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poverty law Report

A REVIEW OF ADVANCES IN THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF THE POOR

Vol. 12, No. 1 A publication of the Southern Poverty Law Center Summer 1984

Construction begins on new offices

In its 13-year history, the Southern Poverty Law Center has outgrown two office buildings and has survived the arson of the third.

Now, construction is underway on a new headquarters for the Center, located on a site rich in civil rights history in downtown Montgomery.

One block north of the new site, a young Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. assumed the leadership of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the event which began the modern civil rights movement. Two blocks northeast is the Alabama State Capitol, where Gov. George C. Wallace swore to uphold segregation forever. Across the street is the Alabama Public Safety Department, which the SPLC sued to get the first blacks hired as state troopers.

Down the hill a half-mile to the west is the bus station where the Freedom

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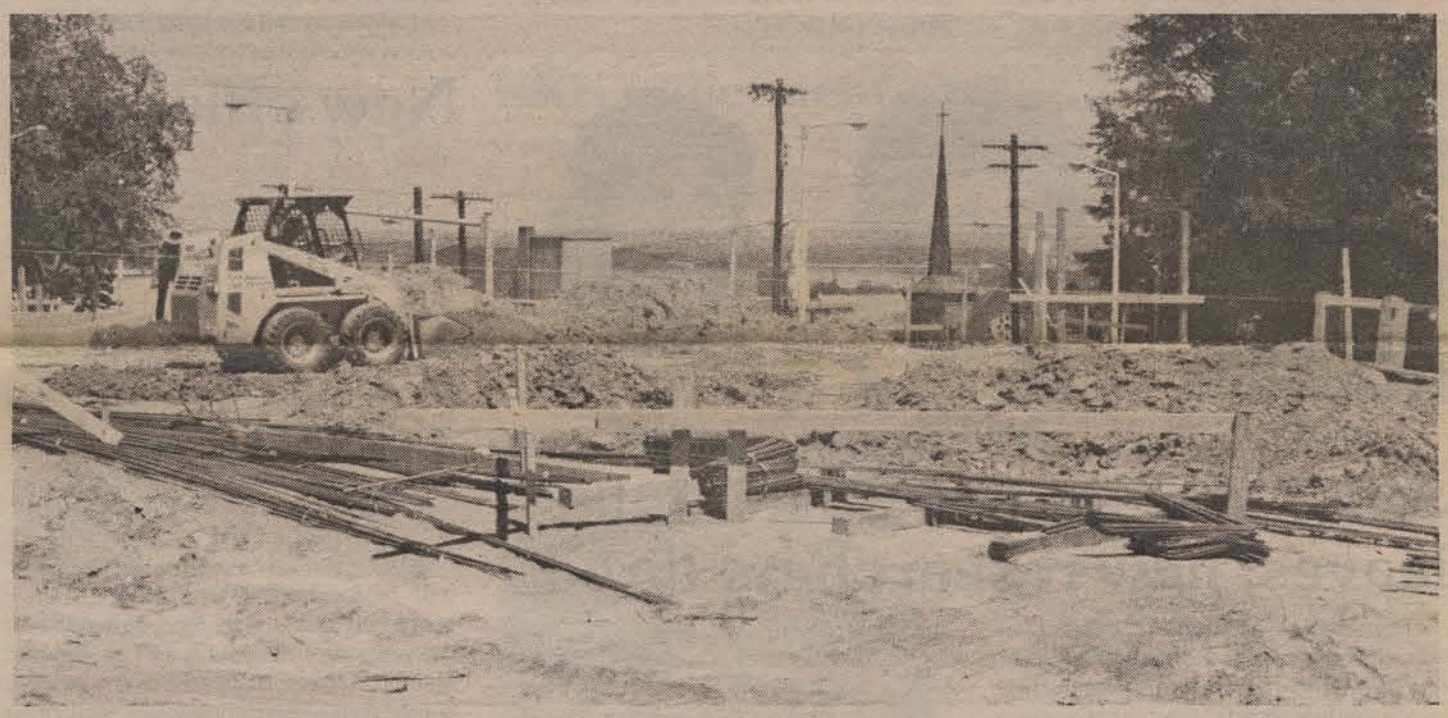


From these humble beginnings . . . will be growing the new headquarters of the Southern Poverty Law Center. This picture was taken soon after construction workers began shaping the hillside of red Alabama dirt where the new building will sit. The new office should be finished by early 1985, launching a new era for the SPLC's important legal work. Neither the building nor the litigation would be possible without the loyal support of thousands of SPLC members across the nation. Another construction progress report will be included in the next issue.

