

SECOND MASS MEETING HELD IN LELAND.

Last Wednesday night COFO held its second mass meeting in Leland on the steps of Pleasant Springs Baptist Church in New Addition. The main topics of discussion were the Freedom Democratic Party and the latest wave of intimidations that have swept in a tide of fear in the Negro Community.

When the COFO workers arrived to hold their mass meeting at Pleasant Springs they found the door locked. When they attempted to obtain the key they were told that Rev. Washington was out of town and something else was planned for the church that evening. This was only one of many attempts to stop the work that COFO is trying to do in the Negro Community. So the rally was held on the steps of the Church.

About a hundred people attended to sing Freedom Songs and hear speakers assure them that no matter how hard the White man wanted to stop the Negro's move toward Freedom, we would never turn back.

FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Plans for precinct meeting and the appointment of representatives for the county convention are being formed in Leland. Twenty people have to be found to represent the two precincts here at the Washington County Convention on August 3.

MARTIN LUTHER KING SPEAKS

Wednesday night, the Rev. Martin Luther King spoke before a huge assembly in Greenwood, Miss. The meeting came right on the heels of the recent mass arrests that captured the headlines.

About 1200 people attended the rally. King told the people of Miss. "to keep moving in the march to freedom." Thunderous applause, shouts of "freedom" and inspired singing were the climax to an exciting meeting. Greenwood was full of that Freedom Spirit!

FEAR AND INTIMIDATION SWEEP LELAND

In desperate attempt to sweep COFO out of town and keep the word of Freedom from reaching the ears of the Negro in Leland, certain influential white citizens have unloosed a plague of fear and intimidations against the Negroes here.

In the past week these things have happened:

1) The police and a mass of white people formed around the Negro section of town and the Temple Theatre on Sunday.

2) Sunday night the COFO staff had to seek asylum in Shaw, Miss.

3) There has been door-to-door intimidation of the Negro citizens in the town by the authorities. These actions have been primarily centered around finding out about the members of the newly-formed MSU (Mississippi Student Union).

4) The segregated Temple Theatre has been closed down for "repairs".

5) The MSU and COFO workers are constantly harrassed on the street by arrogant white reactionaries.

6) A COFO member was arrested on a ridiculous charge and questioned about COFO's activities. He was later released without being officially charged.

7) The COFO office which was located on Main Street had to be abandoned when the manager was approached and told to get us out or leave himself by the white landlord.

8) COFO was given 24 hours to leave town by the authorities on Wednesday.

9) The mass meeting had to be held outside the church because our entry was denied.

Because of these reasons and many others, COFO has had to reorganize its program for its protection and the protection of its friends. We are going door to door petitioning for help and trying to alleviate some of the fear resulting from the onslaught by some of the white people in Leland. We are NOT going to leave town as long as we are needed. WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED!!

STUDENT UNION BELIEFS

We believe that democracy and freedom are not fruits to be plucked at will from the branches of an institution called the State, but qualities of spirit, achieved through discipline and sacrifice.

We believe not only in the right of the common man, but also in the capacities of the common man to exercise these rights.

We believe that it is not tragic to be opposed, but most tragic to be stopped because you are afraid of the consequences.

We believe in God, with firmness in the Right as God gives us to see.

We believe in Prayer, and Divine leadership and fellowship.

We believe in immortality.

Benjamin Perkins, age 16

AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD

The American idea is that from more than forty different lands have come people who are determined to make here, of many nationalities one Nation.

Another element of the American idea is that worshippers of many faiths agree that they may be separate in their religious observances and yet united as citizens.

This kind of brotherhood is the American dream. It is the biggest America has to offer mankind. Some day the people all over the earth will catch on to the American ideal.

All the more important then is to make brotherhood work right here in the United States NOW.

Brotherhood, the willingness to share with the other fellows the opportunities we want for ourselves, is the only hope for the world.

Benjamin Perkins

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY PANEL: Victoria Gray, Aaron Henry, Martin Luther King, Rev. Ed King. WJTV (CBS), SATURDAY NIGHT--8:30-11:00.