



BOMBED SOCIETY HILL CHURCH in McComb.

## McCOMB : City of Terror INSIDE

# THE STUDENT VOICE

VOL. 5 NO. 22

STUDENT VOICE, INC.

6 Raymond Street, N. W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30314 SEPTEMBER 23, 1964

## 5 MISS. NEGROES TO BE ON BALLOT

JACKSON, MISS.- Over 1,000 voters petitioned Secretary of State Heber Ladner asking that of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer be placed on the ballot as a candidate for office from the Second Congressional District.

Mrs. Hamer, vice-chairman of the Freedom delegation to the Democratic National Convention, will oppose incumbent Rep. Jamie Whitten in the Nov. 3 election. Mrs. Hamer, who gained national prominence from her testimony before the credentials committee,

will be running in the Second Congressional District. Four Negroes may also appear on the Mississippi ballot.

Aaron Henry, state NAACP chairman, will oppose Sen. John Stennis. Mrs. Victoria Gray will oppose Rep. William Colmer in the Fifth District. In the First and Fourth Districts, Harold Roby and Mrs. Annie Devine will oppose Reps. Thomas Abernethy and Arthur Winstead respectively.

All the candidates except Roby have been enjoined by the state from participating in the affairs of the Freedom Democratic Party. Henry, who was FDP chairman, ran for governor on the Freedom Vote campaign last fall. Mrs. Hamer ran against Whitten in last June's primary and Mrs. Gray, FDP national committeewoman, ran against Stennis.

The FDP is expected to endorse the five who will be on the official ballot as a result of independent nominating petitions. The candidates also will appear on a freedom ballot as will the two presidential nominees. Freedom voting will occur Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 and the votes will be counted Nov. 3.

The five Negro candidates will begin their campaigns at a statewide political meeting in Jackson's Masonic Temple, Sunday, Sept. 27.

The candidates and the FDP will also campaign actively for the Johnson-Humphrey slate.



SOUTHWEST GEORGIA NEGROES participate in the election.

## KING GETS 9000 IN S.W. GA. ELECTION

### RUNS FOURTH IN 2ND DISTRICT PRIMARY

ALBANY, GA. - The first Negro to run for a Georgia Congressional seat since Reconstruction received over 9,000 votes in the primary election Sept. 9.

Negro Attorney C.B. King with 9,009 votes ran fourth in a field of six candidates. Workers for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) had used King's candidacy as a vehicle to register Negro voters. In the month before the election SNCC's Southwest Georgia project registered over 1300 voters in the Second Congressional District.

King had based his campaign on full employment for both Ne-

groes and whites. Traveling through the 22 counties of the district King called for a shorter work week and a \$2,000 minimum wage.

He directed much of his campaign toward the people living in poverty. The Negro attorney called for measures to erase poor housing, inadequate schools and low wages for the third of the population (23,000 families out of 69,000) earning less than \$2,000 a year.

"We know that C.B. King received at least 300 white votes in one county," a SNCC worker reported.

The Albany Herald published by segregationist James Gray commented, "The 2,940 votes which King received in Dougherty

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## NEGROES RUN IN ARKANSAS

PINE BLUFF, ARK. -- Five Negro candidates are seeking offices in Arkansas' elections Nov. 3.

James Bagsby and Rev. Benjamin Grinage of Pine Bluff and William Green of Star City are running for the state House of Representatives. Arthur Miller and Ethel Dawson, both of Pine Bluff, seek seats on school boards.

Green, a 50-year-old justice of the peace, is given the best chance of success. Star City is in Lincoln County where there are almost as many Negroes registered as whites.

In Jefferson County, where the remaining four are running Negro registration comprises

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## BOMB BLASTS ROCK McCOMB

McCOMB, MISS. - Two children were injured when a residence and church were bombed in this southwest Mississippi town.

The blast, believed to be dynamite, damaged all but one of the eight rooms of the home of Mrs. Aleyne Quinn. Mrs. Quinn's children, Jacqueline, 9 and Anthony, 5, were slightly injured. A babysitter - also at the home at the time of the blast - escaped injury.

An angry crowd of Negroes gathered at the home after the blast pelting police with bricks and bottles. One police car was damaged, and a Negro girl slightly injured by a ricocheting brick.

In Baertown, just south of McCob, the Society Hill Baptist Church was almost completely destroyed by an explosion the same night.

The church was used extensively for voter registration activities in 1961 and a majority

of its members presently support the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

McComb, Pike County has been the center of organized white terror. The Association for the Preservation of the White Race and the Ku Klux Klan was strong-est in this part of the state.

