

Voting Ends This Week

'Got No Time to Hate,' Says ASCS Candidate

BY BETH WILCOX

SELMA, Ala.--"I will go out in the fields, and see what insects are bothering crops, and tell people what do do about it. I will tell people what fertilizer to use, tell them about the programs they could participate in."

That's the kind of campaign speech Charlie Griffin of Sardis has been making the past few days. Griffin and hundreds of other farmers in Alabama and Mississippi are running for spots on their ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) community committees.

All farm owners, tenant farmers, and sharecroppers are eligible to vote in the ASCS election. Ballots must be mailed or carried to county ASCS offices by next Monday.

Griffin, a Negro, said Negro farmers in Dallas County haven't taken advantage of federal farm programs controlled by ASCS. "If people go out in the community, though, and talk about these programs, we'll get something done," he said.

Another ASCS candidate is Marin Green, also of Sardis. Green was elected as an alternate member of the community committee last year. As an alternate, he was supposed to sit in on meetings of the committee if one of the regular members could not be present.

But, said Green, "I was never called to do anything, and never sat in. I never inquired about it, either."

"If I could just get on the committee and hear the truth, it would be a help to our race," he said. "Now we just hear what they want us to hear."

Green said he doesn't think Negroes are let in on the programs under ASCS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

"I got doubts about those programs, as to whether we get an equal deal on it. I know some of these (white) men around here grow cucumbers and okra on that 'diverted' land (land farmers are paid to keep idle, under the soil-bank program).

"We (Negroes) can't even let a hog run across our land. If they do run across, make sure they don't bite no grass! That'll disqualify you for payment."

What are the chances of a Negro winning? Not very good, according to Green.

"A good percent of us have been put off the farms this year," he explained. "There are very few Negroes here this year."

But another Negro candidate, Mrs. Mary Lou Harris of Tyler, declared, "I'm gonna win."

Mrs. Harris, who cares for four children, said, "I got no time to hate anyone. That's why I say I think white people will even vote for me. I want them to know I don't hate them."

"It's nice to know we try, anyway," Mrs. Harris added, "I guess that's what you could say--at least we tried. We always had candidates from out here. Every year they have tried."



MRS. MARY LOU HARRIS AND HER FAMILY

Can Gov. Keep Tuskegee Money? Radney Says Yes, Cooper Says No

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--Does Governor Lurleen B. Wallace have the legal right to withhold \$1,000,000 from Tuskegee Institute after signing the bill that made the appropriation?

State Senator Tom Radney--who pushed the bill through the closing days of the Legislative session--says no.

State Senator Roland Cooper, a spokesman for the governor's forces in the Senate, says yes.

Tuskegee Institute President Luther H. Foster says that until the school gets the official word from the governor, "we're not in a position to know precisely what to do."

And two Institute trustees say that whatever the law may be, "honesty and moral integrity demand" that the money be given to the school.

The long-running battle over state funds for Tuskegee Institute flared up again last week after Governor Wallace announced she was signing the appropriation bill--but wouldn't hand over the money unless the federal courts uphold Alabama's tuition-grant law.

That law--which provides \$181 a year for students attending private schools--will come up before three federal judges in court this Saturday.

The same three judges have already thrown out two similar Alabama laws. And earlier this month, the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the Louisiana law on which Alabama's

newest tuition-grant measure is modeled.

State Senator Radney, who represents Macon County, called the governor's action "constitutionally invalid."

"Never in the history of Alabama has a law ever been signed with a condition attached," said Radney. "In my opinion, Tuskegee will get their money."

But State Senator Cooper of Wilcox County--who at first agreed with Radney--later said he had been misled by early press reports.



RADNEY

COOPER

"If the governor had put an amendment on the bill, that would be illegal," said Cooper. "But she did not amend it."

He said the governor's office had directed his attention to a sentence which says the money will be paid out for the "support and maintenance" of Tuskegee Institute "as approved by the governor."

"That last phrase makes it a conditional appropriation," said Cooper. "She can pay it any time she wants to. She can condition it on anything she likes."

Who added the mysterious phrase to the Tuskegee bill? "I didn't write it--I just voted for it," said Cooper. And Radney said he is sure that the bill's author, budget officer Jake Jordan, "didn't do it deliberately."

Radney called the governor's move "a great disappointment," and "a grave mistake for our state."

"I trust that this action by her honor will not have an adverse effect upon the race relations of our state," he said. Radney--sponsor of the bill providing Tuskegee with \$470,000 for each of the next two years--pointed out that only one senator and seven representatives voted against it. He also said Senator Cooper had told him the governor would

Shooting on a Bus

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--J.H. Duke, a white man, was charged with assault with intent to murder last Wednesday after a racial incident and shooting on a city bus.

According to police reports, the incident occurred when Mrs. Joyce Rogers, a Negro lady, tried to take a seat beside Duke. The bus driver, M. L. McClain, told police he thinks Duke "shoved or hit" Mrs. Rogers.

After that, according to the police report, Milton Hall, a Negro from Prattville, "jumped on (Duke) and started beating him, with both fists, on his head. . . . Duke then pulled his pistol and shot Hall in the chest." Mrs. Rogers was also struck by a bullet. The wounds were not serious.

CDGM Head Quits, Favors Local Leaders

Laurel Teacher Beaten

BY MERTIS RUBIN

LAUREL, Miss.--A white teacher for CDGM (the Child Development Group of Mississippi) was beaten by three hooded men last Friday night in her home.

Miss Victoria Cohen, 19 years old, said she and her family were awakened by the men, who forced their way into the house and said they came to talk to her.

"There was one tall man with a red hood," she said. "The other two were short, with black hoods. . . . The tall one had a shotgun, and the other two each had pistols. One had a piece of rubber hose."

"I asked the men what they wanted," Miss Cohen recalled. "They told me I knew what they wanted. I said I didn't, but I sure would like to know."

"Then they said they would take me back into the bedroom. I said no. But the two short ones caught me by each arm and dragged me into the room.

Then they started to hit me with the rubber hose.

"I kept asking them what they were hitting me for. They kept saying, 'You know.'"

Miss Cohen said that when her mother grabbed for one of the men's masks, the man pointed the butt of his gun at her and told her to leave the mask alone. At the time, she said, another invader was holding the shotgun on her father.

After the men left, Miss Cohen said, she and her family got dressed and drove ten miles into Laurel to report the incident to the sheriff's office.

This week, the sheriff's office said the case is being investigated. The victim has returned to work.

Miss Cohen has worked for CDGM as a resource teacher since the program started this year, and she also worked for two months last year. She said this is the first time either she or the other white teacher in the Jones County area has experienced any type of intimidation.