Result of SPLC Work

Alabama Klan leaders indicted in conspiracy

Nine Alabama leaders and members of the Invisible Empire Ku Klux Klan group were indicted May 17 by a federal grand jury in Birmingham, Ala., for conspiring to disrupt a peaceful black protest march held in 1979. A tenth defendant pleaded guilty.

The indictments came after a four-year investigation by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Klanwatch project turned up evidence of criminal conduct. The Klanwatch investigation was to prove the facts in a civil suit the Law Center had filed in 1980, asking for an injunction against further Klan harassment of black citizens.

The new evidence caused the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department to reopen an investigation they had begun within hours of the May 26, 1979, incident, but that had been closed soon after when agents failed to prove a conspiracy existed.

Klanwatch investigators and attorneys interviewed hundreds of witnesses and took formal court depositions of dozens of current and former Klan members. Gradually the Klan's coverup unraveled.

The conspiracy and coverup were revealed in two federal court hearings last year in Birmingham, causing the Justice Department to convene a grand jury for its own investigation.

The indictments followed a nine-month grand jury probe and were announced just a few days before the five-year statute of limitations expired on prosecuting for federal civil rights violations. No state court charges have ever been brought against any of the Klansmen involved.

The defendants include all but one of the top Alabama leaders of the Invisible Empire for the time period during which the alleged crimes took place. In 1978-79, the Invisible Empire KKK, led by Bill Wilkinson of Louisiana, was the largest and fastest-growing Klan group in the nation.

The group is significantly smaller today and has virtually no membership in north Alabama. Much of the decline is due to the legal pressure brought upon the Invisible Empire by the SPLC lawsuit.

However, Wilkinson's Klan was at its peak in 1978-79, and north Alabama was its stronghold. Violent incidents linked to the Invisible Empire include the kidnapping and beating of a black minister, the beating of two black ministers who were in an Omelet Shop restaurant, numerous crossburnings, threats and other acts of intimidation. Few of these incidents were ever prosecuted.

However, those now charged by the federal grand jury are: Roger Handley, grand dragon (state president), Morris, Ala.; Ray Steele, titan (regional leader), Decatur, Ala.; Johnny Mason, titan, Muscle Shoals, Ala.; Lenwood White, kleagle (area organizer), Muscle Shoals, Ala.; Billy Riccio, grand chaplain, Center Point, Ala.; Ricky Creekmore, nighthawk (guard), Tuscumbia, Ala.; Terry Joe Tucker, exalted cyclops (local president), Cullman, Ala., and Derane Godfrey, member, Gardendale, Ala. Pleading guilty

(Continued to page 3)

A message from the President

By Joseph J. Levin, Jr.

January marked the 14th year of our operation and things have never been busier.

In May, a Birmingham federal grand jury indicted nine Klan leaders based primarily on evidence we turned up during our four-year law suit against the Invisible Empire. Our civil case has cost us over $250,000 and should come to trial by early 1985.

In June, we took the case of the mother of a 19-year-old black man lynched in 1981 by Mobile, Ala., Klansmen. Our civil rights suit against four Klan members and the United Klans will hopefully bring all the guilty parties to justice.

And, last month, we filed a massive federal suit against the Carolina Klan for terrorizing a black family whose father dared complain about job discrimination. Also, this suit seeks to halt the North Carolina Klan's paramilitary army from harassing blacks.

The Klan's strength is growing and our effort to stop their violence must expand. Racism of all forms, whether that expressed by Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan against whites or that of the Klan, must be resisted and deplored by all people. At this critical time in our history, we at the Center rededicate ourselves to fairness to all regardless of their economic condition or race.

Mr. Levin is the co-founder and currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the SPLC.

LEVIN

Letters from SPLC Members

Editor's Note: We at the Southern Poverty Law Center can't overemphasize the importance of your support to our everyday work. Here are just a few letters we have recently received from supporters who have encouraged us along the way.

