans Administration, you may be losing money. You cannot receive military retirement benefits and disability compensation at the same time. But you CAN choose the benefit that will pay you the most. And severely disabled enlisted men will usually get more from V. A. disability compensation than they will from retirement pay.



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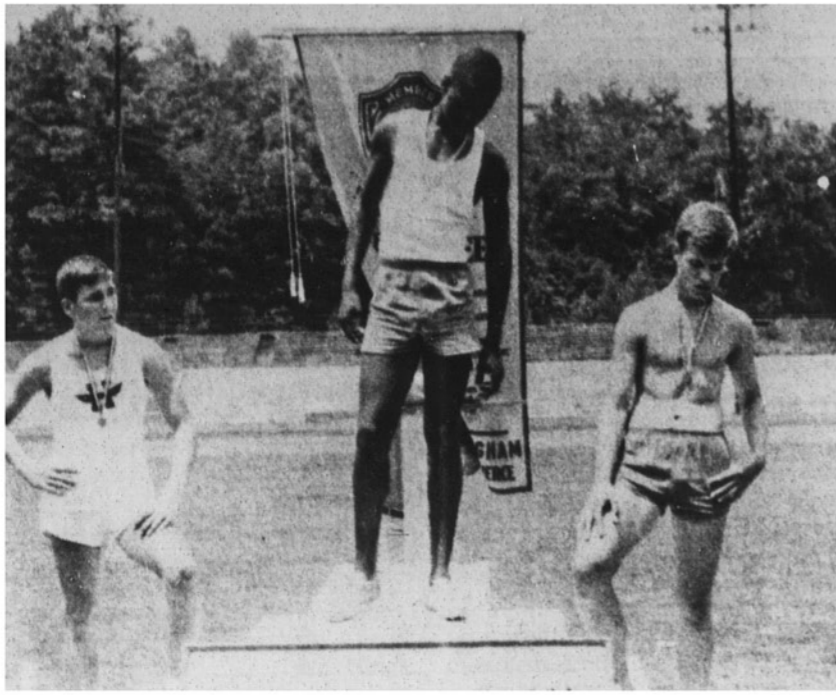
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B'ham Athletes Dominate Meet



AWARD CEREMONY AT JUNIOR OLYMPICS

BY BOB LABAREE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. -- The contestants at Shades Valley Stadium last Saturday almost outnumbered the spectators. About 350 athletes--ranging in age from eight to 18--came fresh from their regional finals in Birmingham, Sheffield, Montgomery, and Mobile to compete for top state honors in the Jaycees' Junior Olympic Track and Field Meet.

Three former junior champs from last year--Alvin Bresler and Werner Beiersdoerfer of Auburn University, and James Craig of the University of Tennessee--kicked-off the afternoon's activities by running into the stadium carrying the Olympic torch.

Last year--the first time in the four-year history of the program that Negroes participated--Craig became the first Negro to compete in the national finals.

In the meet's Pee-Wee division, the parents were sometimes the best part of the show. With arms flailing, middle-aged mothers and fathers leaned over the railing and bellowed as their eight-year-olds scampered through the grueling 60-yard dash.

For the youngest kids, if not for the parents, much of the activity was just for fun. Some real talent was apparent, though--like nine-year-old Billy Williams of Mobile, who managed to heft the six-pound shot 23' 6 1/4" for a first-place medal.

In the older divisions, spectators were treated to a good race in the boys' intermediate mile (ages 15-16). During the first lap, Jim Palmer of the Birmingham University School found a groove about ten yards ahead of Oscar Morgan from Uilman High of Birmingham. Reyburn Brooks of Sheffield took up the rear.

About a quarter of the way into the last lap, though, Morgan began to close in. And in the final stretch, a burst of speed carried him past Palmer and over the line with a time of 5:01.9.

The girls' intermediate 440-yard dash couldn't have been more different. Brenda Fleming of Western High in Birmingham took a big lead early in the race, and never lost an inch until she crossed the finish 69.2 seconds later.

The same was true of Horace Floyd of Birmingham's Hayes High, who took the boys' senior 100-yard dash with

On Huntsville Force Former Police Officers Charge Discrimination

BY JOEL ROSEN

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. -- Two former Huntsville police officers have charged the city police department with discrimination in hiring and promotion. John Staten and Robert Booker made the charges in a document prepared for presentation to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D. C. Staten, formerly a detective with the vice and narcotics division of the department, was forced to resign from the police force several months ago. At the time, he was also working as a public-school teacher, and his police superiors said he would be fired from the force if he did not resign from his teaching job.

Staten claimed, though, that he was granted permission to take the other job before he started it. Other officers also have jobs to supplement their income from police work, he said.

But in his work with the narcotics division, Staten pointed out, he arrested a prominent Huntsville druggist and City Council member, Tom Dark, Dark was accused of failing to keep adequate records on some of the drugs in his store.

The Negro detective was not allowed to testify against Dark, and the charges were dropped. Three weeks after this arrest, Staten said, he was told that he must resign one of his jobs.

Staten and Booker--both graduates of Alabama A & M College--also complained about the hiring and promotion of men on the police force. Both men said they tried several times to pass a test for advancement. But each time they took the exam, they said, they were told that they had failed.

Booker said he resigned from the force when he realized his career was "stagnating." "I had been there (with the police department) four years as a patrolman and not advanced, while I saw

others coming and shooting by me," he explained.

The two men's formal statement charges discrimination and favoritism towards relatives in the department:

"Check the number of policemen who have resigned in the last two years, check the relationship of department heads and supervisors with those fellows promoted within the last four years, check the complaints on black officers--and the punishments meted out--against the complaints against white officers and the punishments meted out.

"Check the recommendations of supervisors when black officers had an accident while driving a city vehicle, as compared to the recommendations when a white officer had an accident while driving a city vehicle.

"And last but not least, check the experience, efficiency, education, and over-all qualifications of the black officers compared to that of the white officers who have been promoted and who will be promoted."

Staten and Booker challenged Mayor Glenn Hearn and Chief of Police W. F. Dyar to a debate on the issues in question. This suggestion was quickly rejected by the two city officials. Hearn and Dyar also denied any knowledge of discrimination, or of the other conditions cited in the ex-officers' complaint.

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FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

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

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Q. Now that I've accepted a summer job, do I have to contact all the other people who offered me a job? Some of my friends say, "What a pain. You'll never see them again anyway." What should I do?

A. How do you know you'll never see them again? It's really funny how small the world is. You may even start dating a son of one of the people who offered you a job. More important, you may want or need one of these jobs next summer, or after you graduate. Write a short letter to each place where you were offered a job saying that you've accepted another job for the summer -- tell where -- and thank them for their offer. They'll be grateful that you let them know, and you won't feel guilty.

Q. My hands look "rough and red." And I don't even have dishpan hands! My problem is that I love flowers and enjoy gardening. Is there any way to avoid the scratches, dirt, follow-up scrubbing and broken nails?

A. Don't despair. There's a way to enjoy pretty fresh hands at the same time -- wearing gloves. Plastic gloves, that is. Handgard gloves are "thin-skinned" for perfect fit. And they're strong enough so that long fingernails won't break through. When you're finished, save them for a few more uses if you'd like, or throw them away. Wash your hands. Apply your favorite hand lotion, and you've got pretty fresh flowers and hands.



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