BY MERTIS RUBIN

JACKSON, Miss. -- John Mudd has resigned after two years as executive director of CDGM (the Child Development Group of Mississippi).

"There is a period in the growth of an institution like CDGM when 'professionals' like myself can be useful," Mudd said. "I believe that time has passed for me."

Mudd, who is white, came from the North to administer the CDGM Head Start program. Last December, CDGM said it would refuse federal money unless Mudd were allowed to stay on as executive director.

"CDGM has been built in the faith that people from communities of the poor would operate their own programs in their best interests," Mudd said in announcing his resignation.

"If CDGM's philosophy is to have meaning, I believe the organization is at a point where leadership that has closer ties to the communities must take control."

Mudd also noted "deep feelings on the part of the elected representatives of the communities that they must shape the future of CDGM in their own way, and that my presence in the program complicates this process."

The Rev. Charles F. Thomas, formerly director of the Bethlehem CDGM Center in Stone County, has been serving as acting executive director since Sept. 1.

Marvin Hoffman of the CDGM staff said Thomas is well-qualified, because he started in a center and worked his way up.

But Thomas told the CDGM board of directors last week that he isn't sure he's equipped to be the permanent executive director. He pointed out, however, that the group must have a permanent director, soon, or take the risk of not being re-funded.

In the same board meeting that accepted Mudd's resignation, the Rev. James F. McRee was re-elected chairman of the board by a one-vote margin over the vice-chairman, Jimmy Jones.

"We have commitments with our students," he said. "We will keep them."

Two Institute trustees--both white Alabamians appointed by Governor Wallace or her husband--urged her to reconsider.

"It is unbelievable that the administration in Montgomery would cancel an association that has been developed over many years for the good of the education of Negroes in Alabama," said Arthur Cook, publisher of the Sun Papers in Birmingham.

Cook said he was also speaking for Thomas D. Russell, president of Russell Mills, Inc., in Alexander City.

'A Man Has a Right to Rule His Own House'

Macon CAP Board, Men From OEO Argue Over Firing Mrs. Johnson

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"A man has the right to rule his own house," said the Rev. Henry Ellis, a member of the board of the Macon County Community Action Program (CAP).

And if the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) is serious about local control of CAP programs, Ellis continued, then the Macon County CAP board has a right to replace its paid director, Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson.

About half the 175 people at a public meeting in the county courthouse clapped and nodded.

But two listeners at the front of the room shook their heads. "Yes, a man has the right to rule his home," said John Dean, OEO's Southeast regional CAP administrator. "But he doesn't have a right to kill his wife."

And, he said, the Macon County CAP board doesn't have the right "to say, 'We won't have fair personnel procedures.'"

Dean and Larkin Bell, an OEO field representative, came to the CAP meeting last Tuesday night to explain why OEO refused to accept the board's vote to oust Mrs. Johnson from her \$12,000-a-year job.

But during the turbulent three-hour session, several board members and local citizens sharply criticized OEO's action.

The Rev. Robert Smith demanded to know why--after more than two years--the regional office had suddenly decided that the Macon County CAP was not complying with OEO personnel rules.

"This isn't the regional office asking you to clarify job descriptions before taking any personnel action," Dean replied. "It is local staff members asking."

Then Dean repeated OEO's demand that the Macon County CAP board hire and fire employees on a permanent basis, listing job requirements and "just causes" for dismissal.

"A temporary contract is not acceptable to you," said board chairman B. D. Mayberry. "A permanent contract



JOHN DEAN OF OEO ADDRESSES MACON CAP MEETING

would not be acceptable to this community. Is there any way in between?"

"The only path is to lay down job descriptions," replied Dean. If the board agrees to evaluate a staff member's performance and give him a hearing before firing him, Dean added, "then we are on solid ground."

When board members suggested that hearings and job descriptions wouldn't guarantee fair procedures, Dean leaped to his feet and charged:

"This community is turning cartwheels to get away from its responsibilities."

But Thomas Reed said the community had already met its responsibilities. When the board voted to replace Mrs. Johnson last month, Reed said, "the meeting was the most democratic thing I've ever seen in Macon County."

"If the vote had been the other way around," he asked Dean, "would you be here tonight?"

Who gave Mrs. Johnson permission to visit Washington with a group of CAP directors last month? Mrs. Con-

suello J. Harper asked the OEO representatives. Mrs. Harper accused the CAP leader of trying to destroy single-purpose anti-poverty agencies--like the new, 12-county South East Alabama Self Help Association (SEASHA).

"CAP directors have the authority to travel on community action business," Dean replied.

"Did your office authorize the trip? Yes or no?" snapped Mayberry. Dean nodded his head.

"It seems to me it's a matter of convenience--what is the board's business and what is the regional office's business," Mayberry observed. "You checked our policies concerning the replacement of a director. But you didn't look to see if we permitted unlimited travel."

At the end of the session, the CAP board members agreed to meet later this week to re-write their personnel policies--including procedures for replacing the staff director.

"If we have to do it all over again," said Ellis, "we're going to do the same thing."

7 Arrested in Selma; Strike in Sixth Week

BY BETH WILCOX

SELMA, Ala.--Seven strikers were arrested last Wednesday as they tried to keep non-striking workers from entering the Laura Industries plant here.

Selma police arrested Theopolus Bailey after an egg was thrown at one of the arriving workers. When Robert Nunn, one of the leaders of the strike, protested Bailey's arrest, he too was taken into custody.

The charge against the strikers was disturbing the peace. Nunn was also charged with carrying a concealed weapon--a billy-club. He said later that he had picked it up earlier Wednesday, after it fell out of his car: "I had no idea there was going to be anything like this today."

Nunn and Bailey claimed they were beaten by police. "They beat me all around the face," Nunn said.

A total of \$1,000 in bonds was posted by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). The goal of the six-week-old strike is to force the Laura management to recognize and bargain with the ILGWU.

At a meeting last Sunday in Brown's Chapel, it was announced that employees at two unionized textile plants had stopped work because their products were being sent to Laura Industries. The plants are in Lawrenceburg,



ROBERT NUNN

Tenn., and Jacksonville, N.C.

On Monday, about 250 people walked from the union hall to the Laura plant, where they sang "We Shall Overcome," "We Shall Not Be Moved," and other songs. Rather than pass the strikers blocking one driveway, several drivers took their cars and trucks to other entrances to the plant.

During Tuesday morning's protest, the demonstrators noticed five former strikers entering the plant. Cries of "We'll burn your house down" followed these workers as they later left the plant--apparently unable to get a job.

