

BOND ATTEMPTS TO HEAR VOICE OF PEOPLE



Julian Bond canvassed in his district. Door to Door canvassing and small block meetings were daily activities in campaign.

ATLANTA, GA. — The successful campaign of a young SNCC worker for the Georgia House of Representatives has begun a new phase of political organizing for SNCC.

The worker, Julian Bond, defeated a Negro Republican 5 to 1 in the General Election called this spring to fill seats in Georgia's newly apportioned House.

"The campaign was a new one for Atlanta for several reasons," Bond said. "For one, we tried to run on issues and not labels, on people's concerns and not their prejudices. Atlanta has never had a house-to-house, block meeting campaign like this one, where people knew the candidate and got a chance to question him."

"The next step," a cam-

paign worker said, "is to put people inside Julian's District in touch with each other, so they can use each other to get things for themselves."

"People don't use politics because they don't know how. They know politicians take money, and some of them steal, and a few of them do things to help people, but people don't know how to use politics to help themselves."

Already, a group living in substandard housing have begun to talk about rent strikers here.

"But more important," Bond says, "they've begun to talk about including in the strike others across the city who live in the same kind of houses. They want to organize everyone who wants a better house

through their actions."

The campaign was unique because Bond and his campaign workers asked residents of the District - voters and non-voters alike - what it was that they expected from a State Representative and what they were prepared to do themselves.

"I'd like to see people organized across the District," SNCC worker Judy Richardson said. "I'd like to see a community advisory board that would tell their representative what to do in the Georgia House and would give them opportunity to plan what they can do for themselves in the community."

The campaign gave some workers doubts about partisan elections. "We'll never know how many people voted for/or against Julian because of his party label," one said. Bond is a Democrat.

Bond is a college dropout, and rebelled against other candidates who stressed their education and formal training, jobs or civic organization memberships as "qualifications" for the Georgia House.

"The state of Georgia says anyone who is 21-years old and who has \$500 is 'qualified' and can run for this office," Bond said, "and I agree with them completely." The real qualification is interest and a willingness to work."

The campaign workers expressed disappointment at the response they received from the few whites in Bond's District. "It was impossible to get past race," one worker explained, "although only Negroes offered for that seat, most whites felt they could not be represented by any Negro."

The workers did discover, that whites were willing to discuss issues of jobs, housing and schooling, and were surprised to learn that Negro canvassers had more success in white areas than whites did.

FORMER GOV. OF MISS. RECEIVES APPOINTMENT

MFDP Statement By Mrs. Victoria Gray

JUNE 18, 1965

Today we learned with great shock of the appointment to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals of Former Governor J. P. Coleman, the Political and Legal Architect of much of Mississippi's white supremacy program. As known to everyone the Fifth Circuit Court is responsible for rendering final decisions and for reviewing and guiding the course and timing of most civil rights litigation in the deep south.

Throughout Mr. Coleman's long career he has held virtually every type of office in the state of Mississippi, all of which have been won only over the rights -- and often the bodies--of the Negro Citizens of that state. It was Governor Coleman who signed into the Law the State Sovereignty Commission, that Government Agency designed specifically to maintain the racist system of the state. The MFDP, in the testimony taken in support of its challenge to the five congressmen from Mississippi, has sworn statements from officials of the Sovereignty Commission and the White Citizens Council that the Commission has given about \$193,000 to support the activities of the Citizens Council. This is the evidence which under pressure from Mr. Coleman as the lawyer for the Mississippi Congressmen, and of other Southern Congressmen, the clerk of the House of Representatives is now refusing to print.

How does a man so much a part of the State's Racist

establishment who stands totally for nothing more than trying to prevent the Federal Government from acting on behalf of the long denied constitutional rights of Southern Negroes gain the appointment as a Federal Judge who is responsible for protecting the civil and voting rights of every southerner?

The only claim Mr. Coleman has to the appointment is his position in the power structure of Mississippi and the blessing of the illegally elected Senators Eastland and Stennis.

Here again it becomes evident that only through the successful conclusion of the challenge to the Mississippi Congressmen will we achieve for the disenfranchised Negro the right to register, the right to vote, and the right to participate fully and freely in the political process which affects their lives. Only then will we have any say over who gets federal appointments.

We are now calling upon every senator, who has admitted the fact of the state enforced disenfranchisement of Negroes in Mississippi by voting in favor of the voter registration bill to make that action meaningful by refusing to confirm the appointment of Mr. Coleman. It is time for this Congress to say by the unseating of the Mississippi Congressmen and refusal of Coleman's appointment that it will no longer tolerate the mockery of the Democratic Process in Mississippi.