Dear Friends:

I sometimes forget that the Civil Rights activism of the 1960s, which inspired me as a high school and university student, is not a closed book in American history. You are carrying on the tradition of the Freedom Riders, and I thank you for it. We must all carry at least a small part of the burden of the fight against bigotry to which your organization is dedicated, or else we will share some of the blame of actions such as those taken by the arsonists who attacked your Center. I am reminded of those German citizens who tacitly accepted harassment of, and ultimate atrocity against, others who did not meet standards of "Aryan perfection" during Hitler's rise to power, simply because they refrained from mounting objection to bigotry.

I object to the Ku Klux Klan, what they do and what they stand for, and my contribution to you is one way of asserting that objection.

Good luck to you!
Pat Robertson
Seattle, WA

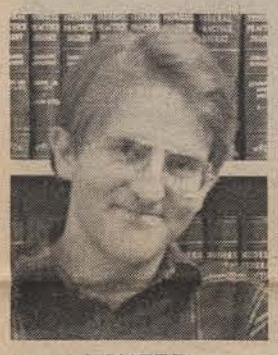
Dear Friends:

I do want to help. I'm appalled at what has happened to blacks in our country. Can't people realize that they were brought here against their wills to be slaves? I hope the men who killed that 19-year-old [lynched in Mobile by Klan] absolutely get the limit the law will allow.

When I was growing up in Hyden, Ky., I had a very good friend who was black. She and I both cried when school opened and she couldn't go. There were only a few blacks there and, of course, they had no school. I helped her get started reading and writing. She was so anxious to learn and worked so hard.

I sincerely wish I could help more. I hope you have very good success.

Sincerely,
Olive Stumpf
Hamilton, OH



LAUFER

HUNTLEY

LEWIS

SPLC researcher Rick Laufer leaves; new researchers hired

Research associate Rick Laufer is leaving the Southern Poverty Law Center after three years of chasing facts to support lawsuits filed by Center attorneys.

Joining the SPLC this month as research associates are Debra Huntley of Montgomery and Deborah Lewis of Washington, D.C.

Laufer will be entering Yale University's two-year School of Management in the fall. The New Jersey native earned his A.B. degree from Duke University and worked for the Carolina Brown Lung Association before joining the SPLC legal team.

He has had a key role in numerous Center cases, including litigation against the textile industry filed on behalf of workers who contracted the breathing disease commonly called brown lung. In that case, Laufer uncovered key evidence that was instrumental to the success of the litigation.

Laufer's findings, which the Center turned over to a research team at the Harvard School of Public Health, will soon be published as a pioneering study of an industry's response (or lack of response) to known occupational hazards.

He has also worked on the Kentucky coal taxation suit (see story, this issue), lawsuits over conditions in prisons and mental health institutions, voting rights suits, and on several death penalty cases.

At Yale, Laufer will be preparing for a career in public policy administration and management.

Researchers like Laufer perform much of the pre-trial preparation of cases handled by the Law Center. Their typical duties include finding and interviewing witnesses, reviewing documents, preparing court exhibits, and assisting attorneys during depositions, hearings and trials.

Debra Huntley and Deborah Lewis will have similar responsibilities.

Huntley is an Alabamian who comes to the SPLC from the Southern Legislative Research Council. She was the Alabama program officer for this project of the Atlanta-based Southern Regional Council.

A 1977 graduate of Auburn University with a B.A. in mass communications and theatre, Huntley has worked in broadcasting, newspapers, public relations and theatre.

Lewis, a recent graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Relations, has worked as an intern for the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, for the District of Columbia Public Defender Service, and for the National Organization for Women. She is a Washington, D.C., native.

At Princeton, Lewis was co-founder of a lobby group, the Student Voice, and participated in the Sexual Assault Legislation Task Force and the Policy Conference on U.S. Policy in Central America.

New office

(From page 1)

Riders were brutally beaten, and near there is the federal courthouse where then-U.S. Dist. Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. decided some of the most important cases of the civil rights era.

In short, SPLC staffers will feel right at home in their new neighborhood, and the location will symbolize what President Emeritus Julian Bond once said about the Law Center's pivotal role in the "transition of the civil rights movement from the streets to the courtrooms."

SPLC attorneys say the new building will be an important symbol to the people the Center has represented over the years. It will contain a Civil Rights Memorial Room, dedicated to the many people across the nation whose support has made the SPLC's work possible.