Jesse Harris, director of SNCC's McComb project had warned Burke Marshall, Justice Department Civil Rights Division head of the worsening situation in the area. Harris called for increased federal support to halt the shootings, bombings and beatings.

The bomb blast came later in the evening, Sunday, Sept. 20. The children and the sitter were in the back room at the time.

Meanwhile police continue to arrest rights workers and local citizens. Carolyn Quinn Baker, a daughter of Mrs. Quinn, and Johnnie Lee Wilcher, the baby sitter were picked up by police, questioned and then released.

The police also arrested five rights workers; they were later released.

Sources in McComb report local county and state police are making random arrests. Many of those arrested are closely associated with the civil rights movement. Estimates put the number arrested as over 50.

A late AP report disclosed that a number of Negroes have been arrested and charged with "criminal syndicalism," a new state law prohibiting unlawful acts to bring about political or social change.

Meanwhile a bomb exploded late Wednesday night in the home of Ardis Garner, a former Negro city policeman. Garner was enroute to Washington to talk to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission at the time.

Another explosion reported southwest of McComb. Several churches in that area have been burned during the summer. The latest bombings make the 15th and 16th since June.



THE WRECKED HOME of Mrs. Aleyne Quinn. A bomb blasted all but one of the eight rooms of the house.

## THE MURDER OF A COMMUNITY

By Mendy Samstein

Mendy Samstein, a SNCC field secretary, worked in McComb this summer.

It is hard for someone who has not lived in McComb these past months and in the Negro community of that small town in the southwest corner of Mississippi to understand the reality behind the two bombings of September 20. The following account is written to convey some of that reality.

The first bombing comes at 10:50. Most of the Negroes of McComb are in bed-- but only some are sleeping. These days most Negro adults in McComb don't fall asleep until the wee hours of the morning. Then the blast. That sickening, anguishing sound that has been heard 12 previous times over the last three months -- that sound that Negroes in Mc-

Comb have come to know so well. And everyone in McComb hears the sound of the blast--McComb is a small town and very, very quiet. At night the sound of the blast can be heard for miles. And so tonight the blast heard for the 13th time -- and shortly later for the 14th time. Tonight the sound is more anguishing -- for the pain grows worse with each bombing. Every Negro in McComb instantly knows what that sound means.

And then the moments of torment that follow--whose house, who is dead? It's not mine. The who? My neighbor, my friend -- my mother, my brother, my son, or maybe SNCC again. Who? And one's stomach aches with pain and the pain seeps up into the chest and the head and comes out of every paw. Who? Is someone dead? The fear and the suspense grows -- the anguish becomes unbearable. People

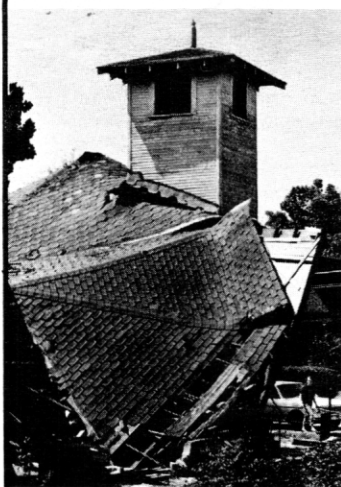
grab whatever clothing they can find and run out into the streets.

The pain increases with each bombing. The 13th takes place at 10:15. The bombers know no restraint -- they don't even wait until the Negro community is all in bed. It doesn't matter to them that the cafes are still open and that there are Negroes in the street. They come anyway -- the police are their friends and they certainly need not fear apprehension. This is the 13th bombing, not to speak of four church burnings, and no one arrested. And this in a town of 15,000 where everyone knows everyone's business.

People quickly learn the news -- It's Mama Quinn's house. It couldn't be worse. Everyone loves Mama Quinn. She owns a popular cafe. She is kind and good to everyone. But more than that, she is a towering figure of strength. She can't be intimidated. Three years ago she was one of the first to welcome Moses and lend him and the SNCC workers her support. Her cafe has always been open -- despite the threats. And this summer, again she leads the community. She serves black and white, night after night. And the pressures increase. Threats. The police raid her place twice -- the first time they plant a bottle of whiskey and it cost her \$150. She holds meetings of the Citizens League, a newly formed group of Negro business people, banded together, meeting secretly to lend aid and comfort to the SNCC effort. They meet twice a month to plan buying land for a community center. Mrs. Quinn wants to offer the land she has in the back of her

SPECIAL  
REPORT

## McCOMB: City of Terror



BOMBED OUT Society Hill Baptist Church.

house -- and this despite the increased hazards that would bring into her life. Finally, they succeed in making Mama Quinn close her cafe -- she gets the final warning. She would rather close than be forced to stop serving the SNCC people.