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Table with 2 columns: City, Phone Number. Includes Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma, Talladega, Troy, Tuscaloosa, Tuskegee, Greenville, Jackson, Mendenhall, Meridian.

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County Keeps Free Food No Stamps For Macon

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
TUSKEGEE, Ala.--The Macon County Board of Revenue has quietly buried a request to replace the surplus food distribution program with food stamps.

Instead, at the board's monthly meeting this week, the commissioners unanimously approved a \$300 addition to the yearly \$6,000 appropriation for distributing the free food.

The request for food stamps was made two months ago by a group of white merchants. They told the revenue board that the surplus food wasn't much good, and said people were feeding it "to the hogs and the chickens."

But this week, Fred Rowe, the man in charge of the food distribution, told the board that people apparently liked the surplus food, because more of them were asking for it every month.

"We've increased 15 to 20% since we began" in March, 1966, Rowe said. "This morning I signed up ten new families."

He said the surplus food is given out each month to 2,100 families--two out of every five families in Macon County.

The program began with seven food items, Rowe said, and has now increased to 13. The most recent addition is cheese.

"We have a lot more food to handle," Rowe said, "so we need to add a fifth person to the distribution staff. That's what the extra money is for."

After the commissioners had voted to give it to him, board chairman Harry D. Raymon explained why they had decided against food stamps.

"The surplus food program is working out well," he said. "The facts didn't seem to indicate that a change would be in the best interests of the county at this time."

Hattiesburg Boycott Off

BY MERTIS RUBIN
HATTIESBURG, Miss. -- Negroes have agreed to call off a two-month-old boycott here later this week.

According to Mrs. Daisy Harris, secretary of the local NAACP, two of the boycott's original 18 demands have been met.

Four Negro bus drivers and one Negro mechanic have been hired by the city bus lines, she said, and the downtown merchants have promised to hire a total of 34 Negro clerks. As soon as positions become available, Mrs. Harris said, more Negroes will be hired by the bus company and the merchants.

At mid-week, before the boycott was called off, it still seemed to be effective. A bus company spokesman said Negroes were still not riding the buses.

What about the other Negro demands? The Rev. J. C. Killingsworth, a leader of the boycott, said a bi-racial committee has been formed "to work directly with the people concerned." He also said Negro citizens are circulating petitions charging three city policemen--two Negro and one white--with brutality.

Kids' Choice Denied, Macon Mother Claims

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
SHORTER, Ala.--While 4,000 children quietly began classes at the Macon County public schools last week, two children from Shorter were taking a holiday they hadn't planned on--and didn't really want.

The children's mother, Mrs. Pearlina Crockett, said she filled out freedom-of-choice forms last May for David, 11, and Wilma, 10, to attend the integrated Tuskegee Public School.

But when she carried the children to Tuskegee on registration day, Mrs. Crockett continued, the school refused to enroll them.

"The teachers said they didn't have any forms for my children," Mrs. Crockett recalled. The teachers sent her to the principal, and the principal sent her to schools superintendent Joe C. Wilson.

The superintendent told her there was some confusion about her freedom-of-choice forms, and said she would have to meet with the board of education, Mrs. Crockett said.

At the board meeting on Sept. 7, she said, Wilson asked her several questions:

"He wanted to know if I had any assistance in filling out the forms, I said no. He asked if the children were in any trouble at Shorter Elementary School last year--was that why I wanted to switch. I said no, the reason was I wanted them to have arts and crafts, and music."

After some more discussion, Mrs. Crockett said, school board chairman John M. Davis told her he didn't see any reason why her children couldn't enroll in Tuskegee Public.

But the board members also said they would have to think it over before making a decision.

Suits Seek Opening Of Newville Schools



ROSENWALD SCHOOL

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
ABBEVILLE, Ala.--Two segregated suits were filed in Henry County circuit court last week, to ask for the re-opening of two mostly-segregated high schools in Newville.

Five Negro parents asked the state court to order the Henry County Board of Education to re-open grades nine through 12 at the all-Negro Newville Rosenwald school.

And five white parents asked the court to order the school board to re-open grades nine through 12 at the nearly all-white Newville school.

Except for the names of the two schools, the suits were identical--all the way down to the accompanying petitions. The Rosenwald petition was signed by 57 Negro parents. The Newville petition was signed by 137 white parents.

The suits noted that the closing of both high schools was announced by the Henry County school board last July--more than a month after the parents had signed freedom-of-choice forms for their children to attend Newville or Rosenwald.

Both sets of parents demanded the "constitutional right and privilege" to send their children to the high schools named on the freedom-of-choice forms.

The parents charged that the school board told them the high schools were being closed by "a decree of the federal court." Later, the suits said, the parents "surprisingly ascertained that there was no court decree requiring the closing."

Instead, the suits continued, the high schools were shut down by "the illegal and arbitrary action" of the school board itself.

The suits accused the board of violating state law by failing to hold a public hearing on the school closings, and by attempting a "blanket re-allocation of pupils" within a school system.

The unusual suits marked the second time in recent weeks that parents have publicly complained about the closing of



NEWVILLE SCHOOL

the Newville high schools. But there were some important differences between the new criticisms and the old ones.

Last month, NAACP leaders in Henry County charged that the high schools were shut down to help preserve segregation. When classes began two weeks ago, the NAACP reported, Negro high school students in the Newville area were reassigned to other all-Negro schools in the county, and white high school students were reassigned to oth-

er mostly-white schools.

The NAACP leaders had asked the school board to consolidate the Newville schools, by making one of them a bi-racial high school and the other a bi-racial elementary school.

Are the suits really an attempt to keep segregation, without the inconvenience of busing students around the county? Durrell Whiddon, the Abbeville attorney who filed both suits, refused to discuss them. And several Newville parents also declined to comment.

But the argument that freedom-of-choice is a "constitutional right" is a favorite with Governor Lurleen B. Wallace's legal advisers--although no federal judge has yet agreed.

And copies of the suits--filed in Abbeville on Sept. 7--were handed out to newsmen last weekend from the governor's office.

Clinton Harrell, an NAACP spokesman, said that the county's civil rights leaders will be represented at a hearing on the cases this Friday.

If the court orders the high schools re-opened, he said, "we'll see they're integrated."

Good News
ABBEVILLE, Ala.--While Negro parents were criticizing the Henry County schools, they also had one piece of good news to report. In reply to complaints that Negro principals had denied free lunches to low-income children, the parents said, county Schools Superintendent W. J. McLain has promised to help. The parents said McLain told them that if any child deserves a free lunch, "approach the principal. If he refuses you, come to me. I will see that any student in our system who needs a free lunch gets it."

RUBBER TALKING BUSINESS
NECK SUE FOLKS AND HERS TOO
Birmingham, Ala.