However, history and symbols are not the major reasons for the building of a new headquarters.

"A new era at the Center is about to begin," said Legal Director Dennis Balske. "Since 1971, when we first started defending the rights of poor people and minorities in class action suits, our staff has grown from two to 26 persons. We've outgrown three offices."

Balske said the new building, containing 11,000 square feet, is being built with the Center's future work and security in mind. The security is especially vital because of the aggressive legal, educational and monitoring work the Center has done against illegal activities of the Ku Klux Klan.

The new building will provide adequate, efficient and safe working space for Center attorneys, paralegals, investigators and business staff.

To protect against future arson or burglary attempts, the building design includes sophisticated security systems, fire- and bomb-proof evidence vaults, and secure storage files for records and documents.

Balske said the Center's work is too important and too controversial to leave its protection to chance a second time. In the arson last July, more than $100,000 in damage was sustained to the Center's present offices and equipment, but fortunately little actual loss of evidence and legal files occurred.

Federal agents investigating the arson said the SPLC was lucky that the entire contents of the building were not destroyed. As it was, protective filing cabinets saved most crucial documents.

No arrests for the arson have been made yet, but both federal and SPLC investigators continue to work on the case and are confident that arrests will be made in the not-too-distant future.

Meanwhile, the new building construction moves ahead on schedule so that protection of the Center and its work won't depend on luck next time.

poverty law Report

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Lawsuits filed in Alabama lynching and NC harassment

Two major new lawsuits against Klan groups were filed in June by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The first, *Beulah Mae Donald v. the United Klans of America*, is based on the 1981 murder in Mobile, Ala., of 19-year-old Michael Donald. The second, *Bobby Lee Person v. the Carolina Knights of the KKK*, seeks relief from the systematic harassment of black prison guards and other citizens of North Carolina.

Both lawsuits were filed by the Klanwatch project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Mobile attorney and state senator Michael Figures and Raleigh attorney Travis Payne are co-counsel, respectively, in the cases.

The killing of Michael Donald may be the most gruesome Klan incident to come to light since the current resurgence of the KKK began in the early 1970s. UKA leader Henry Hays has already been convicted of the crime and is in prison, and another UKA member, James Llewellyn Knowles, pleaded guilty and awaits sentencing.

The latter testified during a state court trial last year that Donald was picked at random off the street and murdered "to show Klan strength in Alabama."

Knowles and other witnesses told how Donald was kidnapped at gunpoint, taken to a remote area and choked and beaten to unconsciousness, carried back to Mobile where his body was shown to other Klan members, and then hung from a tree by a street in a downtown Mobile neighborhood.

For two years there were no breaks in the case, and then Hays, 28, and Knowles, 19, were arrested. To date they are the only ones arrested, although both federal and state criminal investigations remain open.

The civil lawsuit, filed on behalf of Donald's mother, alleges that other United Klans members were involved in the conspiracy to kill Donald and in the coverup which followed, and that these were official Klan acts.

The suit seeks a total of $21 million in punitive and compensatory damages from the corporate United Klans of America; its Imperial Wizard (national leader), Robert Shelton; the Mobile chapter of the UKA; the Mobile area leader, Bennie Jack Hays, who is Henry Hay's father, and a number of other Klan members and persons acting in concert with them.

The United Klans is the oldest of the major Klan groups now in existence, and has been proven responsible for some of the worst incidents of racial violence since Wizard Shelton founded the faction in 1961. Their Sixties record includes the murders of Viola Liuzzo in Alabama and Lemuel Penn in Georgia, and the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

More recently, 13 UKA members were convicted on federal charges in a rash of nightriding in north Alabama in 1979, including shootings into the houses of black leaders, the kidnapping and flogging of a white woman who was friendly with blacks, and the beating of a black man.

In addition to Mrs. Donald, representing the estate of her late son, the plaintiffs in the case include the Alabama and Mobile chapters of the NAACP, representing the class of black citizens of Alabama who were meant to be intimidated by the Donald murder.

The North Carolina lawsuit charges that the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, led by ex-U.S. Army Sgt. Glenn Miller, illegally harassed and intimidated Bobby Lee Person and other citizens in Moore County.

