

December 11-

1100 E. Washington, Ann Arbor

MISSISSIPPI COMING TO NEWARK

"They beat me till I was unconscious...beat me, kicked me, and chained me back again, both my hands and legs."
says Clyde Wright

Controversy

Mr. Wright says: "On November 28, 1964, Saturday night, about six-thirty, I entered S. Klein's department store with two friends to do some shopping. Then I started to look for a sweater for my wife. After I bought the sweater I started to go out of the store. Then Mary (one of the two friends who came with me) saw me and told me to hold her package until she got back. Then both of us started out the store. I had my package in my right hand, and her package in my left hand. Then one of the guards stopped me and asked, "Was the package paid for?" I told him, "Yes." And he said that the package I had in my left hand wasn't paid for. I told him it should be because Mary gave it to me. Then the guard said "Let's go in the back." And after I got in the back and sat down, the lady (a Klein's employee) said "We're going to have him put in jail." Then I asked them to let me go get the woman who stole the package. I started to get up and one of the guards caught me by the arm, and another started to hit me and kick me but I wouldn't hit back. Right then I asked them to stop beating me. Then the lady there said, "KILL HIM!" Then I started to fight back. About four more men (all Klein's employees) were hitting and kicking me. Then they handcuffed me to a pole. They pulled a gun on me, and threatened to hit me with a blackjack; they beat me till I was unconscious for a few seconds. Then some way I broke loose from the handcuffs, then they beat me, kicking me, and chained me back again, both my hands and legs. For two or three minutes, they beat me, until detectives came, who told Klein's employees to release me. I went downtown with the police, and was charged with shoplifting and assault and battery."

KLEIN'S SAYS NOTHING HAPPENED

Mr. Wright is still badly bruised, sore, and limping. He can't work. The doctor who examined him says he was badly beaten. But Klein's says it never happened. Klein's won't even talk to Mr. Wright.

- WE DEMAND:
1. Klein's drop all charges against Mr. Wright
 2. Klein's compensate Mr. Wright for all medical expenses and loss of work caused by this beating.
 3. Klein's fire all guards and employees involved in Mr. Wright's beating.
 4. Klein's publicly apologize to Mr. Wright, and guarantee the Newark Negro community that Klein's will no longer permit, encourage, or shield brutality in its store.

NO MORE BEATINGS!
DON'T BUY FROM KLEIN'S!
BIG STORES HAVE NO RIGHT TO PUSH US AROUND!

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SERIES 4A - NO 8

SUPPORT MISSISSIPPI

-2-

from Barry Kalish, Newark Staff

Since the beating last Saturday night in Klein's we have attempted to talk to Klein's management but have been rudely rebuffed. They have refused to meet with the Newark Community Union Project or with Clyde Wright and his attorney. Klein's position is that a man (Clyde) had to be held for shoplifting until the police arrived. They further maintain that Clyde committed violence upon two of the six guards in attendance that evening.

Klein's seems to have a policy of working over people that are caught or suspected to be shoplifting and we are in the process of documenting this policy. Our research shows that there are stores throughout the country that may be connected to S. Kleins in Newark. If possible, could you check out what stores you have connected to S. Klein's in Newark (the central office is located in the 14th St. store of S. Klein's in NYC) and take some appropriate action in this regard (some examples might be; a delegation of various civil rights and grassroots groups to the managers of your stores, leafletting your stores, picket your stores, shop-in, sit-in, lay-in,

We'll appreciate anything you're able to do; contact us for names of stores in your area if necessary. Let us know if you see your way clear to doing something about Mississippi coming to Newark.

DON'T BUY FROM KLEIN'S _____ IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU _____
Avante,

Barry

We remain at 247 Peshine (2433355) or 194 Ridgewood (2431895).

NEWARK

"Last Saturday a group of people from NCUP (Terry Jefferson, George Fontaine, Freddy Dawkins, Merble Harrington, Barry Kalish, Tom Hayden and Carl Wittman) went to Washington to a meeting with the MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY. At the meeting, two candidates from the MFDP, Mr. Annie Devine and Mrs. Victoria Gray, spoke of how they tried to get into the Democratic Party to try to change their state, but were kicked out. Then Mr. Kano, a lawyer for SCCC and the MFDP, spoke about a challenge that is provided by a law of Congress which says that a citizen may challenge the right of an individual to be seated in Congress. We then had a discussion about what we in the North can do to help. The meeting was exciting because it brought together for the first time community people from the North and the South. WE GOT TO HELP EACH OTHER!

