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ACTION FOR FREEDOM

THE ANNUAL REPORT

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NAACP FIELD SECRETARY FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

SUBMITTED

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SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS .....	59
BRANCHES ORGANIZED .....	5
CROSS, PORT ROYAL, BATESBURG, HAMPTON COUNTY AND LEE COUNTY	
YOUTH COUNCILS ORGANIZED:.....	6
HARDESVILLE, PACOLET, DILLON, HARTSVILLE, PORT ROYAL, GREENWOOD	
FUND RAISING AND MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGNS?.....	11
BRANCH AND BRANCH EXECUTIVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ATTENDED .....	24
YOUTH COUNCIL AND COLLEGE CHAPTER MEETINGS ATTENDED .....	11
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION CENTENNIAL PROMOTIONAL MEETINGS .....	20
STATE-WIDE AND DISTRICT MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, ETC. ....	11
MILES TRAVELED ....	25,807
LETTERS RECEIVED.....	1,517
LETTERS MAILED:	
TYPED .....	1,787
MEMEOGRAPHED .....	9,242

ACTION FOR FREEDOM THROUGH SCHOOL DESEGREGATION

The NAACP has been active in the area of School desegregation. Five school cases are presently in process of litigation, three on the high school or elementary level and two on the College level.

The Elementary and Secondary School Cases are (1) Brunson vs Clarendon County (2) Millicent Brown vs Charleston School District #20, and (3) Emily Stanley vs the Darlington School District.

The Brunson Case has been argued before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The appeal in this case was from an order signed by U. S. District Judge C. C. Wyche in which all parties (41) other than Brunson were removed from the action.

The Charleston and Darlington Cases have been argued before Judge Wyche, who has indicated that he will not issue a ruling until the Court of Appeals enters a decision in the Clarendon Case. Judge Wyche's ruling adds up to a denial of the right of Negro Plaintiffs to institute class actions in Federal Courts.

The School desegregation cases on the College level are Harvey Gantt vs Clemson College and Henri Monteith vs the University of South Carolina.

The Gantt case originally called for an injunction which would require Clemson College officials to admit the plaintiff immediately. The injunction having been derived, the case was carried to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals October 4, 1962. The Fourth Circuit Court ordered a trial of the case which was held in the Anderson division of the Western District of South

Carolina, November 19-21, 1962 with Judge C. C. Wyche presiding.

The prevailing opinion among lawyers, laymen and the news media is that Harvy Gantt is likely to be admitted to Clemson College as a student at the beginning of the second semester of the current school term.

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During the Month of October Miss Henri Monteith who at the present time is a student at Loyolo University and a resident of Columbia, filed an action in United States Court in Columbia for entrance into the University of South Carolina. Attorneys for the Defendant have not yet filed their response to the suit.



ACTION FOR FREEDOM THROUGH VOTER REGISTRATION

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The NAACP has met with appreciable success in South Carolina in the area of voter registration. The ground work was laid for intensive activity in this regard in a workshop held at Penn Conference Center, December 1-3, 1961. This workshop was followed-up with similar workshops in five out of the six Congressional Districts in the State. In each Congressional District where workshops were held committees for voter registration were organized. The Congressional District Meetings were followed by Meetings on the County and precinct level at which time committees for voter-registration were organized or revived.

A second State-wide workshop on Voter Registration was held in the month of June in Columbia.

The voter registration drive led by the South Carolina Conference of Branches was undergirded by a grant of \$1,000. from the National Office while Branch political action committees contributed approximately \$3,000.

Areas of concentration for National office initiated projects were Beaufort County, Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville. Noteworthy Branch activity in this regard was found in Florence, Saluda, Orangeburg, Spartanburg, N. Charleston, Summerville, Harleyville, Oconee County, Kingstree, Dillon, Sumter, Manning and Cheraw.

NAACP Branches have, also, been active in "Get Out The Vote Campaign."

The 30% increase in the Negro's voting strength in South Carolina in 1962 is due very largely to NAACP leadership and activities.

ACTION FOR FREEDOM IN THE AREA OF EMPLOYMENT

During the period covered by this report the NAACP has made good use of its opportunities for breaking down racial barriers in the area of employment.

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In order to cope with the rising demands for equality of opportunity in employment, the NAACP in South Carolina has used several approaches, namely: negotiation with management, intercessions on the part of appropriate Federal agencies, intercessions on the part of the NAACP Labor Secretary, intercession on the part of the NAACP Washington Bureau direct action, public education. Also, the State Conference of NAACP stressed the importance of leadership orientation and education in the struggle for equality in the job market. To this end, two workshops were held during the year. A strong emphasis on this phase of activity was included in the program of the Annual State Conference. The field secretary conducted discussions on the Branch and Youth Council level on this subject. The State Conference President and the Field Secretary attended a Conference on Equal Employment Opportunity, held in Washington, in response to an invitation extended by the Vice President of the United States.

The Field Secretary served in the capacity of advisor to employees of the Fort Jackson Post Exchange who turned in numerous complaints alleging racial discrimination in upgrading practices in the Post Exchange Warehouse.

The Field Secretary has been active in behalf of employees at the Savannah River Plant (S.R.P.) of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. Workers here allege discriminatory employment and upgrading practices.

