

CHARLES EVERS' SPEECH
Dorman Hall, Mississippi State University
March 9, 1970

Introduction by Al Roughton, President of MSU Young Democrats

Tonight the Young Democrats of Mississippi State have the honor of presenting to you by order of the Federal Courts a man who has been fighting for the betterment of his country since his days in the Pacific in World War II and in the Korean War. A man who rose to the rank of Sergeant Major while serving in the Army and after his discharge moved to Philadelphia, Mississippi, where he ran his family's funeral parlor and started various enterprises for his people, including a hotel, restaurant, a taxi cab service, and a gas station. Today he is the owner of the Medgar Evers Shopping Center, named for his late brother, in Fayette, Mississippi. After his brother's assassination in June, 1963, he took over his position as field secretary of the NAACP in Mississippi. At the time that he took over his late brother's position, he was quoted as saying, "I wasn't going to let anybody mess up what he had done" and he hasn't. If anything, he has improved on his brother's work. With a zeal and dedication unmatched by many in this state, this man is a national committee man from Mississippi to the Democratic Party. In 1968 he ran for congress from the third congressional district, and in 1969 he ran for and was elected Mayor of Fayette, Mississippi. This man symbolizes what today's young black people can aspire to. He has been able to get many different kinds of

people wanting many different things to work for the same goals, and those goals are the betterment of Mississippi for Mississippians, both white and black. Few Mississippians have done more to improve race relations. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Mayor of Fayette, Charles Evers.

Charles Evers:

"Thank you very much. Thank you so much. Can you hear me out there? Am I gonna have to bend over, too? These things don't usually work. They must have not realized that you grow tall guys in Mississippi. You short guys took advantage of us.

First of all, I want to say thanks to the Young Democrats and to the faculty and staff of this great institution for having the courage to invite me to come, and next of all I want to thank the Trustee Board and its chairman, Brother Roberts, for their dying, trying opportunity to prevent one of their own brothers to come and they failed. And I want to thank them, too, for failing, and then taking it in stride, and I mean this. They were beaten, as it should have been done, but it could have been much worse. I think we have got to understand that, 'cause they could have had all the people we know who would like to be here, with sticks and guns and sheets and what not. But as most Mississippians, we know that they have too much intelligence in this day and time to do a thing like that, so I just want to say to the trustees, thank you very much for taking your defeat and going on back home. And I want to say again for my family and all of us in Fayette, and the rest of us, thank you again for inviting us to come

because a few years ago this never would have happened.

And this is what give us courage, to know that there are people in this state who cares and that all white people like all black people ain't all bad, and all black people like all white people ain't all good, either. But there's good and bad in all of us, and somehow another we good people, like you and like the rest of us, got to be heard. We have got to start standing up and being counted for the things we know is right. We've got to get rid of people who continue to hang on to that races are superior, regardless to who they are. God didn't make us superior, black folks nor white folks. He just made folks, and ain't none of us white brothers and sisters or blacks no better than nobody else. But our blacks have never had a chance to really tell it to no use. You only heard one side about it. You never heard about what the true black man in this country and in this state wants and it's very simple. All we ever wanted was a chance, nothing else.

You know you hear our good governor run all over the country and tell all kinds of lies about they want handouts and they want this and they want, we don't want nothing but a chance. Young blacks to go to school at Mississippi State and Ole Miss and all over. We just want to be accepted as students, not as something special. We never had that chance before. But thank God for young people like you. It's gonna change. Tonight I just want to say a few things because I believe in questions and answers, but I want to say this to you. whatever this state comes to in the future, its in your hands, the young blacks and the young whites and the old blacks and old whites who believe in justice

and equality for everybody. It is in your hands and you've got to understand that. That no longer can this state of ours survive on racism, be it black racism or white racism, it just won't work. It hasn't worked in the past and it ain't going to work now. So tonight as I stand here we talk to our brothers and sisters who I hope will someday, and I am sure, be the governors and representatives and congressmen and senators from our state, who are going to enact laws that are going to be just, who are going to believe in law and order and enforce law and order, not just for black folks but for everybody as we do in Fayette. You are going to be the ones who are going to have to change Mississippi because the poor old whites who are confused and the poor old blacks ain't gonna never change. Unless you here and thousands more like you are willing to hear both sides of the story and do your own evaluating, Mississippi ain't gonna never change. She's gonna stay on the bottom. Do you know that we are the 50th state? Any way you want to name it, we are the 50th. And although we aren't the 51st state because ain't nobody, ain't nobody else below us. So, and the reason we are the 50th state is because we have had men like the great, honorable, confused Theodore Bilbo, who ran around over the country preaching hatred, who ran around the country preaching segregation, but believe me when I tell you he didn't mean it. He preached segregation all day long and integrate all night with our black women.

I tell you what another something I heard. We have had that from all these years you have had men like our the poor ex-governor Barnett

who wheeled and dealed with the President of the United States on white folks, not black folks. He lied on the white people and tried to fool them. We've got to get rid of that kind. You got to elect men who will lead us right. White or black we are going to stand up, Young Democrats, and stand for what's right and what's just. And we've got to quit looking at the color of a man's skin.

