

New Negro Is Said Emerging

By JAMES BONNEY

BRANDON, Miss. (AP) — James Farmer, national Negro leader, told some 400 marchers Saturday the Negro is no longer afraid to push for voting rights in Mississippi.

Farmer, head of the Congress of Racial Equality, spoke at the Rankin County Courthouse shortly after the marchers, mostly Negroes, ended a two-day trek to dramatize Negro voter registration.

As Farmer spoke, shotgun-armed auxiliary police ringed the courthouse. Some whites stood silently on the fringes of the gathering.

"A new Negro has appeared in Mississippi and across the country," Farmer said. "This Negro is not afraid of anything. We've been dying for nearly 350 years for our freedom and we're not afraid now."

About 50 eligible Negro voters that were among the marchers lined up to register to vote. About a dozen took voter tests before the office closed for the weekend.

Aleen Adams, co-chairman of the Rankin County movement, read a petition listing Negro grievances. Among them were demands to set up voter registration centers in county schools. Less than 100 Negroes in the county are registered.

Farmer, who had planned to join the last mile of the march, arrived by plane after the demonstrators had already reached town. After his talk, he boarded a plane back to New York.

A civil rights spokesman praised the reception given the marchers by county officials, who permitted them to continue ringing "freedom" songs and to use the facilities of the courthouse while they waited for Farmer.

The two-day march along a 14-mile route from a rural church to Brandon was marred by only three arrests.

The highway patrol arrested Joe Hawkins of Jackson on a charge of pointing and aiming a deadly weapon at a marcher; Vernon Waldrup of Jackson on a concealed weapon charge; and CORE staff worker George Raymond on a traffic violation.

Officers said Hawkins was picked up after a white man driving past the march route pointed a pistol at a Negro Friday.

The patrol said Waldrup was in a car with Hawkins that drove past again Saturday, and a search of the car turned up a pistol, carbine, automatic rifle and ammunition. Both were jailed pending a hearing.

Raymond posted a \$20 bond on his traffic charge when the group arrived at the courthouse. He was released.

Raymond met with Sheriff T. H. Shivers and got permission for eligible Negroes to line up and apply for registration as voters.

Helmeted and armed police waited along the streets of Brandon as the marchers ended their trek with a swing around the Confederate statue on the town square.

The marchers, who spent the night in two large tents, left their campsite after a breakfast of grits and coffee. There were about 150 at the start of the last leg of the trip. The number grew as the procession continued.

The route was littered with pamphlets which charged that the march was Communist led, and called on property owners to protect against trespassers "if you have to."

The leaflets, professionally printed, said if the marchers entered private property "ask law enforcement officers to arrest them and you file charges; or, put them under citizen's arrest yourself and hold them until officers come; or shoot them if you have to if they molest or trespass your property."