Private First Class Robert Leonard will be going to Viet Nam next week. Leonard, a former quarterback for the Hayes High Pacesetters in Birmingham, was drafted into the Army last April, about a year after graduating

been lifted," said Robb. "They are more concerned with the Peace Corps than with making a buck." He told the faculty, "We must communicate to our students the sense of urgency of learning--learning better and faster. We need more rebels with a cause--an intelligent cause."



ROBERT LEONARD from high school. Since then, he has made outstanding test scores while training at Ft. Benning, Ga., and Ft. Polk, La. Leonard is the stepson of the Rev. C. F. Brown, the son of Mrs. Mary E. Brown, and the husband of Mrs. Patricia Leonard.

Huntville, Ala. A group of scientists and engineers here has formed the Committee to Prevent Arrests for Fees and Fines (CPAFF). The founders say the group's purpose is to warn members of the scientific and engineering community that Huntsville and Madison County "are the equivalent of a speed-trap town, where arrests are made solely to acquire fees and fines."

Montgomery, Ala. The former Miss Josephine Bradford of Montgomery and Walter Bradley of Monroeville were married last month in a ceremony in the Holt St. Baptist Church. A reception was held afterwards in the bride's home. The newlyweds then left on a honeymoon trip that included stops in Birmingham and Atlanta, Ga. This fall, the groom will be attending school in California, while the bride finishes her studies at Alabama State College.



MR. AND MRS. WALTER BRADLEY

Glen Ellyn, Illinois Miss Cathy Deppe of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, who was an SCLC worker in Greene County, Ala., in 1965, left last week for a teaching assignment in the West Indies. She and her husband, George Touchton, are both going to teach at Bishops College on the island of Grenada, near South America.

Normal, Ala. Felix C. Robb, director of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, told the faculty of Alabama A & M College this month that "the students of 1967 are more serious, more hard-working, than the post-World War II students. He (the '67 student) is not concerned with goldfish swallowing, panty-raids, and phone-booth packing, but is concerned with serious social issues." "The students' horizons have

Editorial Opinion

Anything Goes

The state bar association is the official organization of all the lawyers in Alabama--Negro and white. It is supposed to set standards for the legal profession, and defend these standards against unethical influences. But last week, James E. Clark of Birmingham, president of the association, said the state bar will go to court to help defend the Wallaces' ridiculous "teacher-choice" law. People have accused the bar association of racist tendencies in the past, without much proof. Now the proof has been provided by the association itself.

Worse yet, the bar association has shown that it is no longer interested in the law--that it is willing to pervert the practice of law to the service of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace. The official voice of Alabama lawyers has sold out the entire profession--and so far, not one member of the bar has objected.

Earlier this month, Alabamians were treated to an even sordid spectacle of the abdication of professional responsibility. Ralph Adams, president of Troy State College, admitted in federal court that he does not allow the student newspaper to criticize the governor or the state Legislature. Only praise is permitted, said Adams--who owes his job to George Wallace.

When Gary Dickey, editor of the Troy State paper, was expelled for disobeying this rule, there was a long, loud silence across the state. It seemed that no one in Alabama--not the educators or the lawyers--was going to do anything to help Dickey.

Finally, a Montgomery lawyer named Morris Dees took up Dickey's case, and filed a suit on his behalf. And last Friday, Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. ordered Troy State to take Dickey back.

"A state cannot force a college student to forfeit his . . . freedom of expression as a condition to his attending a state-supported institution," Johnson said. He said Adams' rule "violates the basic principles of academic and political expression, as guaranteed by our Constitution."

But basic principles are being violated every day in Alabama, to make way for the Wallaces. And with few exceptions, the men who are supposed to be defending these principles--the educators and the lawyers--are doing nothing.

If Alabama ever rises from the ashes of the Wallace years, it will look with scorn upon the James E. Clarks and the Ralph Adamses, who were only too willing to prostitute their professions. And the state will thank men like Gary Dickey, Morris Dees, and Frank Johnson, who stood firm when their principles were challenged.

Your Welfare Rights

Disability Must Be 'Total' For You to Get Welfare

BY LAURA ENGLE

Last week, this column told how to apply for Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD), and explained what it means to be "permanently" disabled. This week's column explains the other requirement for this type of welfare--being "totally" disabled.

In most cases, APTD applicants are turned down on the basis that their disability is not total. According to the rules, an applicant is not totally disabled if there is work available in the community that he can do, or work for which he can be re-trained.

For instance, if a clerk in a store loses a leg, but can be re-trained to work sitting down in an office, she is not totally disabled. However, an illiterate 58-year-old farm worker, who can't do any more heavy work because of a heart attack, probably is.

The welfare department might try to say the farm worker can get a light job in a factory. However, unless such a job is actually available, the worker can

still get welfare. It is frequently useful, in attempting to prove total disability, to provide the welfare department with more than just medical evidence. Signed statements from former employers, or from people who have refused to hire the applicant, can help to prove disability.

If an APTD applicant or recipient does any kind of useful work, he is in danger of being denied aid immediately. He is, however, allowed to engage in hobbies, or to earn a little money through work given him out of pity.

For instance, a disabled woman might be able to make some sort of knick-knack, to be bought by friends or sold through her church. She should still be eligible for APTD.

Frequently people are denied aid because they try to earn money by doing jobs that their doctors have advised them not to do. This should not happen. A man may do a little yard work once a week, and it may take him several hours to do a job that an able-bodied man could do in one hour. He should not be cut off welfare for this.



Comic and Tragic Relief in N.Y.

Big City Drop-Outs

NEW YORK CITY--Who are the big-city drop-outs?

It could be an ex-college student from South Carolina who has taken the hippie way for relief from life's hustle and bustle, or a guy named Froggy--Greenwich Village's self-styled poet and philosopher. It could be the girl on LSD in Tompkins Square park--hippie headquarters.

In the world of the wino, who cares about rage when a bottle is at hand? New York's hippies are integrated, so an Alabama Ku Klux Klansman without food or shelter could if he wanted put up for the night with 50 of the big-city drop-outs.

The 42nd St. people are like noother people in the world, even though they come from every city in the world. Once you're in the city of New York, and you make the scene for a while, you become a part of the scene.

Who is a square in the big city? Hardly anyone, because there are so many scenes to make--away from the 9-to-5 world, that is, if you have given up making your first million and have contented yourself with a Harlem stoop or a jam session with wine bottle and bongo drum.

In one session, you see a Negro, a Southern white, and a Spanish-American. Should a course in drop-outism be offered to the ambassadors in the U. N.?