Person is a black prison guard — a 13-year veteran — who drew the attention of the KKK when he and another black officer sought to become sargeants in the Moore County Correctional Facility.

Soon thereafter, a cross was burned in the road in front of Person's house, and he began receiving visits from armed and uniformed members of Miller's Klan.

Miller formed the Carolina Knights in 1981 and the faction quickly became the largest and most active hate group in North Carolina. The CKKKK patterns itself after a military unit, and its members wear combat fatigues and have military-style rank.

Person v. Carolina Knights alleges that the military-like conduct of Miller's Klan group violates two North Carolina laws. The lawsuit seeks, among other relief, an injunction against further Klan military training and military conduct in North Carolina.

The KKK outnumbered and overpowered police on May 26, 1979, in Decatur, Ala. This picture was taken moments before the Klan broke through a police line to attack black marchers, who are approaching from the right of the photo. The man at the extreme right, wearing a hat, shirtless, and with a club in his hand, is Lenwood White, one of nine Klan leaders now indicted in the attack.

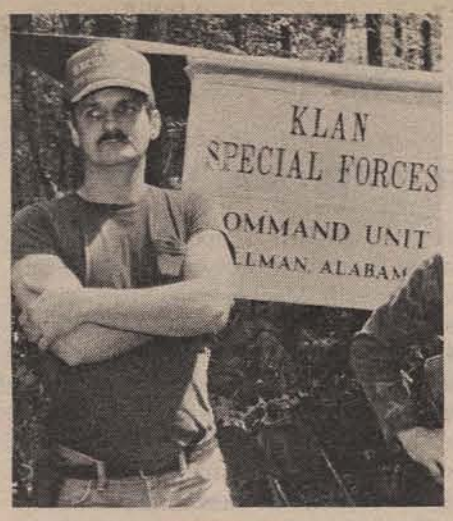
KKK indictments

(From page 1)

was Jack Mize, titan, Wylam, Ala.

The defendants are charged with various counts of conspiracy to violate the marchers' civil rights, obstruction of justice, and interfering with police officers in the performance of their duties.

Three blacks, five police officers, and two Klansmen were injured in the May 26, 1979 incident when 100 armed and robed Klansmen blocked and then attacked about 60 blacks engaged in a Southern Christian Leadership Conference-sponsored protest march only five blocks from City Hall.



HANDLEY

The blacks were demonstrating to protest the arrest and prosecution of Tommy Lee Hines, a retarded young black man charged with the rapes of three white women in Decatur. (The black community in Decatur, and mental health officials, felt strongly that the police had mistakenly arrested the wrong man, and that even if he were guilty he would have been mentally incompetent to stand trial.)

At the request of black leaders, including SCLC President Joseph Lowery, who was at the head of the march on May 26, 1979, the Federal Bureau of Investigation immediately began an inquiry into the attack, but the investigation was closed five months later.

However, state charges of assault with intent to murder were filed against a black man, Curtis Lee Robinson, for shooting a Klansman who participated in the attack. Robinson was convicted by an all-white jury in October 1980, despite television news videotape that supported his claim of self-defense. He was given a suspended sentence and two years' probation.

SPLC attorneys have appealed Robinson's conviction and are hopeful that the new evidence, which shows that the Klan attacked the black marchers and thus adds to Robinson's self defense claim, will lead to a new trial for him. Robinson never had to go to prison and still has his job as head of building maintenance at the Decatur City Hall, but he does have an undeserved criminal conviction.

Trial of the Klansmen is tentatively scheduled for early August. If convicted, the defendants face sentences ranging from five to 10 years in prison, a $10,000 fine, or both. Klan Titan Mize, who is expected to testify for the prosecution, has not yet been sentenced.

Meanwhile, the SPLC's civil case is temporarily on hold pending the outcome of the federal criminal trial. The civil case could go to trial in the fall.

Alabama agreement helps black voters

TROY, Ala. — A settlement has been reached in a voting rights lawsuit against Pike County that will give black citizens a fairer share of voting power.

The suit claimed that the districts used for the election of members of the Pike County Commission (the county's governing body) were malapportioned and violated the "one-man, one-vote" principle enshrined in the Fourteenth Amendment. Properly apportioned districts, Center attorneys claimed, would produce greater representation for blacks.

