

WHY?



BECAUSE WE CANNOT VOTE

WE CANNOT STOP . . .

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POLICE BRUTALITY
POOR GOVERNMENT
POOR EDUCATION
POOR HOUSING
POOR JOBS

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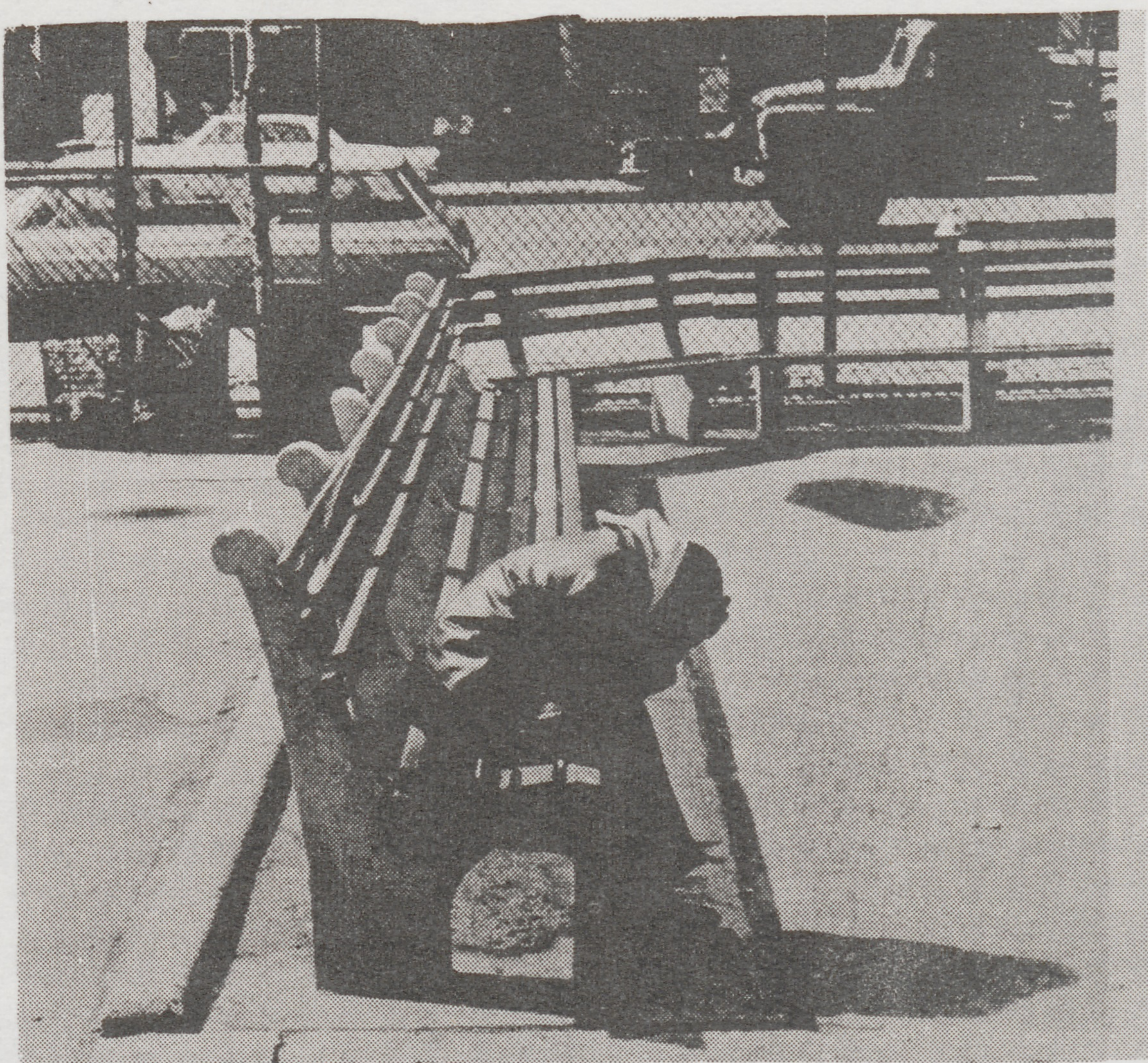
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WE HAVE NO HOPE,
IF WE CANNOT VOTE.

MEET TOMMY SMITH . . .



Tommy is a bright, intelligent little boy who lives in Alabama. There is no limit to the things Tommy could become and do in his lifetime. He could be a great scientist and build spaceships; he could be a businessman or a doctor; he could make enough money when he is older to give his own family a decent, good life,

BUT

the odds are against Tommy because he is a Negro!