Poor Governor Williams. Confused as anything you have ever seen. One day he's on this side of the fence and the next day he's on the other side of the fence. One day he's saying that he believes in the Democratic party and then he believes in the Republican party. And he don't know whose party he's with. You see, you've got to get somebody that knows where they are going. And then if you saw him the other day, God help him, if you saw him on TV up there making all those erroneous statements, trying to advise us about the Head Start Program. Here we are in Mississippi, the poorest state in the nation, my friends, and our governor, not white folks governor, but our governor, go sit up there and veto 6 million dollars. Can you imagine that? All because of hatred. That's all. Just hatred. And then he goes to Washington and gets on TV at New York and tells all this stuff about they got one lady that went out and got so much money from the Head Start and opened up a concession stand down a certain place and made so much money. But the governor didn't tell this. He didn't tell about all the millions of dollars of the whiskey money that they promised would pass a whiskey law in the state to eliminate so much taxation for schools. He ain't telling where

that money goes. So Brother Governor, you better wake up and don't start pulling cover over anybody, we'll pull some off of you.

And the governor won't go and tell about all those heavy taxes that they have upon the heavy truck companies that come through our state. They will begin now to go around through Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee because of the heavy taxes. Where would that money go, Mr. Governor? Don't talk about peanuts, talk about millions. And then on top of that all the wheeling and dealing that they do in the State House on contracts that do with these big companies that they get the kickbacks from. Where's that money go? Why don't he tell the truth? Tell it all. Don't try to make the Head Start the poor whites in this state and the poor blacks continue to suffer. Tell about the big shots that are really going to destroy this state and who's robbing not only the black folks, but the whites too.

And my white friends, stop being cowards. You have been cowards too long. Because most of the people that are hurt in this particular incident are the businessmen of this state and the bankers of this state. And they ain't got the guts to tell the governor that he's wrong. When are they going to wake up?

And don't sit around listening to petty gossip. They are trying to keep us divided and destroy us. It is not going to work. 'Cause black folks, let me tell you something, my white friends, black folks ain't gonna take it no longer. We don't want our white brothers to put on us no longer. But this is all of our state, it's all of our land, white folks, black

folks, Chinese, Japanese, Indian or what not, this is our country. We fought and died for this country, we worked and sweated for this country, and ain't nobody gonna tell us that we can't enjoy everything that's here. We had rather be dead and in Hell three times than denied the right to be free in Mississippi. Ain't nobody gonna run us away from here. So let's join hands, my white brothers, and begin to bury the hatchet of old hate 'cause you ain't superior to us and we ain't superior to you. We just human beings.

And my young black brothers and sisters who are going to school, they are going to stay in these better schools and get the same kind of education that our white brothers are getting and ain't gonna be long, my friends, until we'll be flying Lear Jets, we'll be flying Boeing 707's, and we'll be down going up trying to test the moon too, and come back with some dust on a stick too, like everybody else. We've got a right to do this, but we've got to have a chance to do it.

Let me tell you something, my white friends, don't be fooled by us blacks. We are going to fool you all your life, we are going to use you all of your life. You know you just think you've been using us, but black folks, let's tell them about it a little better. They kept us ignorant, they thought, and we slipped around there and learned all ya'll learned 'cause when you come home at night, the next day start telling all them tales of what happened, we heard it. The maids who were dusting and listening, don't fool yourself. So whatever we are you made us this.

That poor old handyman who was shuffling around like this was listening to you, and that man who grinned and scratched, he weren't tickled, he was fooling you. So let me tell you something. We have learned all the tricks about our white brothers. 'Cause we have been right there, when you went to bed, we were there, when you got up, we were there, when you were down playing Bingo at that lily white club we were there, back there with your little children and we were there cooking that food when you came to that segregated restaurant who wouldn't allow them black folks in there. That cook back in the kitchen took care of you. You would be surprised, you would be surprised what you swallowed over a life time. So don't let the black Toms who come grinning and shuffling, he's just as big a liar as that white B because he doesn't want racism either. He doesn't want to be denied the right to be a part of the community. He just trying to fool you. So the best thing for you to do is shut the door in his face, tell him to get out of here 'cause you a liar, 'cause you want the same thing other blacks want and that's freedom and justice and you ain't gonna settle for nothing less.

Then old Percy Green just a dreaming you white folks. He write all that garbage in the paper 'cause he can fool you and all these big companies giving him big ads and he's just a grinning and saying, "What fools they are." Well, Percy Green wants the same thing that Charles Evers, Stokely Carmichael, and Rap Brown all the rest of us want. He wants the same thing. He wants to be free, to live in this state and make a decent living.