Notes From Mississippi

Over 800 people were arrested in Jackson, Mississippi while picketing for new elections and fair voting laws. Most of the people arrested were from Mississippi and Members of the Freedom Democratic Party. The following are statements from members of the FDP, and extracts from letters written from the jail cells by volunteers who will participate in the FDP's Summer Project.

Miss Weld, Maine, New York - "...Governor Johnson decided to call a special session of the State Legislature to take steps to make some sort of an arrangement so that no matter what kind of Civil Rights bill President Johnson passes, there will still be enough loopholes so that they can prevent registration. The march and the picketing was to protest the above fact... (At the jail) they took our pocketbooks and everything, even our glasses. I pleaded that I was nearly blind, but they took them all the same. Since then, I keep bumping into walls etc... the food is awful but it doesn't really matter because we are on a hunger strike - because they segregated us."

Vivianne Green, Pleasant Hill, California - "...Yesterday noon we started fasting in protest at the arrest (illegal - they said we needed a Jackson City permit to demonstrate and we already have the Constitution of the U. S., the only permit necessary). We also resent the fact that all us white girls are in a relatively comfortable jail, and the rest of the people in the Movement are struck in the unventilated barns at the local fairgrounds, where the brutality rate increases."

Mrs. Bessie L. Brown, Vicksburg, Miss. - "...I seen some of the boys being beaten; some of the girls were hit and they juked them with their billy clubs. They used all kinds of English - real bad, Monday we were put into a building at the fair grounds and people were fainting at least every 10 to 15 minutes. The best we could do was fan them. Every time we would go to sit them down the police would make them stand up. People would have to hold them up... I got out today after dinner. I would go back anytime but I would leave money at home so my kids would be taken care of."

My little grandson has been in the hospital with pneumonia and my daughter is only 16. My 15 year old son was jailed Monday, he was hit in the stomach 2 or 3 times by the cops and he cried, One of my friend boys told me..."

Mrs. Annie Mae King, Sunflower County, Miss. - "...It's a long story, but the saddest of all--it was a lady that weighed about 300 pounds, and we didn't have no kind of privacy because about 25 or 30 cops would be in there all through the night. And this lady had rinsed out her panties, and she was lying on a pallet. And they asked her to get up. And they snatched the tick (mattress) from under her. And as she lied on the floor two cops taken her feet, and they drug her about 25 feet across the hall, and they kicked her all in her privates and beat her terrible... And it was two young ladies there pregnant, and they beat one of them so she had a miscarriage."

Margie Quigles, California - "...Well, I have learned an amazing amount about Mississippi justice since we arrived in Miss. The police are annoyingly sadistic. After we were arrested they took us to a big barn like building on the fairgrounds and made us stand there (maybe 3 hours) and drove us into a more and more compact mass until people were fainting from the heat and crush. Periodically they charge at us with their billy clubs..."

Wayne Mercer, San Jose, California - "...I was in the chow line Wednesday. The officer told me that I was next, and before I realized what was happening he had hit me across the head with his billy club and knocked me down. And he said, "Next time move faster. Get to the back of the line." So I got up and moved to the back of the line... There was a fellow who refused to stop singing. They took him outside in the sun and from what I heard they beat him up, but I didn't see it..."



Inside Fairgrounds Stockade female demonstrators wait for hearing before judge.

Rob Wood, Canada -- "...Anybody who showed leadership was separated from the other prisoners and deposited in the Jackson city jail. The police hoped that without leaders morale would bread and we would be easy to manage. This never happened as it was never a question of leadership. Immediately a spokesman was removed, somebody else took his place."

"In our building ages ranged from eleven to seventy-two. Many of the men were from the Delta region and members of the Mississippi Freedom

Labor Union. An entire family came to jail, the Steptoes of Pike County. At a mass meeting after our release, Mr. Steptoe said 'My whole family came to jail because the MFDP is the one hope my youngsters have, not to have to live like I had to for so long.'

The Freedom Democratic Party is working to bring about a change in the state of Mississippi and the Country. They need your support.

Send contributions to 507 1/2 N. Farrish St., Jackson, Mississippi.



U. S. Marshall Bob Thomas removes demonstrator from steps of Federal Building in Jackson, Miss.



Jackson Police Officer finishes what Thomas started, Thomas in Background.

MFDP - Congressional Challenge

LOBBY REVEALING

By Mike Thelwell

About 350 young Americans are getting a first hand look at the functioning of the Congress in Washington. Earlier this year SNCC sent out a call for young people to come to Washington to lobby for the unseating of the Mississippi Congressmen.

The first group of about 200 left Washington on June 20th. The youthful lobbyist attended workshops on the South, the MFDP, and orientation sessions on the legal background and the relevance of the Challenge, then went to see their own Congressmen and others.

The students lobbied for the passage of a strong voting rights bill and conducted a poll of 324 Northern and Western Congressmen to see how they stood on repeal of the Poll tax and unseating the Mississippians.