**Text by
Norman Lumpkin**



Photos by Jim Pepler



After 13 Days, 73 Witnesses

Bullock County Vote Trial Ended in Empty Courtroom

BY MARY EILEN GALE

MONTGOMERY, Ala.-- By the time the Bullock County election trial ground to a halt last month, nobody was paying much attention to it any more.

The spectators' benches in federal court here were practically empty. The people who were there said the testimony was putting them to sleep. The judge had taken to prowling around the courtroom.

And of the five defeated Negro candidates who filed the suit, only one showed up regularly to help his attorneys put on their case. That was Rufus C. Huffman, who lost the race for Bullock County tax assessor in the May 31, 1966, Democratic primary run-off.

Where were the other four? H. O. Williams--who ran for sheriff of Bullock County--had gone back home to Union Springs in disgust. "I'm not going to sit there and watch," he said.

Two other plaintiffs--Ben McGhee, who ran for Bullock County commissioner, and attorney Fred D. Gray, who ran for the state Legislature from Bullock, Barbour, and Macon counties--showed up only to testify. And Alonza Ellis, another candidate for Bullock County commissioner, never came to court at all.

The empty courtroom was mute testimony to the problems and delays which have plagued the huge election case since it was filed 15 months ago.

The defeated Negro candidates sued officials in Bullock, Barbour, and Macon counties. The suit charged that the white defendants had conspired to defeat the Negroes in the May 31 election.

The defeated candidates asked the federal court to set aside the results of the Democratic primary run-off, and to order a new run-off--and a new general election--for the five contested offices.

But a series of motions and hearings dragged on for months before the case finally came to trial last May. Then--after four days of testimony--the trial was recessed until the end of July.

When the 73rd and last witness stepped down from the stand on Aug. 4, the candidates' opponents had been in office for seven months.

And U. S. District Judge Virgil Pittman was apparently unimpressed with a large part of the testimony presented by the Negroes' head attorney, Fred Wallace of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. During the last nine days of the trial, Pittman grew more and more impatient with Wallace.

On one occasion, Wallace and his secretary, Miss Audrey Fleher, testified that the run-off election was fraudulent. Miss Fleher suggested that ballots had been cast in the names of dead people. Wallace suggested that ballots had been cast in the names of people registered to vote in other counties.

But on cross-examination, neither of them could give names or numbers to back up the accusations. When defense attorney R. E. L. Cope Sr. moved to exclude the testimony, Pittman shot back, "He (Wallace) is an attorney. He knows there's nothing to that. This is no use to me."

Miss Fleher also testified that 141 registered Negro voters either were left off Bullock County's official poll list or "not carried properly--not in the beat to which they were originally assigned." Wallace said the result was that many Negro voters "wandered" around the county on election day, looking unsuccessfully for their voting place.

But when Maury D. Smith, an attorney for Bullock County officials, asked how many of the 141 Negroes actually voted, Miss Fleher said she didn't know.

And Judge Pittman agreed that the information was important. "The court is vitally concerned with whether these people voted or not," he said. "Of course we're interested in any irregularity, but this goes to the real heart of the thing."

Later, attorney Cope presented evidence that only 111 of the 141 Negroes were entitled to vote. Of the 111, he said, 98--or 87%--cast ballots on May 31.

At another point, Wallace noted that 210 white people registered to vote in Bullock County on an "unannounced" registration day between the May 3 primary and the May 31 run-off. He said that on each of the other 263 registration days in the last six years, fewer than 19--and usually fewer than ten--white people signed up to vote.

The attorney then tried to ask George Blue--whodefeated Negro candidate McGhee to win a third term as a county commissioner--about the unusually large turn-out.

Wallace said he was trying to prove there was an illegal "organization" of white officials, who conspired to inflate the white vote and decrease the Negro vote. But Judge Pittman refused to permit the question.

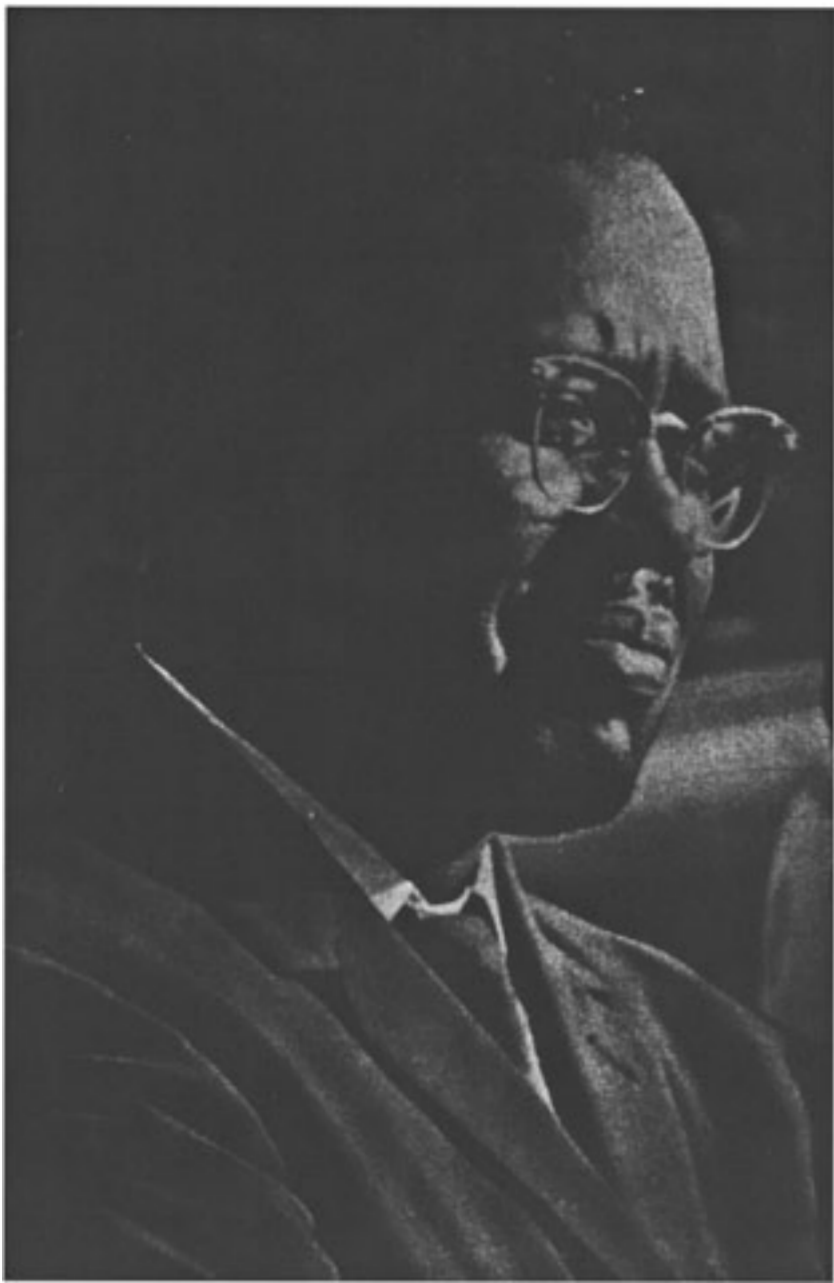
"We're not going to take up this court's time . . . to obtain political information for a group that admittedly engaged in bloc voting," Pittman said. "Do you contend that a person who holds political office has no right to go out and ask people to vote for him?"

