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# 6,000 at Detroit Rally Protest Mississippi Verdict

BY WILLIAM SUDOMIER  
Free Press Staff Writer

More than 6,000 Detroit Negroes met in protest Sunday. Gathering in Bethel AME Church, 585 Frederick, 4,000 jammed into a structure built to seat 2,500.

Another 2,000-plus gathered outside and were moved into Scott Methodist Church at 609 E. Kirby, about a block away.

THEY CAME from all over the city to protest the verdict freeing two white Mississippians in the slaying of a Chicago Negro boy, 14.

Rep. Charles C. Diggs, Jr. (D., Mich.), one of the chief speakers, commented on his return from the "jungles of Mississippi" and his pleasure in returning to the "clean, fresh air of Michigan."

He spoke of the "savages who lynched 14-year-old Emmett Till."

"In all my life I have never witnessed such sheer perjury and fantastic twisting of facts," said Diggs.

"Until every Negro is allowed to vote, we intend to challenge the seating of every Mississippi congressman," he told the crowd.

"I hope Negroes will be inspired by the courage of the witnesses who defied a long tradition to testify against whites."

DIGGS TOLD of the "rescue" of two witnesses in the Till trial, Willie Reed, 18, and Mandy Bradley, 50, for "their personal safety."

"I spirited them out of there in the dead of the night," Diggs said, "to the sanctity of Chicago."

Diggs spoke of two men he called possible witnesses to the Till slaying. He said they were being held in a Charleston (Miss.) jail "until the thing blows over."

Diggs said the test of the two political parties in the next election should be the question: "What are you going to do to insure the rights of Negroes in the United States?"

Some politicians, Diggs said, "are grinning at us in Michigan and New York and slamming the door in our faces in Mississippi."

"Mississippi represents a shameful and primitive symbol of disregard for the essential dignity of all persons, which must be destroyed before it destroys all that democracy is to represent."

DIGGS SAID that when he returns to Washington, he will bypass Attorney General Herbert Brownell and go to the White House for a conference.

"I want to get support of the Administration on the question of civil rights," he said. "I want something done, too, on the bills I introduced which would give the Justice Department the right to intervene in trials."

The huge protest meeting was sponsored by the Detroit Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Announced as a protest at the "reign of terror" generated against the Negroes in Mississippi, the gathering also was a drive for funds to back the fight.

THE REV. C. L. Franklin, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, 4210 Hastings, drew cheers when he stepped down from a car clutching a sheaf of bills.

It was \$200 he had brought from his church and contributed himself.

When the three-hour meetings ended, one black satchel was jammed with checks and bills. It could not be closed. Filled, too, were numerous church collection baskets and envelopes.

While Diggs sat in the pulpit of the Methodist church waiting to speak, bills were thrown into the congressman's lap. He gathered them and passed them to attendants.

Besides Diggs, the other principal speaker was Medgar Evers, NAACP field secretary for the

Mississippi branch of the NAACP.

Evers reported on developments in the NAACP's desegregation fight in Mississippi and steps being taken to bring justice in the Till case.

A slim young man with a penicil mustache, Evers' forcefully

criticized treatment of Negroes in Mississippi.

He said only one twenty-fifth of the half million registered voters in the state were Negroes, while the population was about half Negro and half white.

"It's about time that we Negroes become interested in ourselves," he said.

Evers urged the crowd to make the NAACP a "multi-million member organization." He called the NAACP the "respected" voice of the Negro.

He said the NAACP is asking the Justice Department to step into the Mississippi situation.

Two other slayings in Mississippi were cited as reasons for

such intervention—the killing on May 7 of the Rev. George W. Lee and on Aug. 13 of Lamar Smith.

Both refused to surrender their right to vote, said Evers.

The crowd was quiet. Contributions from churches, workers and various organizations were received.



Crowd Jammed Two Churches to Protest Handling of Mississippi Murder Trial



## U.S. Temperatures

(24 Hours Ended at 8 P. M.)  
Official Government Figures

MICHIGAN		
High	Low	High
Alpena 56	41	Jackson 65
Battle Crk. 64	43	Marquette 52
DETROIT 65	50	Muskegon 66
Escanaba 57	42	Saginaw 61
Flint 59	42	S. S. Marie 54
Grand Rapids 64	40	Trav. City 58
MIDWEST		
High	Low	High
Blmarck 48	34	Indianapolis 69
Chicago 65	53	Kans. City 61
Cincinnati 74	49	Memphis 54
Cleveland 68	54	Milwaukee 59
Des Moines 58	57	Omaha 51
Duluth 55	35	St. Louis 72
New York 69	60	Wash'gton 74

## Michigan Forecast

Detroit area: Partly cloudy and cool Monday. Gentle to moderate north to northeast winds. Low 43, high near 60.

## STATE FORECASTS

Lower Michigan: Partly cloudy and continued cool Monday. Scattered light frost likely in interior of north portion Sunday night. High 54-56 north, 58-62 south; low 34-44.

Upper Michigan: Partly cloudy and cool Monday. Scattered front Sunday and locally freezing temperatures.

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