The U.S. Justice Department joined the SPLC in asking for a change after the suit was filed.

Currently, half the county's population (and a majority of the county's black citizens) live in one of the county's four voting districts. Although the county is 35 percent black, no blacks have ever been elected to the commission.

The settlement would create a six-member commission with nearly equal populations within each of six electoral districts. Two of the districts would be approximately 65 percent black, which would give blacks the opportunity to elect two black commissioners.

This lawsuit is a companion to a suit filed against the city of Troy, Ala., the county seat. The Troy suit is on hold pending a city-sponsored referendum which would let voters voluntarily change the city's government. The city agreed to hold the referendum after Center attorneys filed suit. If the referendum fails, the Center's suit will continue.

Plaintiffs in the Troy suit argue that the current form of government, a three-member commission elected at-large, discriminates against blacks because it dilutes black voting strength. In municipal elections, white citizens vote as a block against black candidates, denying blacks political representation. Troy is 34 percent black but no black has ever been elected to the city government.

The referendum gives Troy's voters the choice of replacing the current three-member commission with a council whose five members would run from districts.

SPLC staff attorney Ira Burnim said it is likely that two of the five disticts created would contain a majority of black residents.

Docket Update

Patterson conviction overturned

Former U.S. Marine Sgt. Roy Lee Patterson cleared a legal hurdle in April when a three-judge panel of the U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed his 1975 conviction for murder. Patterson, a decorated Vietnam veteran, was convicted in Cordele, Ga., of the shooting deaths of a Georgia state trooper and a local policeman. Patterson had committed no crime and said he acted in self-defense to protect himself and his family from the trooper. The trooper attempted to strike Patterson and drew his gun. A struggle followed, joined in by the local police officer, and both officers were hit by shots from the trooper's gun. The recent decision by the three-judge panel was on a petition filed by former SPLC legal director John Carroll. However, the State of Georgia has now requested that the appeal be heard by the full 18-member court. Meanwhile, Patterson remains at the Thomas County Correctional Institute serving two life sentences.

Fleeing felon law struck down

U.S. Dist. Judge Myron Thompson, ruling in a case handled by SPLC attorney Ira Burnim, has declared unconstitutional Alabama's "fleeing felon" law which allowed police officers to use deadly force to stop someone they believed to be running away after committing a felony crime. Burnim represented Darryl Pruitt, a 20-year-old black man who suffered permanent leg disability when he was shot twice by a Montgomery police officer while leaving the scene of a suspected burglary. In fact, no crime had been committed and Pruitt was unarmed. Pruitt's case is just one of many recent shootings of black suspects by police officers in Alabama. Under the law which Thompson struck down, any person thought to be guilty of a felony, even writing a bad check or failing to report taxes, could be legally shot by police officers if they did not hear or failed to obey a command to halt. Montgomery Mayor Emory Folmar has said he intends to appeal, but other law enforcement leaders around the state said their departmental policy on police use of weapons was already more strict than the state law. Police are obviously empowered to shoot when their life or that of another person is in danger, but Thompson said the existing law was too broad.

Class status granted in employment case

A federal judge has granted class action status to an employment discrimination lawsuit filed by black Air Force employees at two military bases in Montgomery. SPLC legal director Dennis Balske was appointed by the court to represent Alicia Smiley, Willie Kemp and other plaintiffs in the case. Smiley and Kemp allege that they were refused promotions or had their job classifications downgraded because of their race. The recent class certification decision means the lawsuit now extends to all black persons who unsuccessfully sought civil service jobs, promotions or transfers at either Maxwell Air Force Base or Gunter Air Force Station since March 1972. The case is in the discovery stage at the present time.

Black trooper hiring decision contested

SPLC legal director Dennis Balske has filed a brief on behalf of Alabama black troopers to have a federal judge's decision of last fall upheld concerning promotion procedures for black troopers in the department. That decision is being appealed by the U.S. Justice Department, the Alabama Department of Public Safety and white intervenors. A date for oral argument on the case has not yet been set. In U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson's decision, blacks are to be promoted to the rank of corporal on a one-for-one basis until the department develops a valid promotion procedure or until 25 per cent of trooper corporals are black. SPLC attorneys sought the order after the department failed to develop and implement a promotion procedure that had little or no adverse impact on black troopers, as they were obligated to do under a 1979 decree. Although 22 per cent of the total troopers are black, they have been arbitrarily kept at entry-level positions on the force, with the exception of four black corporals. There are no blacks at all in positions above corporal even though it has been 12 years since an SPLC civil suit forced the department to hire blacks as troopers.