CHESTER (From the Chester Newsletter)

"A candidate from the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party will speak at a rally on Friday, Dec. 11th at Providence Baptist Church. The program to support Mississippi in Chester began Nov. 28th when Ruth Sepes and Donald Jackson went to Washington to a meeting to plan nationwide support for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

After the meeting in Washington a group was formed in Chester to support the program in Mississippi. Now this group has planned a rally to raise money and support for Mississippi.

Petitions are being circulated to give everyone in Chester a chance to voice his support for the fight for freedom in Mississippi.

A Letter From The MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Dear Friends,

For many months you've been hearing of the situation in the state of Mississippi. During this past summer the news media carried the stories of the Mississippi Summer Project. At the end of the summer, most of you watched the dramatic challenge of the seating of the Mississippi Democratic Party by the Freedom Democratic Party in Atlantic City, New Jersey. We are now at the next step of our fight to end discrimination and prejudice in the state of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party is challenging the seating of the four members of the Mississippi Democratic Party and the one Republican who claim to have been elected to Congress on Nov. 3, 1964. We are doing this on the basis that Negroes were and still are systematically excluded from participation in the electoral process. We are requesting that the House of Representatives not seat these men because their election was unrepresentative of the people of the State and is therefore unconstitutional.

SERIES 4 A - NO 8

On Wednesday, December 2, Black Mississippians served the formal challenge in person upon five white supremacists who claim to have been elected from Mississippi. For this challenge to succeed, it will be necessary to secure widespread support from citizens across the nation. In the process of fighting for constitutional rights in Mississippi closer ties are built between the North and the South in the fight for freedom.

Across the country, committees are being established to work for the success of the challenge. Leaders of local communities are getting together to talk about and decide what kind of help they can give to the challenge. People of the North are realizing that Mississippi Segregationist Congressmen leave their racist mark not only on the State of Mississippi, but also on the entire nation when they are allowed to be seated in Congress.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Within the next two weeks, a committee should be formed in your local community to support the challenge.
2. This committee should organize a delegation from the community to visit the Congressman at home asking that he support and vote for the challenge. (The entire basis for the challenge is the amount of political support that can be aroused throughout the nation on a local level. The only way in which congressmen will be moved is through pressure from their local constituents. Thus the form of action must be direct pressure in the form of letters, petitions, personal visits and local rallies.)
3. Ask your congressman to support a "Fairness Resolution" reading as follows: "Be it resolved that pending the final decision of the House in the contest and challenges to the seats from Mississippi, no person claiming those seats shall be allowed to take the oath until this contest or challenge is decided by the House."
4. The congressman should be asked to vote to request a roll call vote on all issues concerning the challenge including the Fairness Resolution and the final vote on the Challenge.

It is quite possible that your congressman will not be willing to do all of these things. They are listed in the probable order of greatest support for the challenge. Thus, if he agrees to do (2), then it follows that he should do all the rest. However, he might be willing to do one or more of the three and all attempts should be made to get some commitment.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY YOU CAN

1. Organize many delegations of community people to visit the Congressman at his home.
2. Put on a rally or mass meeting where someone from the Freedom Democratic Party would be invited to speak and inform community people what the challenge is all about.
3. Start a campaign of letter writing, petitions and public rallies to demonstrate community support for the Challenge.

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3. Start a campaign of letter writing, petitions and public rallies to demonstrate community support for the challenge.
4. Raise money to help pay the expenses of the challenge.

REMEMBER

- Your Congressman should be told about the challenge by DECEMBER 15th
- After the fourth of January (Challenge Day) it is still important to keep the pressure on -- since congress will probably not actually vote on seating delegates until sometime in July.
- Keep in touch with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's Washington Office -- 1353 'U' Street N.W. Washington d.c. (332-7732). Whenever you visit a congressman be sure and call them to relay what happened and what commitment you got from him. Also notify them about rallies and ask to be sent the latest information.

..... TOGETHER IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM
The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

SERIES 4A - NO 8

HAZARD VOICE

Reprinted from Voice For Jobs and Justice, December 4, 1964

WE TRY HARDER!

