

MARCHERS STAGE MISSISSIPPI RALLY

Dr. King Addresses 1,000
From Courthouse Steps

By GENE ROBERTS
Special to The New York Times

GREENWOOD, Miss., June 17 —Mississippi civil rights marchers led 800 Greenwood Negroes on a protest march to the Leflore County courthouse today and for the second consecutive day had a close brush with violence.

The trouble came when a white service station attendant turned a water hose on the marchers, then ran and got his pistol and billyclub after a white marcher had yanked the hose from his hand and sprayed him with it.

More than a hundred Negro children fled screaming down Main Street at the sight of the pistol and club, but older marchers crowded around the gun-wielding man.

Andrew Young, one of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s top rights aides, rushed into the milling crowd and persuaded the angry marchers to return to the march column.

Newsmen also had a close encounter with danger. It developed when the drivers of a truck that carries newsmen ahead of the marchers became curious over the contents of a bubble gum carton that had lain on the back of the truck for two days.

The driver, a Mississippi segregationist, untied the string, opened the carton and leaped back in fright as a two-and-a-half-foot copperhead darted from the package and slithered near newsmen. Reporters and cameramen quickly killed the poisonous snake.

Tension again developed when Leflore County sheriff's deputies shoved marchers from the lawn of the Leflore County courthouse to prevent them from holding a rally at the base of the Confederate memorial.

Dr. King turned the marchers away from the grass after deputies had begun unsheathing their nightsticks.

"We're ready to let you fill up all the graveyards in Leflore County," Hosea Williams of Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference told deputies before turning away with Dr. King.

"I'm so tired, so tired of all this," said Stokely Carmichael of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Two hundred marchers, accompanied by 800 Greenwood Negroes, then crowded onto a concrete walkway and spilled over into the street to hear addresses by Dr. King and other rights leaders from the courthouse steps.

Helping the sheriff's deputies keep the marchers away from the Confederate memorial were six Negroes who townspeople said were trustees from the county jail. Sheriff's deputies denied it.

Many marchers and local Negroes were chanting "Black power, black power," a cry taught them by Mr. Carmichael at a rally last night when he said: "Every courthouse in Mississippi ought to be burned down to get rid of the dirt."

But on the courthouse steps, Mr. Carmichael was less angry and said:

"The only way we can change things in Mississippi is with the ballot. That's black power."

Dr. King, who had avoided use of the term, said "black power" was "the ability to make the power structure say 'yes' when it wants to say 'no.'"

"When we get this power," he said, "we will try to achieve a society of brotherhood."

Mr. Williams said the ballot also had other uses.

"Get that vote and put black faces in those uniforms," he said. "Get that vote and whip those policemen across the head with it."

Then he looked at the sheriff's deputies and said, "If we can die in Vietnam, we can die in Mississippi."

At another point in his speech, he turned to newsmen and said, "I don't think the newsmen can interpret me because they aren't black."

After the rally, as the marchers were walking through the downtown area on their way to Itta Bena, the service station attendant began spraying them with his water hose. Hal York, a white marcher from New York, grabbed the hose and turned it on the attendant, who refused to identify himself.

The police told the attendant to put up his pistol and nightstick, but no arrest was made.