Then our young whites, you got to understand, Mom and Dad just don't know any better 'cause they been taught all their lives that black folks are something dirty, that black folks would steal and they are lazy and that black folks can't be trusted. Yet they didn't tell you that all your natural life a black mother took care of you while a white mother worked in the bank and a black [white] father ran the bank. They didn't tell you that they left them home with you. You nursed from their breast and they cleaned your little snotty noses and they washed your dirty clothes. You got to listen. They didn't tell it all to you. They took care of you and whatever white people in this country most of them particularly Mississippi, we blacks had something to do with it. We took care of you, we kept you healthy, we kept you dry when you got wet, you got to understand this. And you worked us for nothing. Tell Mom and Dad how wrong they've been. They beat our brothers and they beat our fathers, they raped our mothers and daughters and sisters, yet they say we ain't done nothing. We are the only race in the world that are your friends. If you turn us against you, you are through. Just remember that. When you turn the black men against you white on Earth, you are through. 'Cause we are the only friends, true friends, that you got left. And we Mississippians are asking you, let's bury the hatchet.

Don't pay any attention to John Bell Williams, don't pay any attention to Eastland and Stennis and all the bigots because they are wrong. And don't pay any attention to Brother White over here at Itta Bena. He's talking double talk. He's wrong. Don't pay any attention to Brother Reddix down in Jackson they finally got rid of, and old Boyd

down at Alcorn. They are lying. They want the same thing we want. We've got to get rid of all the isms, the blackism and whitism. We've got to get people who will speak out and do what's right and what's just and don't worry about the price because it is too great for anyone to worry about. Because we know what it is to hate. You just don't know what black folks have gone through all these years 'cause they were afraid to drive through a town where an old mean sheriff and an old mean chief of police, and some poor, ignorant, broken-down constable or some old Justice of the Peace who is never had his five weeks of training is gonna sit and judge him on what he is stopped for. You just don't know. You just can't understand how much suffering we blacks have gone through, how we pray that someday God will change your hearts and your minds and make you accept us as brothers and as sisters and as human beings.

White friend, you just don't know. You just don't know why we blacks have vowed within ourselves, we ain't gonna go that road any more. We all, I have said before, we made up our mind no more suffering like that, no more all white towns for white folks and no place for black folks, we are going to have our share, we are going to do it with you. All your hatred, all your sheets, and all your guns ain't gonna stop us. We're gonna keep coming. 'Cause for every black white Americans kill, it brought forth ten more, and everytime you kill one of us, we are going to keep coming. We are not going to kill you physically, like you killed us, we are going to try to kill you dead politically, and as near as we can economically. 'Cause those are the two greatest weapons we have.

Black folks, don't let them fool you into hating, it's a terrible thing. For a man to hate it must tear him apart ten times. You can imagine what old Beckwith must feel every night when he lays down to sleep for destroying a man who only believed in what's right. You can imagine what this nut who killed Bobby must go through every night as he sits down there in that Los Angeles jail and walk from wall to wall because of hatred. You can imagine what those who are a part of killing the president must go through for killing a man because he cared. For destroying not only him, but his whole family. Can't you understand how it would be if someone killed your brother or your father or your mother, can't you understand that?

Oh yes, our white friends, try to start thinking. You go to church every Sunday, stop pretending, stop hypocriting, stop lying to yourself, stop lying to God. If you believe in do what the little thing [?] book says. And you do us as we have done you. Who loved you, who have taken care of you, yet you have beat us, you worked us for nothing, our poor mothers and fathers worked for you for three dollars a week, sometimes for nothing. We worked on your plantations and we raised your thousands of bushels of corn and hundreds of bales of cotton and at the end of the harvest, "Ain't nothing for you Niggers!!" You went to the commissary and give you some of their molasses and some of their fat meat and a pair of overalls, now you know I'm not lying, my brother, and give you some old self-rising flour. For a whole winter we've got to eat on that. You say what's wrong with black folks? We [are] tired of that, my friends, and

we ain't gonna take it no more. When we were youngsters, I'm 47 and all you blacks here might know what I am talking about, we walked those dusty roads to school and my mamma would leave us early in the morning to go fix little Helen. Frank Gaines [little kindergarten daughter named Frances] I never can forget that. My mamma would leave us every morning to get Frances ready and Bob Gaines ready to go to school. As we would walk that old dirty road our blue jeans, I don't wear blue jeans no more, 'cause I couldn't have no choice at that time. We worked them blue jeans, young folks. The same white boy and girl like the rest of us would drive along about 8:10, I never can forget it, in that great big shiny bus and that old bus driver was so mean with hate, now white people you got to understand this, that he would slow up and allow them to spit on us. And we say that's alright white folks, someday we gonna change that. Someday we gonna stop you from spitting on us 'cause we gonna be on that bus. And they kept on going and we went down to school, you got to understand, white fellows.

We went on down the road to that old shack, that big old round country shack, you remember fellas that we sat in the room, first grade here, second grade here, third grade here, fourth, fifth, sixth and the [?] in the middle of the thing. And our principal had about a fifth grade education and we say what's wrong with black folks? They ain't prepared. You are right. You never gave us a chance. And Then I can remember as we would get in that old building it was cold. Had to go and get lighter enough to make a fire. By the time we got the room warm, young blacks, it was time to go home then, so we didn't have time to get no teaching because the teacher was cold.