When Wallace asked whether Blue had used the probate judge's list of registered voters, Pittman interrupted again. "Every candidate uses these files," he observed. "The last time I ran for office, my campaign workers went down . . ."

Wallace never asked any of his witnesses if they had tried and failed to see the probate judge's voters list before the run-off election. But Huffman, the Negro candidate for tax assessor, testified that Probate Judge Fred D. Main had attempted to prevent him from examining the files on July 28 of this year.

When he asked to see the "public records" in the probate office, Huffman said, he was cursed, "harassed, and to some extent intimidated by Judge Main."

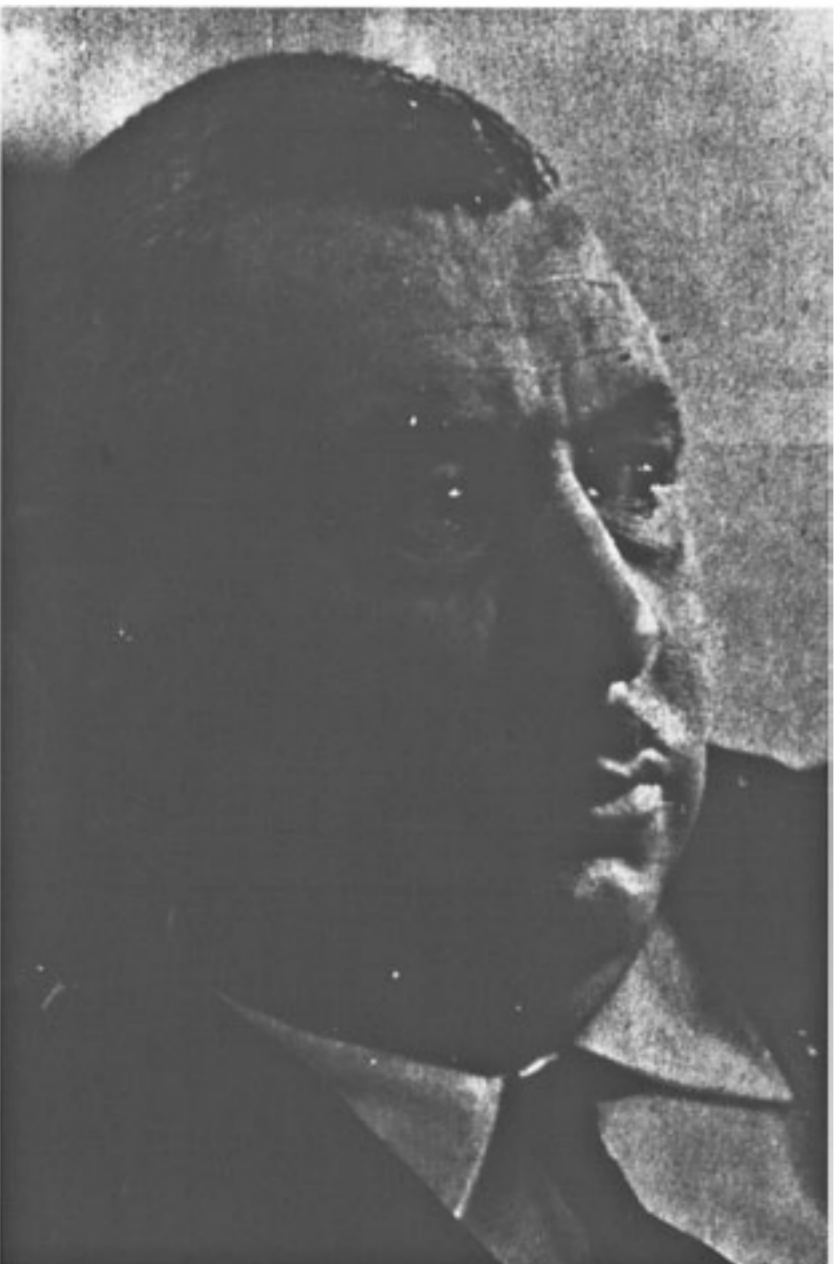
Several Negro poll-watchers and election officials who worked at the National Guard Armory in Union Springs on May 31, 1966, said that policemen and white election officials threatened to arrest the Negro poll-watchers.