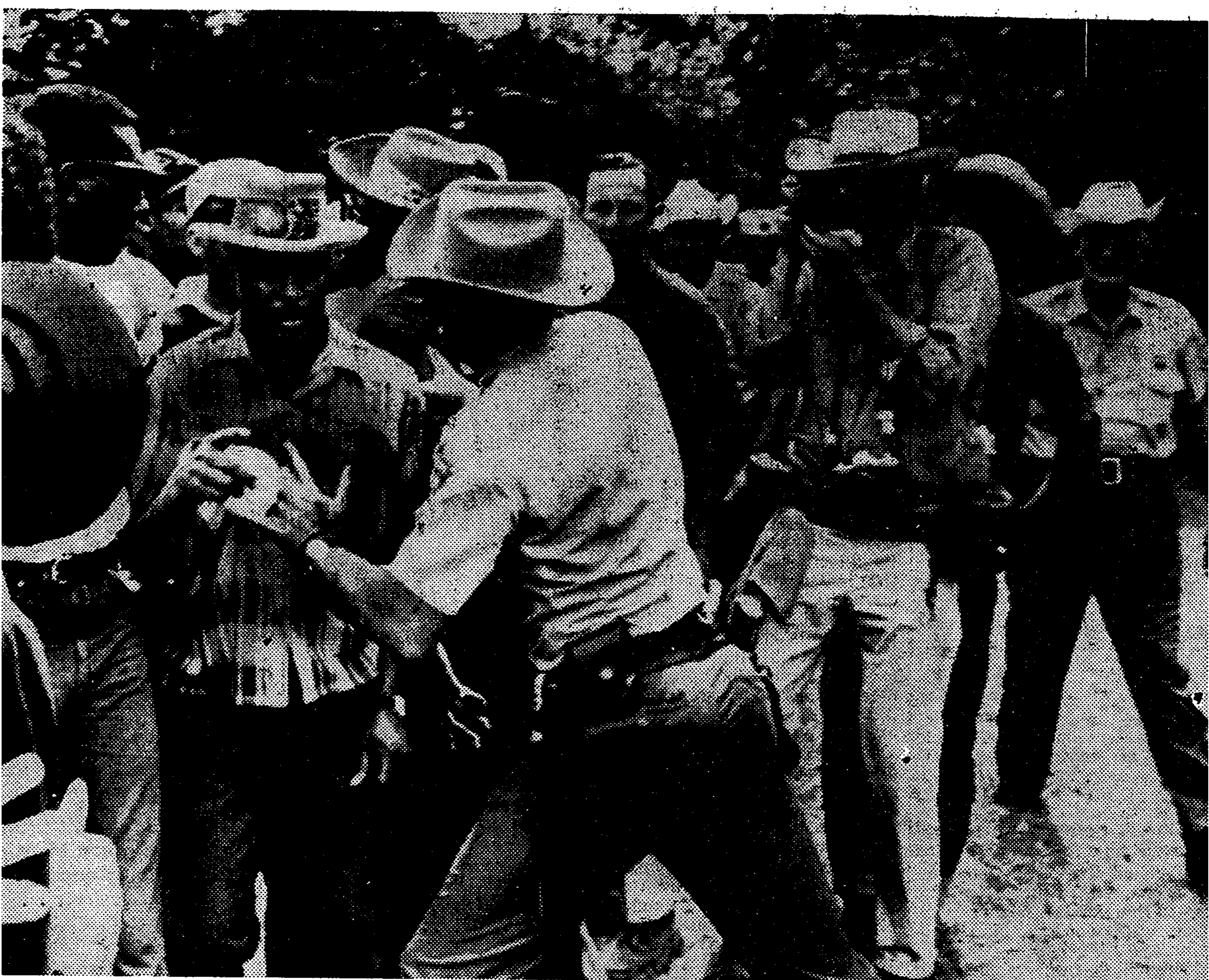
Several times today, Byron De La Beckwith, whose two trials on charges of having murdered Medgar Evers, a rights leader, ended in hung juries, drove up to newsmen and asked if they had seen Charles Evers.

Charles Evers, Mississippi field director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is the brother of the slain man.

Mr. Evers left Greenwood last night after a rally at which he noted that Greenwood was the home of Mr. De La Beckwith.

"If I ever lay my eyes on him, if I ever get my hands on him, he'll be through harassing Negroes," Mr. Evers said.

The marchers covered 12 miles today and stopped two and a half miles short of Itta Bena. They plan to end the march June 26 in Jackson. They returned to Greenwood tonight to camp at a city park for Negroes.



Associated Press Wirephoto

EJECTS MARCHERS FROM COURTHOUSE LAWN: A deputy sheriff shoving Hosea Williams, a leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, in Greenwood, Miss. Marchers wanted to rally at Confederate memorial.