And then we would go back home and we would, you know the story, we would start walking back down and then them same mean white folks whose mamma had taught them all night long that Negroes ain't nothing, you have the right to spit on them. You have a right to curse them, because they ain't nothing. But their mamma and their daddy can come to work for you and make us millions to make you comfortable, yet they ain't nothing. You have got to understand this, white folks, how wrong you have been to us. And how, why we ain't gonna take it no longer. You lucky you ain't got but a few Raps and Stokelys and Charles Evers and Aaron Henrys. You lucky. Because if white folks had had the treatment we've had, you would burn the whold damn country down. You know you would. You wouldn't take it one day. We blacks have taken it all our lives.

If I were to tell you tonight as Mayor of Fayette, you can't come to Fayette, you would come or else you would burst wide open, because you are going to prove you have got a right to come to Fayette. It is a part of this country. It's a part of this state and I am just as wrong to deny you the right to come there that you have denied us. So I just wanted to give you a little story of what's wrong with us.

Young Democrats, young students, faculty, you have got to help us. Help us to help yourselves. Help to change this state by electing men who care, men who are concerned about every citizen, not black folks or white folks, but every citizen. Unless you do that, we are not gonna ever solve our problems, and unless you change quick, my white friends, it is gonna be too late. Because the few blacks that are hanging on, they are still

saying we can do it. Unless you can join hands and help us, our voice won't be heard much longer. 'Cause young blacks are saying, "Charles, you have been saying all your life. They killed your brother, they killed the President who said the same thing, they killed Martin Luther King who said the same thing, they killed Bobby who said the same thing, they killed Mrs. Rousseau [?] who said the same thing, and you still saying, they are going to kill you too. So why should we keep going your way?"

It's up to you to help us change that. Give them hope that this is our land and elect people, not the John Bell Williams kind, not the Stokely Carmichael kind, but the kind who believe in right and justice, not a man who [is] going to preach hatred. I don't care who he is, he's wrong to preach hate, black or white, but you've got to understand why we blacks and why you have men who speak and spit out hate 'cause you have driven us to it, and my answer to the question is eliminate the cause and there will be no hatred from us.

But you've got to understand, it comes from the top. And Fayette is going to be the greatest town in this state. And do you know why it is going to be the greatest town in this state? Because the Mayor sits at the top and it is always that man at the top that determines the kind of attitude and the kind of conduct that exists in a town. In Mississippi you know this. The Mayor happens to be the mayor first, he chairman of the boards, he's also head of the Fire Department, he's head of the Police Department, and he's the City Judge. And if a Mayor has that kind of power don't tell me there's any reason in the world that you can have police

brutality if the mayor doesn't tolerate it. Here's my Director of Public Safety. If he were to allow any one of the policemen to strike a white or black boy because he's white or black, I would fire him that quick. I wouldn't even ask him no questions, because I happen to be the man which is the Mayor that decide what's best for our community. And if we would just elect men who care, not about white folks or black folks, but about folks. You are gonna find that that would be different.

If we had a governor in the mansion that cared about every citizen, there would be no 58% of the black folks in the Delta and Southwest Mississippi on welfare. He would spend all his time trying to get industry and jobs for training so that we all could get a chance. I looked at TV the other night and there was a poor white family. You know some of you get confused that only black folks are poor. Well, let me tell you something. There are 25 million poor folks in this country and there ain't but 22 million black folks, and we all sure ain't poor. You better believe that. So that means that there is a whole lot of poor white folks that no one cares about. And this poor family, you might have saw it, from Holmes County. A poor man with four or five children, \$60 a month. Do you think the governor cares about him? No, "He's just a poor trashy white man," he says. And my friends, if you had a Governor and a Lt. Governor and a state Attorney General who would quit telling California how to run their business and stay here and take care of their own, who would stop running around and embarrassing us all of us and having us feel funny with cold chills running down our back, who would stay and mend

our own fences and go around to every institution and every high school and every black and white community and try to bring together the communities, you wouldn't have that poor white man sitting down there talking about I'm \$60 a month. 'Cause we would have the kind of welfare for those who really need to be on welfare so they could live decent.

You don't have any decent old folks homes in this state for black folks and poor white folks. Poor blacks and poor whites live all their lives in poverty and in hunger and denied and they can't live in their last few days in a decent home to die in 'cause you ain't got nobody who cares. You got to elect folks, Young Democrats, you got to run and you got to be heard. That's gonna get them and reach them and do for all the citizens. Gonna bring industry, gonna bring in people, gonna set the kind of example and when we go to New York and California we won't be embarrassed by saying, "Charles, ain't you scared to stay down there?" Or see some white person, "You ain't nothing but a racist, you from Mississippi."