By Francis Hager, Lothair, Kentucky

I would like to remind every citizen in Perry County, this is your program we are working on and it is your duty as citizens to help us work for a better place to live. We have got a good start, in fact we are like the rabbit, we are about ten jumps ahead and we won't stop at that. We mean to get what we have asked for, and at a later date we are going to get more as we go along. So you good people come on and help us win the victory, and please don't believe the gossip you hear about us. Come see for yourself what we stand for. Our goal is jobs and justice and surely there is nothing wrong in that.

People have asked me why I am out in the cold and the rain working for the Appalachian Committee for Full Employment when I don't have any family, just myself to look after. I tell them it is not just myself, it is all the people here I am interested in--the ones that haven't got anything to live on. I also told them if they would get out and go from door to door like I do and see naked hungry children and the older people shaking and nervous from hunger and cold they would understand and help.

Next week I will start my door to door campaign again. We are trying to tell everyone about the Appalachian Committee's program and we are trying to get everyone to support it. I would welcome anyone's help, men or women, if they would go along with me. Don't get me wrong, half the time I don't have a mouthful of food in the house. That is why the Appalachian Committee means so much to me. We've got to try to get our program through and then we'll have jobs at union wages and there won't be an age limit for those who need work.

I want to hear from all you good people who are willing to help me on my door to door campaign. My mailing address is: Lothair, Kentucky

PUT IT TO USE FOR THE POOR PEOPLE

By Mrs. Martha Coots, Walkertown, Kentucky

It is true they took my sister in to the hospital at Harlan and she had a medical card and she could stay 8 days in the hospital. And don't you know when the 8 days were up we got word to take her home unless we could pay 12.00 for each extra day. We couldn't pay the money so we took her home on a Thursday and she died on Sunday.

If we can't have anything done for us poor people while we're alive, we don't need it after we are dead. We know a rich man cannot get to heaven for it is as easy for a camel to go through the eye of a needle as it is for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven.

We ought to have some of this money that goes into the rich man's pockets and put it to use for the poor people, and if we don't help the people who are trying to help us we will never have anything.

-6-

- 7 -

"DOMESTIC PEACE CORPS" TO TACKLE POVERTY THROUGHOUT UNITED STATES

(Reprinted from the "Kentucky Labor News")

Washington -- "Wanted: Men and Women over 18 for difficult work in grim surroundings. Must be willing to live in slums. Long hours guaranteed. Pay \$ 50 a month and living allowance."

That's an ad for VISTA: Volunteers in Service to America, a kind of domestic Peace Corps, as projected by an imaginative reporter. (The volunteers will) ... provide day care, assist elderly citizens, provide recreational or community development, assistance, teach plumbing, carpentry, or other building trades, and teach pre-school youngsters. (Glenn Ferguson, recruiter for VISTA) said, "I think the greatest danger is the question of adjustment. Very few Americans who are not among the one-fifth who need help -- who are not in the poverty cycle -- will understand the reality, psychology and posture of poverty. We will seek in the training period to give the volunteers from middle class America some idea of this way of life to reduce the difficulty of adjustment."

VOICE FOR JOBS AND JUSTICE SAYS . . .

"It seems that a good place to start this recruiting would be right here in Appalachia. Lots of us here need jobs, and we wouldn't have to go through all that training for "adjustment to poverty."

SERIES 4 A - NO. 8

TO: ERAP EXEC. COMMITTEE
FROM: DAVE RYMIN and PETER FRANCK
RE: PROSPECTS FOR ACTION IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

Alameda County, California, presents the best prospect in the nation for a massive student-lower class radical movement in a major metropolitan area.

The potential is almost entirely unrealized, and this memo is written as an attempt to get the ball rolling.

Oakland-Berkeley, the adjacent central cities of the county, have a combined population of 5,000,000. A third of this is Negro, another third is lower and working class white. Berkeley is the home of the University of California, with 27,500 students.

The political structure here is very weak; Alameda County and Oakland are run from the top by a reactionary clique centering on former Senator Wm. F. Knowland (Goldwater's California campaign manager) and his Oakland Tribune, the East Bay's only metropolitan newspaper. The clique has no mass base or grass-roots organization, and rules due to apathy, control of communications, and the lack of any dominant labor union or organized ethnic group or machine to spearhead opposition. Berkeley politics are hotter; it is now dominated by a loosely organized coalition of University-oriented liberals and middle-class Negro elements. But the coalition is hopelessly middle class in its orientation, does not tie in with Oakland, and has no working class base, white or black.