Coal powers ask dismissal of Center's fair tax lawsuit

PADUCAH, Ky. — A federal judge in Kentucky will soon decide a motion by the defendants to dismiss the class action "fair taxes" lawsuit filed jointly by the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Kentucky Fair Tax Coalition (KFTC).

Meanwhile, the powerful Kentucky Coal Association has now moved to intervene in the case on behalf of the state and has asked that the lawsuit be dismissed.

SPLC attorney Ira Burnim said the Association's request shows the group's stake in the outcome of the litigation. The notoriously poor schools and social services in Kentucky are due in large measure to the low taxes charged against big coal producers.

The lawsuit at issue was filed last February by the SPLC and the KFTC, a local citizen's action group. The suit asserts that the state systematically undervalues property owned by coal, oil and gas companies, thus cheating the state out of millions of dollars of property taxes that would otherwise be paying for decent educations, good roads and other public services.

"The coal industry," Burnim said, "is not paying its fair share. If we succeed in this suit, the tax burden will be more equitably distributed, and taxes will be raised on land, equipment, and unmined minerals owned by the industry."

A second argument in the lawsuit *(Nowak, et al., v. Foster, et. al.,* W.D. of Ky., Paducah Div.) is that the tax rate on coal, oil and gas that is still in the ground is so low that it amounts to no tax at all. The tax rate on these unmined minerals is one cent per $1,000 of value, which is a fraction of the tax on surface land.

In fact, the average coal miner pays a higher tax on his pickup truck than does an absentee coal company on a typical tract of 81,000 acres of mineral rights.

Local county tax assessors have stated that the current tax rate is so low it costs more to collect the taxes on unmined minerals owned by large corporations than the taxes are worth to the county. As a result, tax assessors rarely make any attempt to collect even the small amount of taxes that are due the county.

In a related area, the KFTC successfully sponsored legislation in the Kentucky legislature that would give individual land owners more rights over property leased to coal companies through broadform deeds.

These deeds, created by coal barons at the turn of the century, allow coal operators to strip mine without the consent of the landowner. The legislation provides limits to the kind of mining that can be performed without the owner's consent.

The bill became effective on July 1.

Burnim is co-counsel on the fair tax case with Joe Childers of Lexington, Ky., who is the attorney for the KFTC. The case is being heard by U.S. Dist. Judge Edward H. Johnstone, who is expected to rule on the pending motions later this month.

Deaf youth progresses well in special education program

Willie Ferguson, the young man who was considered a troublemaker by the Montgomery Police Department three years ago, continues to make "extraordinary progress," according to his counselor, John Gaehring, at the Ranch Treatment Center in Austin, TX.

Ferguson was born deaf and reached adulthood without receiving *any* education because of his handicap. Instead of the educational system, it was the criminal justice system in Alabama that finally paid attention to Ferguson.

In 1981 Ferguson faced four felony charges for theft. But SPLC staff attorney Ira Burnim argued that the State owed Ferguson an education, not a prison sentence. A judge agreed.

Now, three years later and with his newly learned hand sign language, Ferguson will soon be assigned to the Vaughn House, a sheltered workshop especially designed for the hearing impaired in Austin.

According to Gaehring, Ferguson will move into his own apartment near the Vaughn House, where he will be periodically visited by an outreach worker from the Travis County Services for the Deaf.

Besides being employed at the Vaughn House, Ferguson will continue to fill his time with social activities, such as attending a special church for the deaf, belonging to a deaf club and participating in a bowling league.

"Willie likes Austin," Gaehring said. "This program he's going into will only last through August, however. I strongly recommend that the State of Alabama let Willie stay here past that time. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission, one of the best in the nation, will assist him with additional training.

FERGUSON

"We really think we can provide an opportunity for him to succeed here in Austin," Gaehring stressed.

Burnim is optimistic that Alabama will release Ferguson to become a resident of Texas.

Similar programs for the hearing impaired are on the drawing board in Alabama, due in a large part to legal action taken by the SPLC.