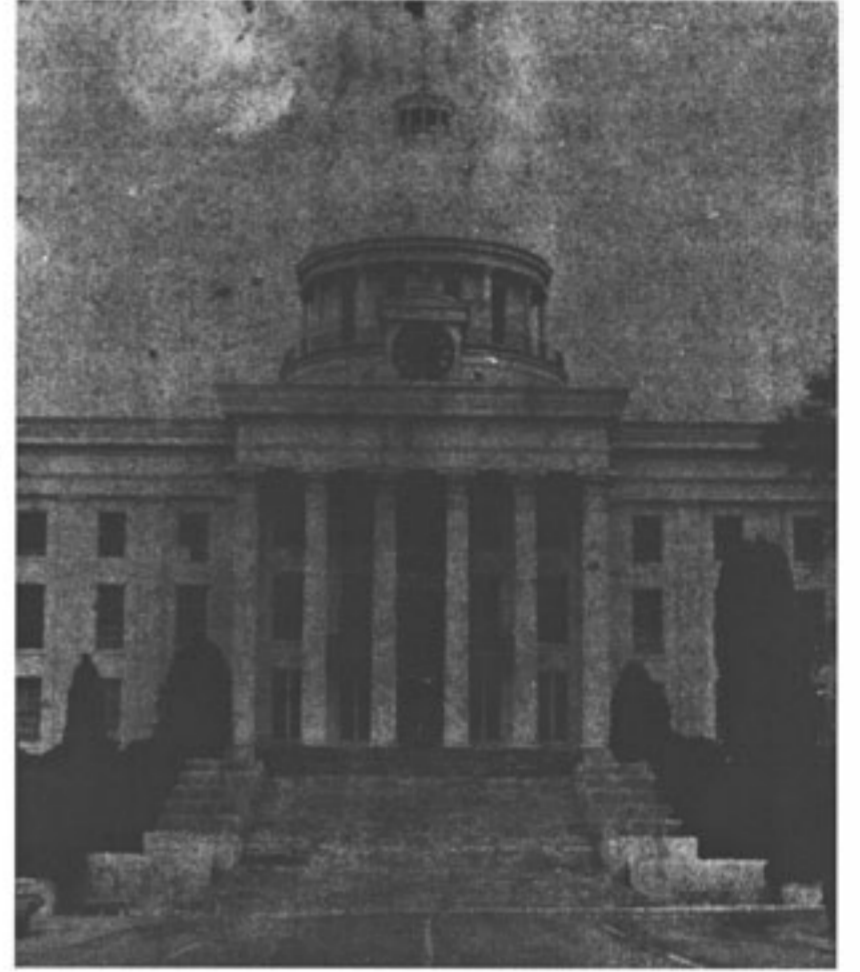
FRED D. GRAY



RUFUS C. HUFFMAN



H. O. WILLIAMS



STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

But when Wallace asked Union Springs Police Chief Travis Tillery why policemen were stationed at the armory, Pittman broke in.

"It would be rather ridiculous if police officers were not present in a situation like this, when large numbers of Negroes and white people were voting together for the first time," said the judge. If the election officials didn't take precautions, he said, "we'd be nuts."

Tillery and other law enforcement officers testified that Negroes crowded around polling places, took notes, and in some cases handed out marked ballots on election day--in violation of Alabama law.

But when Wallace asked the officers why they didn't arrest the alleged law-breakers, he got some answers which seemed to contradict the earlier testimony. "They (the poll-watchers) weren't doing nothing but standing there and marking things," said Tillery.

And former sheriff's deputy Eugene Driggers said, "Everything was going along so smooth, I thought it would work out all right."

Tillery admitted that he couldn't name any Negroes who were handing out marked ballots. Driggers--who testified that such ballots were apparently being passed out at half a dozen polling places--gave only one name, Alfred H. Broadnax.

But when Wallace called Broadnax to the witness stand, Broadnax indignantly denied the charge.

White officials from Barbour and Bullock counties insisted that their poll lists included more white voters than census totals of white residents for a good reason: sudden growth since the 1960 count.

Several Bullock County officials said there were so many new white people in their county they felt like strangers themselves.

But Macon County officials admitted that their poll list was too large by at least 700 names. The county board of registrars agreed to purge the list as soon as possible.

And Judge Pittman said he was "seriously concerned" about the large numbers of white voters.

Even if all the white people who voted in Bullock County really were qualified to do so, the judge said, the turn-out was "extraordinarily high." He told the defense attorneys that they would have to "produce some concrete evidence" to persuade him that all the white people's ballots were legal.

The attorneys responded by calling several witnesses to testify that a total of 351 white people living outside Bullock County in May, 1966, were qualified to vote there. The attorneys suggested that the census missed these people.

On cross-examination, Wallace tried to show that the names of several such voters were used to cast illegal ballots. At one point, he asked county commissioner Blue if he were "positive" that a certain lady was a missionary in Thailand in May, 1966, and could only have voted by absentee ballot.

"I think I'm positive," said Blue. Wallace retorted, "If I told you that SOMEONE had signed her name on the poll list (on May 31), would that surprise you? Would that shake your definite conviction that she was in Thailand?"

Throughout the trial, there were three attorneys' tables in the courtroom--one for Wallace and his associates, one for the defense attorneys, and one for John Rosenberg of the U. S. Department of Justice.

Rosenberg showed up in court every day. But he seldom opened his mouth. And the federal government earlier made clear that it had little interest in the case. After beginning an examination of election records, the Justice Department suddenly backed off--leaving the Negroes' attorneys confused about what had been done, and where the records were.

When Wallace said the NAACP Legal Defense Fund could not pay for handwriting experts to study questionable signatures on some absentee ballots, the Justice Department declined to help. The government said it didn't want to violate its "neutral" position.

Most of the white people who appeared in the courtroom claimed that there was no discrimination against Negroes on election day. But what they said and the way they said it were two different things.

Almost no white person managed to pronounce the word "Negro" correctly. The defense attorneys and their witnesses spoke of "the nigra vote." And sometimes it was just plain "nigger."

No Negro witness ever used a comparable term--such as "cracker" or "red-neck."

Over and over, the white witnesses expressed indignation or surprise--or fear--that Negroes had finally gotten and used the power to vote.

"You couldn't stir 'em with a stick," said Mrs. James G. Cassidy, a white woman, about the "crowd" of Negro poll-watchers at the armory in Union Springs.

When Negro poll-watchers came up to the table in Fitzpatrick, said Mrs. Margaret Tompkins, an election official, "we didn't know what to do . . . We were all a little nervous, because it was something new."

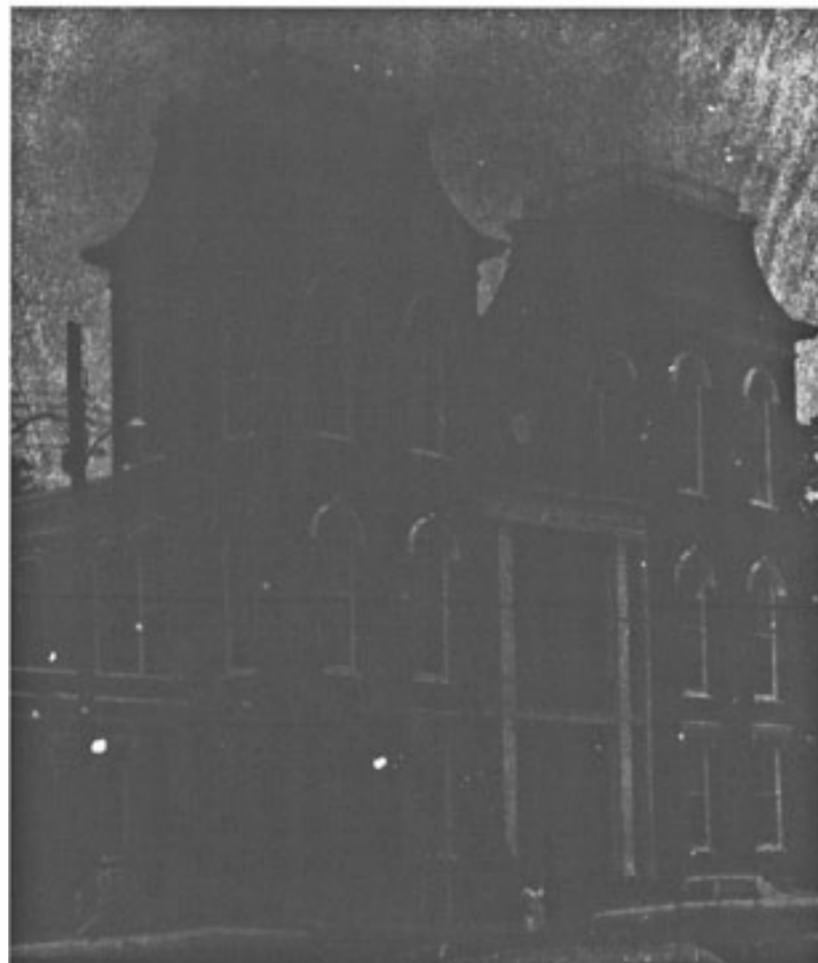
At the end of the trial, Judge Pittman said he would hand down a decision later this fall, after studying the testimony and mountains of written records. Then he praised the attorneys for both sides.