And so it was Mama Quinn -- and it couldn't be worse. It comes at 10:50. And two little children are hurt. Oh my god, they could have easily been killed -- if they had not been in the rear of the house. The house is almost demolished. They weren't out to frighten tonight, Mama Quinn was to be killed. Line up mothers and fathers and shoot down their children before their eyes.

How much can a human being take? And here comes the police. They know who did it -- they might have planned it themselves. They have been after Mama Quinn for a long time. Her white landlord, when he told her she must close down if she didn't stop serving the SNCC people, replied when Mama chose to close down: "Good, now I can go tell the Sheriff and Police Chief and you wouldn't be bombed."

Here comes the police. The same police who have beaten our fathers and raped our daughters -- and put our children in jail. Right now two little boys sit behind bars in the county jail, sentenced to a year for making "threatening and obscene phone calls to a white woman." And the phone rings in the Negro community night and day with threats not to associate with those SNCC workers. Some come from the police themselves. And now the police stride into the Negro community. They were helmets, carry clubs and shotguns. They will pretend to in-

vestigate. Actually they come to intimidate the victims and gather up whatever evidence lies around before the FBI can get to it. They come to arrest the people whose house has been bombed. They've done it before. The pattern repeats itself. A house is bombed, the victim is thrown in jail. Mr. Dillon is in jail -- his house was bombed, on August 28. The highway patrolman told his wife that she better stop cooperating with COFO or the next time the dynamite will be dropped in the middle of her house. The sheriff makes a similar threat. Now the police are coming. They will probably arrest Mama Quinn. (Actually they arrest her daughter, teacher in the Freedom School this summer, and the baby sitter).

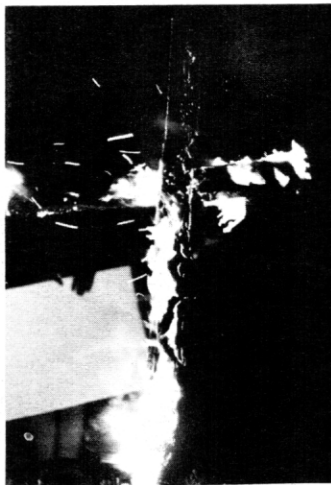
How much can a human being take?

And in the midst of the pain and anguish, comes the second thud. Its on the other side of town. Who now? My mother,



INTERIOR OF THE demolished church.

father, sister, brother. God damn, how much blood do they want. They got the church -- Society Hill -- the movement church. Its doors were closed this summer, but it has always been the center of the movement in South McComb. All the Freedom School kids belong to Society Hill. It's Bryant's church. The NAACP holds its meetings there. I spoke there this summer. SNCC workers were there the past Sunday and the Sunday before. Next door lives Alma Jackson, the mother of eight children, who lived in Amite County and who, three months ago, was dragged out of her home by 10 armed men and taken to a field where she was beaten and cut up and left for half dead. Her children don't like McComb -- they wish they



CROSS BURNINGS have been numerous in southwest Mississippi.

were back home where their friends are. But mother has told them they can't go back. Mother lies in bed awake at night. She lives next door to the church. It was the only place she could find that she could afford. But she knows that one night they are going to bomb the place. Her life is never-ending fear. Is this America?

The church is demolished. It was a terrible blast. The police are here, certain again to see that all clues are removed and destroyed.

And where is the Federal government? But no, the local police must handle the situation; they are the upholders of the law. The Federal government has no authority. And so the police stride in. The Negroes crowd in the street, brooding, anguishing. To the police this is a mob. So they tell the press: 3000 Negroes gather in the streets. Yet the entire Negro population of McComb is just over 3,000. This doesn't matter. Cover up the real story. Paint a picture of rioting Negroes. Play on Northern fears. This is what the press will pick up. And so Mike Wallace calmly and objectively explains to morning national T.V. viewers that last night the Negroes of McComb reacted with violence -- the rest -- to two bombings follows but is not heard. And so the story of the murder of a community goes untold.

Herbert Lee

1909 - 1961

Died September 25, 1961  
Liberty, Mississippi

## FEDERAL INACTION CHALLENGED

**McCOMB, MISS.** - Rights workers here have called for increased Federal support in the face of constant white terror. They are again challenging the "myth" that the Federal government lacks power to protect civil rights workers.

Jesse Harris, director of SNCC's McComb project warned Civil Rights Division head Burke Marshall on Sept. 9 of the worsening situation in Pike County. In a letter calling for increased Federal presence, he said, "We plead with you to take action before it is too late."