We got to change that and the men at the top can change it. The governors, the lt. governors, the mayors, the legislators, they are the ones who are heard. The masses are not heard. So please, young folks, go back home beginning when you go home this weekend, tell Mom and Dad we have got to change. Tell Mom and Dad how wrong they've been. How wrong it is to hate. How it destroys families. Can you imagine what Mrs. Ethel Kennedy must go through every night with eleven young fatherless children and she without a husband because someone hated enough to destroy him.

Can you imagine what Mrs. Myrlie Evers must go through, Mrs. King, Mrs. Jackie Onassis Kennedy, Kennedy Onassis must go through because some nut and because of the system permitted some nuts to live in this country with enough hatred that they would destroy them. Please understand that. Won't you help us to end all that hatred?

Help us to end white supremacy in Mississippi by speaking out against what's wrong. You, everyone of you should petition the governor and tell him he's wrong for taking six million dollars, and I'm a poor businessman but even I figure that six million dollars would turn over about three times. Talking about 18 million dollars that not only would help the poor blacks and the poor whites but the banks who lend the money and others too and businessmen. And not only would it bring together the people who never had a chance to work together, but it's the only alternate we have that is bringing together poor whites and poor blacks and let us understand.

Again let me say before I close, now that I am mayor of Fayette, I am gonna make sure that no person, be he black or white, can ever say honestly that he is been mistreated in that town. If one of my policemen mistreats you, that's it. If one of my clerks mistreats you, that's it. We don't talk integration, we practice it. In our city hall it is 50-50. Here is my administrator, one of my administrators, stand up Charlie, let them see ya. We don't talk it, we practice it. Our hall is 50-50, got just as many whites as we have blacks. In Fayette, Mississippi, many most of them are Mississippians, born and reared in Natchez and Adams and Jefferson Counties. You see, if we can do it in Fayette, you can do it all over.

Mississippi State, you got to do better. You've got to hire some black faculty members, you got to let people know that you care, you know, it don't make sense all white no more. It doesn't taste good without salt and pepper. You got to mix it up. No more than we can have an all black government and all black city hall. It wouldn't be right because there are 30% white in that town and they need some representation, too. So let's start cleaning up our own linen.

I hope the Dean will get this and I want to say to the President, thank you very much for having the courage to stand by, but Pres, you got to go out of your way to get some black folks here. We teach them English, we teach them horticulture, we teach them whatever else, well, I didn't have no biology, what is it bacteriology, whatever it is. We teach them some of that during the war. We can do some of that, you know. Give us a chance. Give us a chance.

And then finally, and finally, let's please won't you try to bury the hatchet of hatred. Try to start standing for what's right, 'cause it's in your hand, young folks, it's up to you, you young whites and you young blacks to take the bull by the horns and go out there and make sure that hatred begins to disappear in our community. Don't worry what your neighbors say, don't worry what your friends say, just do what's right. Because they are gonna, they will call me Uncle Tom, they will call me an extremist, they will call me a conservative, they will call me everything you can call me, but I care less enough what they call me. I'm

gonna do what's right. And I'm gonna make sure that when I sleep at night that I ain't gonna see no white faces or no black face before me saying you did me wrong. And I don't have to apologize for what I believe in. I believe in togetherness, I believe in that the only way we gonna make it in this state and this country if we blacks and whites work together. And only way we are gonna make it work here is white folks accept black folks and black folks accept white folks. We are living here as God's children and work to build a state that can have the same kind of reverse image that's good, as we have had bad.. It's in your hand.

Please don't let our state be destroyed and let's end the kind of image it has. Let's elect men, Young Democrats and young Mississippians, that is going to make this state safe for everybody. Safe for whites and safe for blacks. Let's start opening up your doors, your homes, your swimming pools and all other things, your recreational areas, your schools, your clubs. Don't join an all-white club. You know, I said before I don't speak to any segregated club and I mean that. Any group, be he black or white, that say you can't let certain people come, I am not going. I care less what black folks say or white folks say. If you would tell me in this auditorium today that no black folks could come I would say you could have it. And if black folks would have a meeting where they say can't no white folks come I would say you can have it. That is wrong. Somebody got to stand what they believe and if I have:

got to stand by myself, I am gonna stay here 'cause I know it's wrong to deny anybody the right to live and to exist. For as long as I am mayor, and I will be Mayor as long as I want to be Mayor of Fayette, I'm gonna do it. I'm gonna do what's right and what's just for all my people because they are my people and I'm their's. So please, in closing, let's from this night forward change the image, let's make Mississippi a true place for all of God's children. Let's do unto each other as we would have them do unto us. Thank you very much."

At this time Mayor Evers is open for questions if anybody has any. Is there a question?

"Yes sir. Your question is what percentage of the state is Young Democrats and what chance do we have of not re-electing Senator Eastland. Well, I don't know. In the first place we don't have I don't think actually a head count of how many Young Democrats, but you don't have to be Young Democrats. Just if you believe against kind of government then we can do it. That is something I can't answer. How can we not elect them? All I can say is vote against them. Let's start going now and get against them. He and Sullivan and all that bunch of rascals. They are all just alike. They ain't no different.