"When people are running for office, it's easy to get emotionally involved," he said. "I am pleased with the conduct of counsel."

But H. O. Williams, the defeated Negro candidate for sheriff of Bullock County, said he wasn't pleased with anything about the trial. "Our rights got lost somewhere," he said.

And Huffman, the Negro candidate for tax assessor, recalled that even charges of election fraud didn't affect the operation of the county probate office. During his argument with the probate judge last July, Huffman said, he remarked that he wanted "to be respected as a man."

"Judge Main said, 'Let me tell you one damn thing--you get no more out of me than anyone else,'" Huffman remembered. "I said, 'I don't want more--I just want as much.'"



BULLOCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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Ala. A&M Looks Strong

BY BOB DINWIDDIE
NORMAL, ALA. -- Alabama A & M Coach Louis Crews lost 22 lettermen from last year's championship football team, but he isn't shedding any tears over the outlook for this season.



The A & M coach isn't so sure of his starting line. He has to groom an entirely new set of ends this season, since all the old ones graduated.

Another freshman who will get a great deal of attention is big Levon Thomas of Chattanooga, Tenn. Thomas stands 6'3" and weighs 312 pounds.

Some Places Excluded From Civil Rights Act

NEW ORLEANS, La. -- Privately-owned bowling alleys, pool halls, skating rinks, and amusement parks don't have to admit Negroes, the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals said last week.

Testimony in the trial court showed that the Baton Rouge amusement park serves food at concession stands. There are sections of the Civil Rights Act prohibiting discrimination at all places that serve food.

But, Judge Rives noted, Mrs. Miller's lawyers agreed not to base their case on those sections.

U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr., sitting on the appeals court, disagreed with Rives and Circuit Judge David W. Dyer.

Johnson noted that Kennedy had said, "No action is more contrary to the spirit of our democracy and Constitution--or more rightfully resented by a Negro citizen who seeks only equal treatment--than the barring of that citizen from restaurants, hotels, theaters, recreational areas, and other public accommodations and facilities."

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Why No Truant Officer?

BY ALAN BOLES
ROANOKE, Ala.--Negro parents are still asking the Randolph County school board to hire a Negro truant officer.

According to Wilkie Clark of the Randolph County Improvement Association, Schools Superintendent R. D. Simpson promised to hire a Negro officer at an RCIA meeting a year ago.

"I have discussed it a number of times," Simpson said last week. "But we don't have a whole lot of trouble in the county system, I wouldn't hesitate to hire one (a Negro truant officer) if the problem becomes acute."

Some people said they think truancy is already a major problem. "When school gets going, sometimes I can count six or eight kids on my street who are staying out," said the Rev. J. S. Brown, president of the RCIA.

Randolph County Sheriff Charlie Willis Thomas--who was truant officer for about a year--said there is "quite a bit" of truancy in the county.

Thomas said he quit the job more than a year ago because "I got so much other work up here, and the pay wasn't so good."

Besides, the RCIA objected to having a police official as truant officer. "I don't think it's fair to the child," Brown explained.

Clark said school officials aren't doing anything about truancy because a large number of kids who stay out of school are employed by white people.

He said he had offered to take Simpson on a tour of Wadley, a town near Roanoke, and show him the problem--but the superintendent refused.

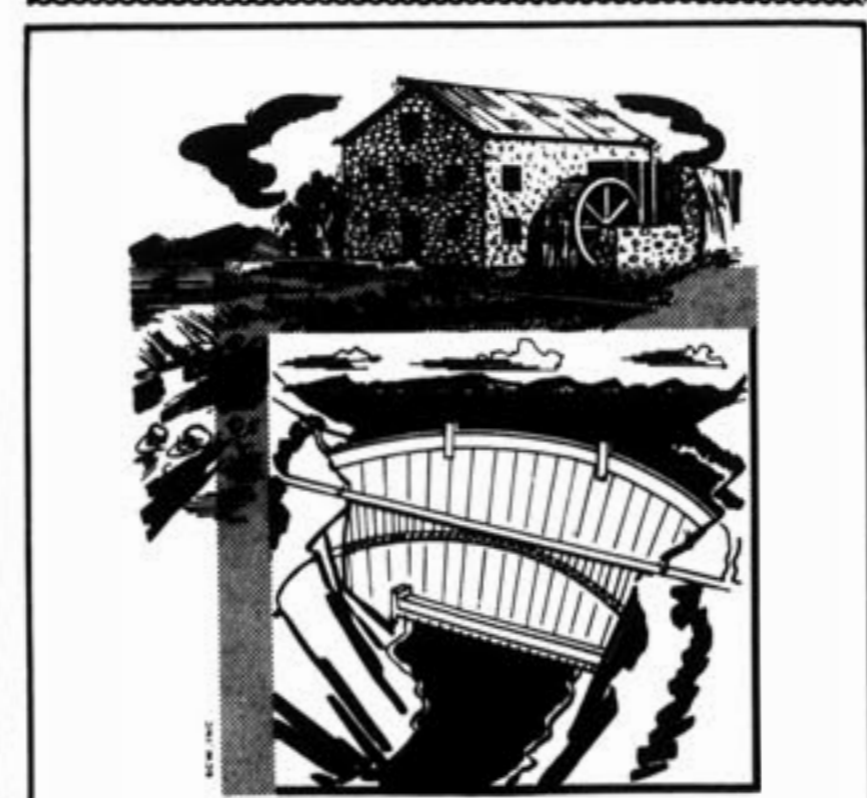
Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights The weekly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, in St. Paul AME Church, 300 Fourth Ct. N., the Rev. S.M. Davis, pastor.

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