The letter pointed out that the number of FBI agents in McComb has been cut to four from 16.

The Federal government continues the "myth" in the face of rising bombings, beatings and burnings, the letter pointed out.

A Mississippi rights worker wrote, "When Attorney General Robert Kennedy announces that there is little the Federal government can do to prevent a reign of terror in Mississippi, he has really given notice to every racist thug and vigilante in Mississippi, and throughout the South, that in this election year the present administration finds it politically inexpedient to exercise its constitutional mandate..."

The "myth" has come under increasing attack in recent months.

During the summer a group of law professors challenged the then Attorney General Robert Kennedy's statement that the United States government can not protect rights workers.

Kennedy had stated that police action was a local matter and that Federal authority was "very limited."



Jesse Harris

Twenty-nine professors of law from six universities contested this view. Stating that the President has unquestioned power to take preventive action in times of crisis.

The legal experts said that under Section 333 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code, the President is authorized to use the state militia and the armed forces of the nation "whenever he considers that unlawful obstructions, combinations of assemblages . . . makes it impracticable to enforce the laws of the United States . . . by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings."

The group criticized the Attorney General's position, saying, "(His) position would be less misleading, and therefore less perilous, if he would acknowledge that the President today has power to act, but believes (it) inadvisable."

It is at once disappointing and ironic," the lawyers said, "that the Department of Justice, which has been bold beyond precedent in successfully urging the Supreme Court that the judiciary possesses the broadest powers to enforce constitutional assurances of equality, should now discover nonexistent barriers to executive action."

The group, headed by Prof. Mark DeWolfe Howe of Harvard Law School, cited the opinion of the Supreme Court to better their case. The court has held

representative in Liberty, Miss., Sept. 25, 1961. Less than two years later James Allen, a witness to that shooting, was murdered.

Attempts by local Negro student to integrate facilities in McComb in the fall of 1961 in the arrests of 109 - including five SNCC workers - with one girl, 14-year-old Brenda Travis, spending four months in reform school.

Violence continued with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and another racist group, the Americans for Preservation of the White Race (APWR).

The summer was marked by constant terror, cross burnings

it to be "an incontrovertible principle that the government of the United States may, by means of physical force, exercised through its official agents execute on every foot of American soil the powers and functions that belong to it."

"This necessarily involves the power to command obedience to its laws, and hence the power to keep the peace to that extent."

Earlier in the summer Attorney Bill Higgs, formerly of Mississippi, charged that there was "no legal reason" for inaction in regards to civil rights cases. "It is strictly a policy reason," he claimed.

Higgs challenged statements by the FBI that they are "wholly, solely and exclusively investigative not guard duty, not riot control."

In a memorandum on Federal civil rights authority, Higgs cited Section 3052 and 3053, Title 18 of the U.S. Code, which gives authority for the use of marshals and the FBI.

The sections state that both U.S. Marshals and agents of the FBI are authorized to carry firearms, serve warrants and subpoenas . . . make arrests without warrant for any offense against the United States committed in their presence, or for any felony cognizable under the laws of the United States if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or is committing such felony."

Higgs also states that section 241 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code makes it a felony for two or more people "to conspire to deprive or intimidate any person in the employment of his constitutional rights or rights secured by the laws of the United States."

McComb project director Harris concluded his letter to Marshall by saying, "... unless responsible forces are brought to bear in McComb, what happened in Neshoba County (Philadelphia, Miss. where three rights workers were murdered) will happen here."

were prevalent. The latest blasts were the 13th and 14th bombings in McComb since the Summer Project began.

## REGISTRATION DRIVE INITIATED BY SNCC

**McCOMB, MISS.** - The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) launched its first voter-registration project here, Aug. 7, 1961

SNCC worker Robert Moses and four other workers set up workshops and encouraged local Negroes to register to vote.

Early efforts were met with violence and intimidation that has still not ceased. Moses was arrested on Aug. 15, 1961 in nearby Liberty in Amite County while

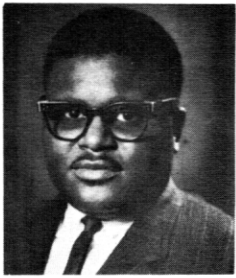
taking three Negroes to register.

SNCC worker John Hardy was pistol whipped by a registrar in nearby Whitehall County and then arrested for inciting a riot.