Yes sir. His question is what chance do we think HEW will have in overriding the veto of Governor Williams. Well, my answer to that is Governor Williams never signed one in the first place. It's just a matter of him this time vetoing. So I think the HEW will override. It's no question. We have people in Washington working now and as soon as Secretary

Finch gets back I was intending to go. He's in California now and I'm going up there as soon as he gets back and [pause] see what I can do.

Mr. Evers, who do you think would be a good governor to represent the white and the black for our state? No, I ain't gonna say it right now. Let's let that one lay awhile and we'll decide that later. How's that? Ed [Charles] Sullivan's got some of his instruments around here. I was just kidding.

Yes. Well, his question is who did we support in the last governor's race? You guys really ask some questions. Good Lord! Well, let's see, you want to know who I voted for. Let's put it like that. I voted for William Winter, I don't mind telling you. William Winter. You knew that all the time, you just wanted to here me say that.

Yes. His question, how much effort is going on to build up the Democratic party in this state? Is it county by county? We had a meeting yesterday in Jackson. Of course, we have finally ratified the constitution and my suggestion was to the Gentlemen that we hire a young executive director, or maybe he could be a coordinator to really build the party. Put him on salary and let him run over the state, building the party like we did for some other organization. And I think it's been very well accepted. So to answer your question. We are going to try to open up a state headquarters in Jackson real soon and hire a staff to staff it and then start building our party. And I have pledged to pay the rent for a year so I will have too much problem on that.

Yes sir. His question was, do the white people of Fayette cooperate with my administration? Well, let me tell you this. They have been even more cooperative than I had even anticipated. I don't mind saying I have had very little problem out of the white citizens. Except the elected officials. Now the old sheriff is one of those old line sheriffs. But you see that's alright, next year's election. We don't just talk big, we back it up. We are going to take care of that next year. But the average white citizen, and let me tell you this. I don't know of a single white family that's moved yet. I don't know of a single one. So that's saying something. I know can't say that up in New York. In New York they have been running like fleas. I know my sister-in-law who now lives in Los Angeles, outside Los Angeles, moved in a neighborhood and all the white folks moved off the street. Almost. Started, you know, house for sale signs went up all over the street but nobody could pay that 40 or 50 thousand dollars and they are down now. And I know that in Chicago where my sister lives on a certain side of town when she first moved in they all ran too. So I can say about Fayette, and I say it with a lot of pride, I don't know of a single white family that is moved yet. Now maybe there has been but they slipped out. We are looking for the house. We would like to buy it.

He said that the reason he didn't want me to come is because I participated in the Alcorn riot. Well, if it was a riot, then maybe I did. But did he tell you why we were there? He should have told you

had

that we had an old Uncle Tom black man who set there and worked my folks for \$70 a month and turned back money to M. M. Roberts and Company every year and worked my folks for nothing. And he also don't allow the students to even have dates. A boy couldn't even walk the girlfriend from the dormitory to the dining hall. They had to meet them on the steps. And that day is gone a long time ago. And they also was one of those so called dictators over my folks and we ain't gonna let nobody, white folks or black folks, mistreat our folks. Simple as that. And tell them it was him, the man who voted against me along with the other henchmen who sent the Highway Patrol out there and they started the riot. That's all. We didn't start no riot. They started beating and throwing tear gas and we ain't nobody gonna let that run you away. We'll keep coming back. Now they are the ones that riot. We don't riot. We just stood there and took that tear gas. But now if that's the reason he voted, tell him it is too bad. If they do it, I will be back out there again. 'Cause we are not gonna stand up for that kind of mess. Boyd has gone on to Hattiesburg, don't worry about him.

Yes, Yes. None. The question was what's my opinion of President Nixon. I hope you got the answer.

Yes. I have to agree. He said the silent majority is now a part of the history, a part of the dictionary. I have to agree. I do believe there is a silent majority of people black and white in this state ~~that~~ just haven't got involved. I just can't believe that most of the white

folks in this state are hate-mongers and killers. I just can't believe that. 'Cause let's face it, if they were with all their bad faults we wouldn't be able to do a thing we do. If the majority of them were hate-mongers and killers. But what's happened, the good white folks that are here are scared. They are scared of this poor devil that wears a sheet who probably got one round of ammunition that he borrowed from someone else and he's scared of that poor rascal who will go out there at 12 o'clock at night out in a big old pasture, some sheriff talk about let's go kill the nigger-lovers. Well see, that's what's wrong. And just a few of them, just a few, I admit, that old Beckwith got 35,000 votes but that's all he got in the state. There's almost 2 million of us in the state so that ain't too bad. And they are scattered all over the state. But all I tell the white people, You ain't got no backbone, You scared.