Indications from the results of this first lobby period are that the voting rights bill with the repeal of the poll tax will pass the House.

On the Challenge reactions were mixed, and some revealing and truthful answers were given. Reports showed issues raised by the Challenge were known to a significant number of Congressmen. About 2/3 of the Congressmen spoken to admitted to having received constituent mail on the Challenge. There were a large number (about 1/2 of those visited) willing to commit themselves to vote to unseat if the Challenges came to a vote. But there was a large number, seventy Congressmen, who refused to reveal how they would vote. Many said that they needed constituent pressure before they could vote to unseat. Others wanted legal arguments and "evidence."

The MFDP Washington office and Congressmen supporting the Challenge say that Congressional support and interest is higher than before January 4th when the Ryan resolution got 148 votes and a number of liberal Congressmen are reportedly thinking in terms of a winning strategy.

At present in the House, with the exception of about 10 very liberal Republicans, Republicans are taking no position on the Challenge on the basis that the Democrats and the Democratic Leadership will decide the fate of the Challenge.

The other much reported observation by students was that few Congressmen would predict the results of a floor vote on the Challenge but many were predicting that the Democratic Leadership would seek to keep it from reaching the floor. One New York republican told one of his constituents that "The word from the White House is that these Challenges must never come from Committee."

The lobbyists also reported that a significant number of Congressmen were given the qualified commitment that "Certainly I shall vote for unseating if and when it comes to the floor."

It was clear to the lobbyists that although the unseating of Congressmen is not uncommon in the history of the House many Congressmen responded with great hesitations about having to take this step. One midwestern Congressman admitted to his con-

stituents that "once we start unseating Congressmen it could spread, there are so many Congressmen for example elected on Mafia money..." Another midwestern Congressman on the agriculture committee told the group, "I am on Mr. Whittens Committee. I would never vote against such a fine legislator as Mr. Whitten especially when my states agriculture appropriations must come from his Committee." He then proceeded to introduce Mr. Whitten who had been sitting in the office during the interview.

Another Congressman who was called off the floor by a group of his constituents brought with him Rep. Prentiss Walker (R-Miss.) and both Congressmen proceeded to lecture the students on their love and devotion to Negroes and to their Negro maids. The name of one of the Congressman's Negro maid was significantly enough "America". No kidding.

There is a need for an increased and stepped up program of letters and telegrams calling for immediate unseating to all congressmen. Write your Congressman.

Clerk Delays Challenge

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- A month-long battle between Clerk of the U. S. House Ralph Roberts and the MFDP is continuing.

Clerk Roberts agreed on June 4 - after preliminary meetings between FDP lawyers and lawyers for the five Mississippi Congressmen - that he would print all of the 650 depositions gathered by the FDP in hearings in Mississippi last winter and spring.

At a June 7 meeting with MFDP worker Mrs. Rita Schwerner and Atty. William Higgs, Roberts indicated that depositions gathered by the FDP in hearings in Mississippi 4th Congressional District would be printed that day.

But nearly two weeks later, Congressman John Conyers of Detroit learned from the Clerk that no depositions had been printed

and that "technical" problems were halting the printing.

On June 18, 28 Negro Mississippians visited the Clerk's office and were told that Roberts would not return for the rest of the day, although newspapermen who arrived in the office shortly before the FDP delegation were told he would return in 30 minutes.

The Mississippians decided to wait for his return, and at 5:30 that day were given a written appointment for June 19 by Benjamin Guthrie, an assistant to the Clerk.

When they returned the next morning, they were told Roberts had to attend a funeral and could not see them. Six hours later, Roberts sent a message saying he had no knowledge of the appointment and



'I Wonder Who's Pulling From The Top.'

could not see them. The group decided to remain and nine were arrested, reportedly on orders from House Speaker John McCormack, and were held until June 21 when they were released on \$300 bond on charges of "illegal entry."

A jury trial was set for June 28, but postponed until July 12 when Clerk Roberts, his assistant and the arresting officers said the subpoenas were lost.

After their arraignment, the arrested Mississippians issued a statement saying:

"On Saturday we attempted to keep a written appointment with the Clerk

and were arrested. We have been deceived on three different occasions by the Clerk or his representatives and have completely lost faith in the integrity or good faith of the Clerk or his office. Consequently we can see no reason to attempt to see the Clerk now since we can believe very little of what he says. We did not come to Washington to demonstrate or to sit-in. We attempted to see the Clerk on business in which we are all involved very personally. We found that because we were Negroes and poor people we were treated with contempt and disrespect. We have no wish to be abused further by the Clerk or his assistants."

Will You Help?

The literacy test in Lowndes County, Alabama has been dropped for an indefinite period of time. Over 500 people have been to the courthouse to register.