Herbert Lee - a 52-year-old student at SNCC's Amite County Voter Registration School - was shot and killed by a state re-

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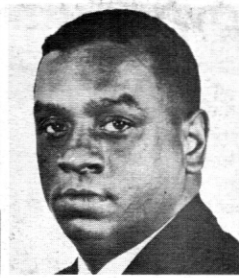




JAMES BAGSBY



WILLIAM GREEN



REV. GRINAGE

## ARKANSAS

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only about a third of the total.

Workers for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) are using the Negroes' candidacies to spur last minute registration which ends Oct. 1.

Babsby, 31, chairman of the Pine Bluff Movement faces two white opponents. Campaign workers are hoping his opponents will split the remaining white vote.

Grinage is former chairman of the Movement.

Bagsby, Grinage and Green are all running as independents.

The Pine Bluff movement was organized in Dec. 1962 with the help of SNCC worker Bill Hansen.

Hansen recently resigned as director of SNCC's Arkansas project in favor of Negro James Jones. Hansen will still continue to work in the state but felt that the movement must have Negro leadership.

## VALLEY VIEW CHURCH BOMBED, 23rd DURING SUMMER IN MISS.

VALLEY VIEW, MISS -- St. John's Baptist Church -- two miles from the Freedom House here -- burned to the ground Sept. 16. It was the 23rd church burning in Mississippi in less than three months.

The church, the first every used in rural Madison County for voter - registration meetings, housed a freedom school this summer.

Two county deputy sheriffs, Harvey Evans and Billy Noble, were seen at the church a few minutes before the fire began

and later were seen leaving the scene about 20 minutes later, a worker for the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) reported.

When the fire department was called the duty-man asked, "Is it a colored church or a white church?" Firemen never arrived.

For almost two hours the fire threatened a butane-gas tank near the church and also a nearby woods.



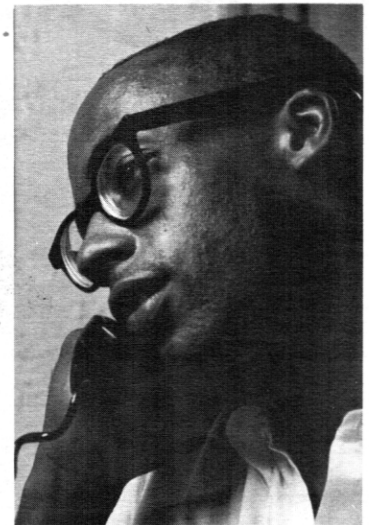
## SOUTHWEST GEORGIA

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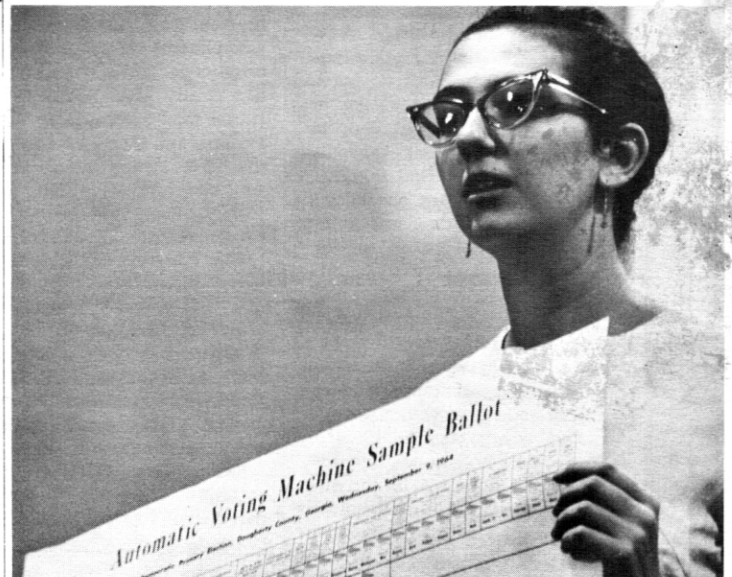
County (Albany) alone could well swing the local outcome if voted en bloc . . . " Gray is state chairman of Democrats for Goldwater.

Attorney King - a graduate of Fisk University and Western Reserve Law School - has been the only attorney in Southwest Georgia to defend civil liberties cases.

"Some black man will be elected from this district some day," King said, after the final tally. He said that his campaign has united the Negro population of the district and made them more politically aware.



DONALD HARRIS, Southwest Georgia project director, gets election returns.



SNCC WORKER FAITH HOLSEART displays sample ballot in Southwest Georgia.

**THIS WEEK IN THE  
THE STUDENT VOICE**

**McCOMB: City of Terror**

**NEGRO CANDIDATES IN  
GEORGIA**

**ARKANSAS**

**MISSISSIPPI**