Tommy's parents love him, but they cannot see to it that he gets the education he will need.

Today, only a few Negroes attend accredited schools in Alabama while most white children attend fully accredited schools.

Alabama State is unaccredited; the University of Alabama is!

1. No Negroes attend a School of Medicine in Alabama;
2. No Negroes attend the Law School at the University of Alabama;
3. No Negroes attend a school of engineering in the state.

We will remain poor, if we aren't trained.

NO JOBS, NO HOUSING

Tommy's mother and daddy are not lazy people; they want to work, but they cannot find jobs. Tommy's parents did not get the kind of education they needed to qualify for many jobs. Besides that, white people are hired first in Alabama, and Negroes get only the jobs that are left.

Today, many people are employed by the state as policemen, highway patrolmen, engineers, draftsmen and in many other capacities, but Negroes are not employed because many of them weren't trained to work in these jobs. Even if they are trained, Alabama won't hire Negroes, fairly.

POLICE BRUTALITY

Tommy's parents pay taxes, but the Alabama police are not used to protect Tommy and his family. They are used to keeping them down. The police may beat and intimidate Tommy when he is older, and Tommy's parents will not be able to do anything about it. Even today in Alabama, police shoot Negroes because they won't stand still for a night-stick whipping. They unloose dogs on them, shock them with electric cattle prods and jail them by the hundreds simply because these Negroes want to register and vote.

THESE POLICE WERE HIRED BY MEN WHO WERE ELECTED, BUT WE CANNOT VOTE!

THE PEOPLE WHO KEEP NEGROES OUT OF GOOD SCHOOLS ARE ELECTED, BUT WE CANNOT VOTE!

THE PEOPLE WHO HIRE FOR THE STATE ARE ELECTED, BUT WE CANNOT VOTE!

If Tommy's parents and all Negroes in Alabama could vote, we could elect people to the government who would stop police brutality, and give everyone equal education and job opportunities.

There are hundreds of thousands of Negro children like Tommy Smith in Alabama.

How Can You Save Them From A Life Of Hopelessness?

VOTING IS THE ANSWER!! BUT
WE CANNOT FREELY VOTE

Many of the Negroe's problems in Alabama are direct results of not having the right to freely vote. We have been told that the reason Negroes are poor, uneducated and in bad shape is because we are no good and lazy. Let's see what the real reason is.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

