

1965

ALABAMA PROJECT

by Randy M. Glenn

On about February 28, at a staff meeting Starkley Carmical asked if I would come to Alabama with him and a few others to open up 8 black-belt County that border Mississippi. During the mardigras, I went to New Orleans and spoke to Richard Haley, about the same.

While attending a Cofe Convention on March 10 in Jackson Mississippi when the first march to Montgomery began, there was a call stating there had been an attack on the bridge, en route to Montgomery. Seven car-loads of SNCC staff, and myself proceeded to Alabama. On arrival were a lot of frustration and fear. We did what we could to comfort these people.

On Monday, March 11, there was a meeting with SCLC, SNCC, representatives from NAACP and other organizations to discuss the problems here in Alabama. On Tuesday March 12, there was a march led by Dr. King, James Farmer, Jim Formon, and other leaders across the bridge. We proceeded across the bridge, had prayer and returned to Brown's Chapel. We decided on return to Brown's Chapel to set up a visual. We decided that we would stay in the street until we could as our constitutional rights of Peaceful assembly, as stated in the first Amendment of the United State Constitution. The Visual was set up on Thursday. This visual lasted through three days of rain and four days of good weather. These people were determine to stay until they were permitted to march to Montgomery, to present a list of grievance to Governor Wallace.

On the 16th of March, Montgomery Alabama students from Alabama State College and Tuskegee Institute, were planning to march to the Capitol and protest the brutality of March 10 in Selma. They were at First Baptist Church planning to march, they were attacked on that Monday night by the posse and State Troopers, on the street. They got back into the Church, they were not allowed to leave on that night. They had no food, water nor any other necessities they needed. They didn't let anyone in or any one out. On the following day they let them leave two at a time. They came down to Jackson and High Sts. and decided to set up a visual in the street. They were attacked again.

A call was made to Selma stating that all experience staff to be brought to Montgomery to try and help comfort these students. We brought a group of about 22 people into Montgomery. On arrival, we called a meeting in our temporarily head-quarters, which was in the Ben Moore Hotel, to decide our next move. We decided to block the Street until we were given permission to proceed to the Capitol.

This went on for two days then Dr. King came to Montgomery, after a meeting with Dr. King and other staff people, we got a permit, and a march was led to the capitol by Dr. King and other leaders of the organization.

Some 1800 people stood in the rain while Dr. King and other leaders had a conference with sheriff Clarke, Al Lingo, and others. The meeting lasted about three hours. Then everyone came back and we had a Mass ^{meeting} to discuss our next move. Mean while, Selma, the wheel was put in motion for the march. While the people were marching from Selma to Montgomery, we were here handling press releases, setting up housing, food and other necessity for all the people that come from

far and wide to take part in the demonstration. The march arrived at St. Jude, where thousands of people came out to see the various entertainers that were in town. So, I had one day of rest, after all of the marchers left and went back home, we begin to discuss problems of Montgomery County with Montgomery people. They asked if we would stay and help solve some of the problems here in Montgomery. We decided to stay and do research before going into action.

Our project that we have been working on here along with SCLC are enclosed here in leaflet form, Alabama State College, Voter Registration, petition to Governor Wallace and other material which are enclosed.

We have two churches in North Montgomery, community which is known as New Town, and which is a very poverty stricken area. Where we will begin on next week to set up community center, Voter Registration, work-shop and Freedom schools, and other things as done in Mississippi. This project is a self-supporting project. We have had two freedom dances which our net profit was \$100. We are planning others in the far near future. Enclosed, you will find a card that we sent to Churches to raise funds and a copy of the letter that was sent out with it. As I fore stated in another report, in unity there are strength.

YOURS FOR FREEDOM NOW

Randy M. Glenn