A matter involving withholding of promotions from R.O.T.C. Cadets has

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claimed considerable attention of the Field Secretary. Several R.O.T.C. Cadets who were given court sentences as a result of their participation in "Sit-In" demonstrations were told by their Professor of Military Science and Tactics that according to Third Army Policy Commissions to them would not be forthcoming unless their sentences of \$50. each was paid, thus removing the indictments. The Attorney for the Washington Bureau is interceding with the Pentagon in behalf of the Cadets.

South Carolina's program of Technical Training and Re-Training is being studied and developments regarding the same are being watched in order to protect the rights of Negroes in this important area of education.

Direct Action projects were carried forward during the year in Charleston, Columbia, and Spartanburg.

In Charleston, direct action in the form of picketing was carried out for twenty eight weeks. This coupled with negotiations with management resulted in obtaining 61 nontraditional jobs which included two city bus drivers, two garbage truck drivers, thirty-five seamstresses in the Manhattan Shirt Factory, riggers at the Naval Shipyard, sales clerks, cashiers, bookkeepers, and salesmen in various department stores, variety stores and food markets.

In Columbia, 16 lunch counters have been desegregated. A few non-traditional jobs here and there have been gained.

No breakthrough has obtained in Spartanburg in spite of Conferences with management and political leaders and two weeks of picketing.

As a result of complaints lodged with the Presidents' Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, and undertermined number of non-traditional jobs have been acquired in several textile mills in the State.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

HEALTH. Pursuant to directives from the National Office, a State Conference Health Committee was organized May 12, 1962. The following persons constituted the Committee: Thomas Carr McFall, M.D., B. T. Williams, D.D., Thomas Carr, Optometrist, Howard E. Wright, President Allen University and Mrs. Gloria Rackley, Plaintiff in the Orangeburg Hospital desegregation suit.

The State Conference was a participant in the 6th National IMHOTEP Conference held in Washington, D. C.

Emancipation Proclamation Centennial Commission was organized by the State Conference March 1, 1962 at Zion Baptist Church in Columbia. Membership for the Commission is drawn from all the Counties of South Carolina. A Steering Committee which includes the State Conference President, the Field Secretary, chairman of the Education Committee, State Conference Treasurer, State Conference Redress chairman, State Conference Life Membership and State Conference Co-chairmen of FFF along with other responsible individuals serves as a "Board of Control."

The Centennial Commission has espoused the following objectives:

- (1) To weigh and evaluate progress made by Negroes of South Carolina since the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- (2) To develop a broader knowledge and appreciation of Negro History.
- (3) To index contributions Negroes have made to social and exonomic progress in terms of religion, education, politics, agriculture, business, literature, music, art and science.
- (4) To instill race pride.
- (5) To discover ways of correcting existing inadequacies, and to improve the present status of Negroes of South Carolina.



- (6) To chart a course of action calculated to integrate the Negro into the total socio-economic framework of South Carolina on a racially non-discriminatory basis.

HOSPITAL INTERGRATION. During the year Mrs. Gloria Rackley filed a suit in behalf of her daughter, a minor, to desegregate the Orangeburg Regional Hospital. This case has now travelled as far as the United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

SIT-IN CASES. Most of the nearly 1000 Sit-In Cases have advance beyond State Circuit Courts. Sit-In Cases from Florence, and Sumter have been judged in favor of defendants by the South Carolina Supreme Court. The Peterson Case which originated in Greenville has been argued before the United States Supreme Court. Classie Walker vs the city of Greenville (S. E. Regional Conference led Skate-In) has reached the Appellate Court level.

POLICE BRUTALITY. Numerous investigations of police brutality have been made this year.

Thelma Bethune of Summerton was severely beaten to the ground and stamped while hand-cuffed. Mr. Bethune is one of the Original plaintiffs in the Clarendon County School Intergration suit (1954).

Mrs. Gloria Rackley, a public school teacher and an articulate leader in civil rights activities was detained in a "horribly filthy jail cell for 30 minutes without charges having been made against her. She was present in the court of Recorder Fred Fanning a notorious racist, as a witness to an auto accident case.

Matthew J. Perry upon cornering and bearing down on a witness in the trial involving the arrest of Mrs. Gloria Rackley for ignoring segregation customs at

the Orangeburg Regional Hospital, was jailed for contempt of Court.

Willie Young who holds a job at the Savannah River Plant of the Atomic Energy Commission the type of which is usually connected by Southern white people, was brought into court on a stretcher and with his neck in traction to answer charges of larceny, and assault and battery with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

According to Mr. Young's testimony a South Carolina Highway Patrolman went his length to provoke an argument to the extent of hitting him on the head with his fist and calling him by unprintable names. At the point where the officer reached for his revolver, the subject remembering the fate of Bennie Williamson in a similar incident, lunged into the patrolman, knocking him down and taking his pistol. Mr. Young fled in order to resist the temptation of killing the officer and turned the pistol in at the Sheriff's office.

Mr. Young was sentenced to six years on the charge of assault and battery with intent to kill. His conviction has been appealed. This case has the support of the State Conference as well as other police brutality cases cited in this report.

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