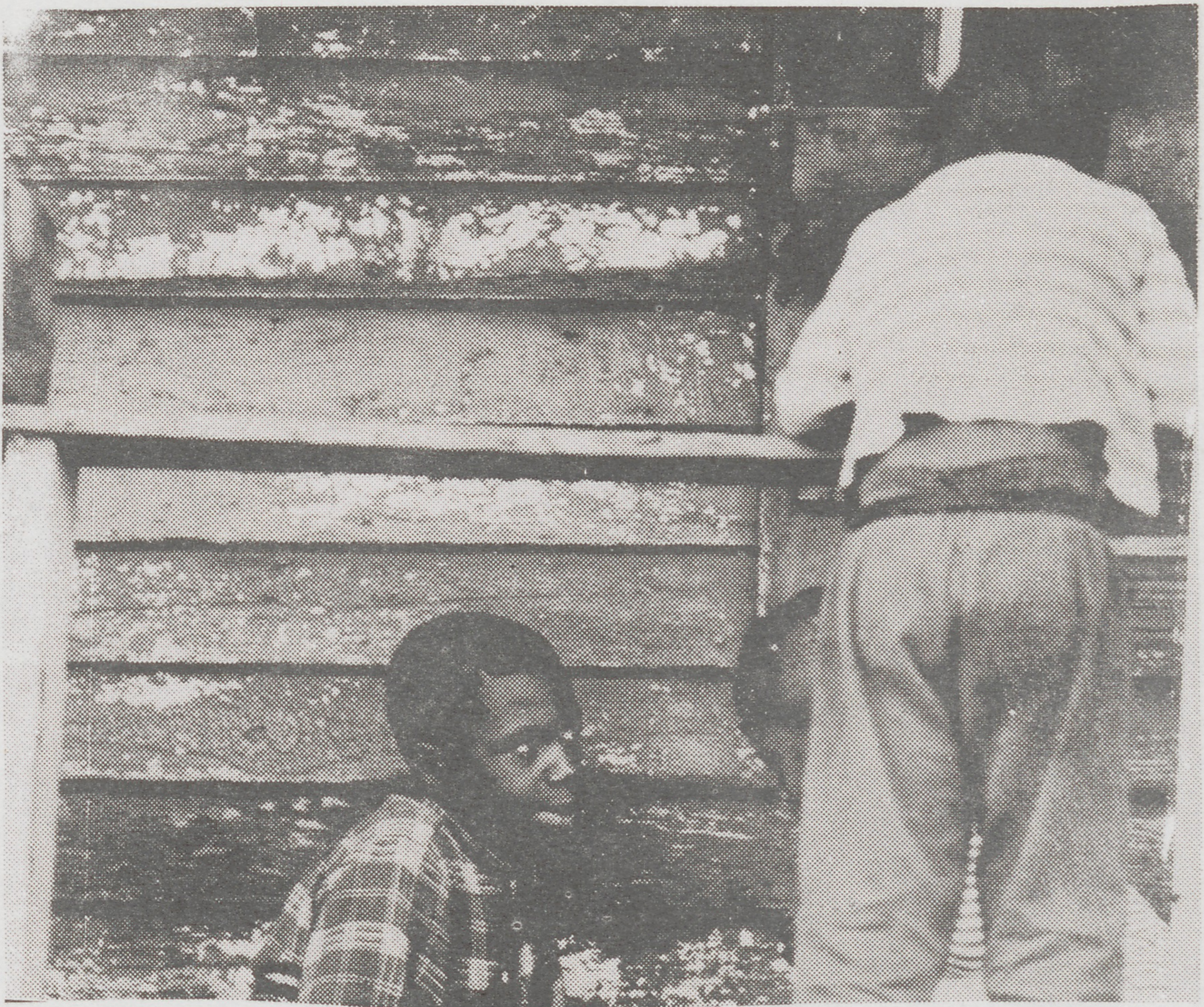
After the slaves were freed 100 years ago, Negroes were allowed to freely vote. We had Negroes in the government and were on our way to rising from slavery to first class citizenship. We soon would have had equal jobs, education, housing and political power. Federal troops from Washington were in the South to see that Negroes' rights were respected as human beings.

There were as many Negroes as whites in many parts of the South and soon we would have had as much voice in government as the whites.

White Southerners realized that they would have a "good thing" if they Could keep Negroes uneducated and without political power. They could work them for very little money. They would have the best jobs and all the political power for themselves. It would be almost as good as slavery.

So a deal was made in Washington.

The federal troops were pulled out of the South. We were unprotected.



White southerners found ways to keep us from voting.

1. Beatings, murderings, and lynchings were to frighten us.
2. They made up literacy tests that Negroes couldn't pass.
3. They asked for poll taxes that they knew we couldn't pay.
4. They made up bad laws such as "if your grandfather was a slave, you can't vote". All Negroes' grandfathers were slaves, so none of us could vote.

So, it's no accident that we are poor, that the sheriff and mayor and highway patrolmen and governor are all white. This was done on purpose.

The literacy tests, poll taxes, and unjust voting laws were made for the purpose of keeping Negroes from voting.

WHAT MUST BE DONE

If the problems that we face in Alabama and the South are going to be solved, then we must solve them. If we are to live with dignity, If we are to have accredited education (the kind that will enable us to work in the space age), If we are to live without fear of being beaten up by police if we don't stay "in our

place," If we are going to work on jobs when we are qualified, If we are to have laws that will protect us, rather than laws that degrade us—If we are going to be men rather than boys - -,

WE MUST change the Laws that keep most of the Negroes from voting. WE MUST organize and tell the state of Alabama, America and even the whole world that we want equal representation in government. We will not accept taxation without representation. We want to help make the laws that govern us. WE MUST all say to America that we want to be free.

HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

This can be done by becoming a part of SCOPE.

SCLC's Voter Registration and Political Education Department has developed a Summer Community Organization and Political Education (SCOPE) Project.

WHAT IS SCOPE?

1. Scope is recruiting five hundred (500) or more persons from academic communities of America to work for ten (10) weeks this summer in seventy-five (75) black-belt rural counties and six (6) urban counties.

A. Registration:

Workers will register new voters by working with P.T.A.'s, coordinated local organizations, Church committees, youth groups, committees made up of business leaders, street corner and bar committees, etc.

B. Political Education:

Night classes will be held in political education for persons of voting age. These classes will be held Monday through Friday night, alternating in various parts of the country.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL OR WRITE

Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Department of Registration and Political Education
Summer Community Organization and Political
Education Project.

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