You, the other night, let me tell you this. Just the other night a good friend of mine in Fayette, one of my best supporters, he said, "Listen, listen, Mr. Mayor, let me tell you something. Don't mention my name now. The man ya'll are trying to get is a fellow who refused arrest, and he drew a gun on one of our officers. I tell you how to get him. He is out on probation now, but don't you mention my name." I said if you know he's a criminal, why don't you tell him? "No, no, no, don't tell him." You know what he said? "He'll be coming after me." Isn't that something? I could care less about Beckwith or John Bell but, or any of the rest of them that are wrong. And all I can say is you got to

bring me to get me. You got to have that attitude about it. You've got to stand for what's right. If you know somebody that's wrong-- so, so, to, to, to answer your, your question, the silent majority are good black and white people who just won't get involved..

And that's, but we got to wake them up. And you young people got to do it. You got to speak out less we are all going to be destroyed. Do you know that white folks ain't got no more freedom than black folks, but they speak out. Why they would fire you from this institution so quick and they would fire you from that bank so fast, they would run you off from one of those jobs up there if you speak out unless you get enough of you to start speaking out. Ask Flave, I mean Mr. Hutchinson. Don't they run you. They give him all kinds of fits for awhile. Why he still hanging on some kind of way. It's because of you all. Ya'll are still helping him out. And there are others that stick by him. And now you see the only reason why they don't fire the president is because they are scared of Judge Keady over there. They would fire him if they didn't. But they know they better not. That is another violation. An injunction that the judge didn't issue today. Fire the President and you won't have, you are going to jail sure enough. We all go ask the judge to be sure to put that in there. To save the President. Play with Hutchinson and the rest of them. But this is what we have and I know I went a long way around to answer but my feelings is that, yes, there is a silent majority of good people in this state and we got to find them. They got to come out. But they are killing us by being so silent.

Yes sir. Q. What new industry is coming to Fayette? Don't worry about a thing. Listen to the television Thursday. We are going to tell you about it. Well, we got something coming and we hope to make an announcement Thursday. Let them make it. I don't want to make it. Let them make their own announcement. We have only been in business eight months. Now remember that--eight months we've been in business. And I said if I didn't do something in a year I was going to resign, didn't I? Alright, give me four more months. I mean that.

Yes. His question, how do we as students go about getting rid of Roberts and that group? Well, it's going to be a hard job. We've got members whose terms expire May 7, 1980. You've got 1,2,3,4,5. And you've got another whose members expire May 7, 1976, you've got 1,2,3,4. And you've got members we might can take care of that expire in 1972. And on that you have, then they maybe, yes, so what you've got to do here is take care of the governor. That's all. Because the governor is the man that's really responsible for who gets on that board. And we have got to get him. I'm pretty sure that I think a few of them are elected. Are some of them elected? I don't know how they all get on. Are some of them appointed? Do any of you know? Flave, do you know? Are some of them elected or appointed? They are all appointed? Then you know who the man is. It is the Governor. Right, but we know that they wouldn't be in there long. But we could somehow make it so hot for them. I know white folks, just make it hot and they will quit. Oh, they will quit in a minute. Just

keep tightening up on them, you know, and exposing and tighten up and they will quit. I know them. Then you let Judge Keady rule one more time on them and they all gonna quit. Oh, the heck with them. They can't stand the pressure.

Yes sir. The question is do we plan to have another Fayette music festival? We had one yesterday which we did on low key. No, really, yesterday we had a Spiritual Festival of, listen to who is there now. We had the Alcorn College Choir. Sure we believe in integration. We had LSU and then we had Jackson State College Choir. And we had Booker T. Washington High School which is a totally integrated high school out in New Orleans. And we had any number of Spiritual groups. Now we did it a little quiet yesterday but next year we will do it wide open again.

And Elvis promised me this time we won't get messed up. Now let me explain that. Some of you wonder what happened to Elvis. Now Elvis is under a kind of contract, now don't write this reporters, please, that he cannot go out and do a show, you understand, because the colonel won't permit him without his, the old colonel. But he can just appear. Now Elvis was going to just appear at our rock festival. But it leaked out some how to reporters that he was going to come and do a benefit for Charles Evers in Fayette, Mississippi, and the Company craked down said, "No you don't. If you do we are going to sue you." That's why Elvis didn't get there.

Now the Rolling Stones, the reason they didn't get there. You know how bad the weather was, they had a \$50,000 contract in Madison Square Garden that night. They were going to come down by special plane and go back to New York. They had a number they were going to do from 11 to 12 but the weather was so bad that they ordered out them people down there in them planes, the air station, radar told them don't try it cause they might not get back in. So rather than blow a \$50,000 contract they just said they were sorry. But they also promised that they are going to try to fix it so they can come back and so us one. That is the reason why Elvis Presley and the Rolling Stones didn't come. Bad weather and a leak that he was coming to us. So that clears that up.

One more question, you want to, I know you want to ask this one. Why did you fire your City Attorney who married a black man? I know that one's coming. I know that one's coming. Oh, it didn't come? Then let it go then. Yes, yes, way in the back. ~~What~~ What do you think of the Black Panthers? Before I give you my answer let me tell you this. Let's eliminate the cause and there will be no Black Panthers. I have the same people in Black Panthers that I would have in some other group who wants to kill somebody. I am against murder but you ought to eliminate the Ku Klux Klan. Now them rascals have been here all the time and they have been killing white folks and black folks and nobody had said nothing and as soon as we got a few fellows who said, "I'm gonna shoot back" everybody go all up in arms about it.