The Oakland lower and working classes are completely un-organized, both black and white. No existing Negro organizations has a mass following or is likely to develop one, due to bourgeois leadership in a community where most Negroes are lower class. Oakland is for many the first stop on leaving the South and getting established. Stable working class Negroes tend to move out of the city.

In the midst of all this is the University of California which has probably the largest radical political element of any campus in the country. Direct action civil disobedience projects across the bay in San Francisco can now mobilize 500-1,000 U.C. students. Mass demonstrations can now draw 3,000 plus.

Left-isolation is not a serious problem. Several local congressmen and assemblymen are public supporters of the direct-action movement. At present the Ad-Hoc Committee, widely known as a DuBois Club front, has organized a drive against discriminatory hiring practices at Knowland's Oakland Tribune. Despite public attacks on the leaders of the drive, they have secured the cooperation and active support of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, the Council of Churches and the CDC (the "grass-roots" reform club movement).

- At present there are three active attempts at lower-working class organization going on in the county.
1. Youth for Jobs--focusing on unemployed and high school Negroes; has held several demonstrations, largest drew 2,000. Led by Roscoe Proctor, under indictment for failure to register before SACE. No solid organization, program or base yet.
 2. Welfare Rights Organization--demonstrates and builds administrative pressure on the reactionary County Welfare Administration. Some success, but

because it has not yet solidly bridged the gap between middle class leadership and welfare-client base, substantial growth has not occurred.

3. Development of ward system among East Oakland working class whites by several militant "central city mission" protestant ministers in cooperation with sympathetic assemblymen--still in formative stages.

As for other groups: civil rights organizations all have conservative composition, not likely to move on their own. The Ad-Hoc Committee has no roots in the non-student community. They act as outside organizers of demonstrations; a sort of mostly white flying-squad for civil rights demonstrations.

Recognizing the potential of the area, Progressive Labor has just shifted their co-chairman, Mort Scheer out here from Buffalo, but they are not yet established, nor do they have a program.

Where does SDS fit in? A group is attempting to get established at U.C., but the leadership is inexperienced and it will not scratch the surface of the potential. This summer, CORE had 500 members on campus organizing for civil disobedience. An ERAP program could find a similar number of members.

This is the hottest campus in the country next to the most unorganized lower-class districts of any major metropolitan area. SDS should send its best, most experienced organizer out here at once. There are many able people in the area, but they do not have the right direction. You should plan to have your organizer put two on staff, plus rent an office. Within one year, local sources of financial support could be developed from labor, church and liberal groups. Probably a hundred local students would agree to move into lower class neighborhoods and take up local organizing by that time. By a year from now the greatest grass-roots movement in the North could be well off the ground; one that would set a national precedent which would strengthen SDS everywhere.

Unless you make a commitment here, we will continue to have just a mass civil disobedience movement where thousands of white students and Negro kids meet at occasional sit-ins in hotels and auto dealers, but with no organized movement developing out of it.

If you are not ready to make a commitment, for God's sake, send a man out here in the next month or two so that you at least know what you are passing up!

SERIES 4A - NO 8

"At the heart of the poverty program lies a new form of dialogue between the poor and the rest of this society.. This is not to be a dialogue of manipulation, a new form of master-servant relationship, or worse still, a covert form of unilateral action which treats the poor as inanimate objects to be shaped in the image of the middle class...

To this dialogue, the President has not only summoned the successful, the middle class, the political entities, institutions, groups and individuals which compose the power structure; he has summoned the poor themselves. And there is a legislative, an ethical, and (for those of us involved in the program) a personal commitment to insure that the poor themselves actively participate in the planning, implementation and administration of these programs. We have seen, all too often, statutory clauses requiring 'citizen participation' turned into meaningless exhortations and formalities where the poor are asked or required to assent to programs that they neither comprehend nor desire

Involvement of the poor will mean giving them effective power, a respected and heeded voice and genuine representation in all aspects of the program and at all stages in the significant decision-making processes. These are the pre-requisites of a dialogue between equals -- and the equality we speak of is the equality of humanity, of dignity, of respect, of mutual compassion and understanding.

The alternative to such a dialogue is paternalism -- and the price of paternalism is enforced and continuous infancy, subservience and postponement of full responsibility and manhood. This is not what we want. We must avoid the steps and actions which lead to it.

OUR NEIGHBOR WAS BEAT BLOODY
IN KLEINS

DONT BUY FROM KLEINS

IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

SERIES 4 A - NO 8