The Residential Freedom Schools have started. Students from the south are now in Chicago. Cordele, Ga. will be the site of the next school in August.

I want to keep SNCC workers in the field. I enclose \$ _____ towards SNCC's Program.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Contributions of \$3.00 or more receive a 12-month subscription to the Voice.

STRIKER REPORTS FROM DELTA

Trebbett, Miss.

This is a report of the 12 strikers on C. L. Andrews' plantation. The problem arose because of the fact that these men who had families ranging from about 7 to 13 were not being paid enough to support them and pay off the bills they owed. They asked for a raise about four weeks ago and were refused. About two weeks after that they asked for another and was told that their wages would be lowered before they would be raised. The third time they asked for a raise on Monday morning and Mr. Andrews gave them two choices, go on working for the same wages or leave.

The men gave him his key and watch and walked away. Andrews then went to the wives of the 12 men and told them to get out of his houses. All of the gas and electric was cut off in the houses. The women and the children were taken to Mount Beulahs Christian Center near Jackson and men returned to Greenville where they were taken in by families for the night. Tuesday morning the men started picketing on the plantation where they remained the entire day. There were four tractor drivers working when they arrived and one bus load of cotton choppers. The

cotton choppers were asked to leave. The strikers paid the bus driver \$7.00 for hauling. But the four men on the tractors would not leave. One of them lived in the plantation and the other three men were brought in from Indianola. The man that lived on the plantation joined the strikers that afternoon but the others still worked. The next day the strikers were ordered to move all their things out of the house. Some of the men didn't have a key to get in their houses. While they were gone to get one the houses were broken into and all their things were thrown on the side of the road. A lot of this furniture was broken up and some was repossessed by the furniture companies.

Friday morning a truckload of choppers were turned around from Greenville but another truck from Indianola would not leave. Three of the strikers were given jobs and turned their wages over to the union so they could be used to help the rest of the strikers and to help these that will be going on strike in the future.

Mr. James Green, one of the strikers of A. L. Andrews' plantation, Trebbett, Miss.



STRIKERS REBUFFED BY U.S. JUDGE - Members of the Mississippi Freedom Labor Party (MFLU) leave the Oxford, Mississippi Federal Courthouse after United States District Judge Claude F. Clayton ruled he had no jurisdiction over litigation between the MFLU and plantation owner A. L. Andrews. Andrews had obtained an injunction limiting MFLU pickets to four.



The Movement is a book born out of the Negro's struggle for dignity, citizenship, a decent life—the various needs which have been wrapped up in one word. Freedom.

The Movement documents many aspects of social revolution, but it is above all a gallery of faces: the bitter weariness of a Mississippi field hand; the dauntless good humor of a twelve-year-old girl in a Georgia jail; the rage and hatred of a Ku Klux Klansman; the troubled expression of a white Southerner forced to reconsider his way of living and thinking.

This book was prepared with the assistance of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The text is by American playwright Lorraine Hansberry. Most of the pictures are by Danny Lyon.

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee 360 Nelson St., S.W. Atlanta, Ga.

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THE MOVEMENT

TEXT BY LORRAINE HANSBERRY

POEM

The "MEASURE OF LIFE IN FEET" is a poem that I wrote about my mother. My mother is probably no different from any other good mother who would do anything for her Children. But to me there has been something very unique about my mother. I've never heard her complain about herself except ones, and this was done in the form of a joke. It happened the last time I was home.

I was resting and my mother came in to talk and spend some time with me, since I'm seldom at home any length of time. She came in and sat down heavily and said, "Lord my feet are tired, I don't know how far they've walked, I wonder if they have to walk to heaven." These state-

ments struck me profoundly, therefore, I have tried to relate, through this poem, my mother's life as she related it to me in the "MEASURE OF LIFE IN FEET."

Gwen Gillon

My Feet are tired, Lord Knows that They've walked a many miles,

Beginning between the cotton Roe they began their trod behind the hoe. Sometimes for pleasure miles they would go, but work often was the force.

Even when horse and wagon was the style by feet I made my miles.

Now cars go swishing by, but my feet are still pushing, pushing maybe to the sky.

Seven kids I raised on my steady feet, Four are able to withstand the world's Clanking fleet, Three at home I tend steady on, with tired feet and hands.

Sometimes I look at my burden feet, and wonder how much longer will they keep. Often now from the load of the day they burn with passion, Maybe an upward way, I've seen other feet so neatly shaped not flat, not tired, but happy and almost gay.

But OH!, How useful mine have been, God knows they were another pair of hands.

Published by The Student Voice, Inc., 360 Nelson St., S. W., Atlanta, Ga. Subscriptions, \$3.00 a year.

360 Nelson Street, S. W. Atlanta, Georgia 30313