But if we would just eliminate that old bad egg then then we won't have the chicken that's hatched blind. For that's us. And we ain't gonna hardly sit by and let somebody whoop us. That day gone. No, I ain't no panther but I ain't taking no whooping. Under no condition. My freedom don't mean that, now. I don't believe in turning the other cheek. I don't believe in running no kind of way. I believe in doing unto others as I would have them do unto me. And you better do the same thing to me. See my man over there? My man. We are ready.

Yes, say that again. No sir, it wouldn't work. The question was, I didn't get it all. I think he said do I believe in freedom of choice schools? The answer is no.

Now what's the other one? You mean the plan we have now, it's gonna bring more integration. Yes sir. Let me tell you something. 'Cause I know that white folks ain't that rich. And I know ya white folks ain't that much love in your heart that you are going to give us all the big old school buildings and all them big beautiful shiny busses. Medgar, we are riding them now, them big shiny busses. And all them laboratories fully equipped, and ya'll are going to go to some shack down the road. No, ya'll ain't gonna do that. Don't worry about a thing. It's coming. You will be back. You will be back, don't worry. In the first place, they are using you. All Allen Thompson wants to run for governor and Allen needs some money. So Allen wants to head up something called FOCUS and ya'll give him all your money. Watch him. Give him all that money. We are going to build some private schools.

We are going to do this. And Allen Thompson is going to come out in about six months running for governor with all ya'lls money. FOCUS money and watch him. So don't go that round, Charles. Allen wants to help the white folks. Don't let them fool you. 'Cause I know their tricks. No, I think freedom of choice will never work because the moment you let off of them they are going to start back that same old stuff. You got to have forced----

One thing in Fayette, Mississippi, you haven't heard anything about us, have you? We haven't said anything about it. What's wrong with Jefferson County? Sssshhhhh, don't tell it. We've got two school board [members?] gonna come this year we are going to take, and two next year we are going to take. We got one already. So you see there ain't no other way. We've been segregated, honey, all our lives, and I don't mind waiting one more year to have the whole cake--not a part of it. So we aren't going to worry about integration in Fayette. If they want to come alright, but next year we are going to have one school system. High school and grammar school, period. And all of them that want to leave let them go. Good-bye. White or black, let them go 'cause we are going to have one school. High school up on the hill and a grammar school down in the bottom for all of the children, and if they don't want to go there it is their business. But I know in Fayette, Mississippi, them white folks like them colored folks is too poor. Talking about some separate schools. They are going to that

one school until they are big enough to get out of here. So don't worry about it.

It's the same thing all over. So don't worry about that. It's just a joke. It's all a joke. \$70 a month they are paying. Them poor merchants down at Woodville pledged \$30 a month per merchant and we're 80% of that county and you know what happened, don't you? We did our thing on them. Let them have their stores. Don't pay them to segregate us. Let them have their own stores, let them get their own money. Just go to your own people who care about you. And they are crying down there tonight and they are trying to figure how they are going to get back in the best school. We said, no, ya'll stay on out there ya'll. And we are gonna tell them about ten years from now, they are no qualified white folks. What? Ya'll can't pass the test? And all of us black folks gonna be zooming by in them greyhound busses.

Alright, any more questions? Any more questions from anybody? I don't want to make you glad twice. Yes, well, it's very simple. They are scared, honey. That's all. Her question was how can intelligent whites let John Bell Williams and Maddox and others speak for you and my answer was you are afraid. Now you see these young people here? They ain't gonna be scared anymore. You better believe this state is through. John Bell and Sullivan and Eastland, as far as having a free hand, they are through, because these young people want to know the truth. Let's hear both sides of the coin, when we start telling it, and all we got to do is tell the truth. We can't start lying and wheeling and dealing. We got to tell our young white brothers and sisters the truth. And believe

me they are going to start thinking for themselves. And ain't nobody gonna keep on making them think, there goes a nigger. No, a nigger is any low-down dirty varmit, black or white. I don't care what he is. Anybody can be a nigger, but they've been told that only niggers are black folks. And I know a whole lot of nigger white folks. Thank you very much.

One more thing. Can I ask you one more thing? Please come to Fayette. Just come and visit us and see democracy really working, won't you. Please come. Spend a day or a week or whatever you want to. You are all welcome to come to Fayette because I happen to be the judge, the mayor, the head of the Police Department. One more thing. My man just told me. Please show you care. We are having Leontyne Price who is doing a benefit for us in Jackson on April 26. Now we want all of you to come. Tickets are from what? \$2 to \$10, is that right? Tickets are on sale at the Coliseum. Please come. Leontyne Price, our own Mississippi girl, will be there on the 26th day at 2 o'clock at the Jackson Coliseum. Thank you very much.