

WATS REPORT

176

Monday October 4, 1965

JACKSON, MISS. Mike Higson, Nettie Sellers/jeanne
 Yesterday, Sunday, October 3, 1965, between 600-700 people attended
 a state wide meeting of the FDP, held from 1pm to 6pm in the Masonic
 Temple in Jackson.

The meeting began with reports from the county chairmen. The
 issues that were discussed in the meeting were:

VOTER REGISTRATION - It was decided that the FDP would start a cam-
 paign to get complaints from all of the 73 counties in Mississippi
 where there are no Federal Registrars. Coupled with this, freedom
 days will be held in all of the counties in the state, including
 those with Federal Registrars. FDP is also going to encourage people
 to write to the Justice Department saying that they want to re-
 gister to vote.

SELECTIVE BUYING - A vote was taken to institute a selective buying
 campaign in the state by the FDP. The campaign, called Black Christ-
 mas, will be directed against Sears and Roebuck and the local stores
 that get lots of Negro trade. The campaign will probably begin
 next week and continue until after Christmas. People will be urged
 not to buy, or to buy as little as they can from the stores that
 the campaign is directed against. People will be encouraged to
 use The Poor People's Corporation to its fullest extent. A complete
 list of all the Coops will be available from Mrs. Nettie Seller
 soon. Mrs. Sellers can be contacted in Jackson.

REAPPORTIONMENT - Attys Morton Stavis and Peter Marcuse plan to file
 a reapportionment suit during the next three weeks. The suit will
 ask the court to reapportion the state and to have the state legis-
 lature declared illegally elected. The suit will be explained and
 discussed in meetings throughout the state and signed by a fairly
 large number of people before it is filed.

ELECTIONS - Lawrence Guyot announced that six people in the FDP
 would be running in the congressional election primaries next year.

They are: 1st district - Mr. Sam Carr - Aberdeen
 2nd " - Mr. Ralthus Hayes - Tchula
 3rd " - Rev. Allen Johnson - Jackson
 4th " - Rev. Carter - Philadelphia
 5th " - Lawrence Guyot - Hattiesburg
 Senate - Rev. Clinton Wiley - Holly Springs

Guyot explained that at this point, the FDP couldn't nominate its
 own candidates because it would involve holding its own primaries
 which would involve thousands of dollars. The six people who are
 running will be running as democrats with the support of the FDP.

SCHOOL DESEGREGATION - Henry Aranson reported on school desegrega-
 tion in the state and the suit that the Inc. Fund filed about two
 weeks ago to strike down the new state law which said that childred
 who don't live with their parents or legal guardians have to pay
 school tuition.

At the end of the meeting there were protests and questions
 about the financial report of the FDP from May to the present time.
 Questions were generally about the fact that finances are controlled
 by a few people in the party and that this was the first time that
 the finances of the party had been made public. There was some
 discussion on a proposal to have the finances turned over to a state
 finance committee and have finance committees set up in each county.

more

Monday, October 4, 1965

176 Con't

WELDON, NORTH CAROLINA Larry Fox/jeanne

Last Saturday in Halifax County the voters movement there picketed the Leggart Department store in Roanoke Rapids.

The registration books in Halifax County will be opened starting on the 9th for two weeks. In North Hampton and Bertie Counties the books will be only opened for three consecutive Saturdays.

There are only three people working three counties in North Carolina, Buddy and Ginny Teiger and Larry Fox. They desperately need people to canvass this week so that they can get a large number of people out to register the days that the books are opened.

The new address for Larry Fox is

Box 461

Weldon, North Carolina

NATCHEZ Dorie Ladner and Charlie Horowitz/ Sharon and jeanne

There was a march from the Shincy Grove Baptist Church. 103 more people were arrested. They were charged with parading without a permit. All of the people over 12 years of age were taken to Parchman, the others were released. This brings the total number of people in Parchman to 409. During the meeting, members of the KKK were standing around the church. Some of them were dressed as women with wigs on.

According to a woman who was in Parchman, Posey Lumbard's bond was posted by some local white man. The man told Posey that he had come to take him to his house for protection. Posey refused the bond. It is thought that the white man was a member of the KKK.

There is a report from a young man who was just released from Parchman that Rev. Henry Russell, local minister from Natchez, was whipped, and Rev. Sampson, SCLC, was slapped by prison officials. Mrs. Annie Tillman, 37 year old local woman, was released from Parchman on \$200 bond. She said that the guards ordered all the women to remove their shoes and sweaters and made them take medicine that caused them to have the "runs" all day. One woman was pregnant. Mrs. Tillman reports that she was in cell with 6 other women and only one iron cot with no mattress. She said that the guards turned on the air conditioner so that the women almost "froze to death". She said also that the female guards tore her blouse off while searching her and that the men had her take off all of her clothes except her pants. The air conditioner was on during this time. Mrs. Tillman said she heard the men hollering "Please leave us alone".

The prison officials refuse to give transportation to those people who were released. Parchman is over 200 miles away from Natchez.

There are several Negroes who were arrested Saturday for watching the picket lines. They are being charged with blocking the sidewalk. For the past week, Natchez police have been arresting Negroes who are just in the streets of downtown Natchez. One man, George T. Campbell, 32 year old local Negro, part time math teacher in Baton Rouge, La., was arrested Friday, October 24th, and held without being told why he was arrested and without being allowed to make a phone call. He was released yesterday. He gave his phone number to a trustee who called his relatives, who in turn bonded him out. The FDP in Natchez explained the above mentioned situation to the JD there. The agent took down everything.

more

Monday, October 4, 1965

WASHINGTON, D.C. betty Garman/judy

The 14 people from Forest City, Arkansas on Sunday, today talked with John Doar of the Justice Department and asked him to investigate election frauds in school board elections and to act regarding the arrests of demonstrators last week. Doar replied that their lawyers would have to take care of that. Doar also asked the group to prepare a formal written statement about the board election with relation of specific incidents of fraud. He said they could investigate the situation. He said it was a probability that the election could be thrown out, but very difficult to do. Its a real possibility that it could be prevented in the future. The group also met with representatives of the Office of Education, specifically Harri Wright, head of the complaine section. The Arkansafian outlined the ways the school board had tried to discourage Negroes from attending white schools. They described the imperior conditions of Negro High Schools. Mr. Wright indicated that they would start an investigation of Forrest City as soon as possible. Since they are understaffed, this would mean several weeks. Mr. Wright did promise to call the Supt of schools tomorrow in Arkansas to discuss the question of opening up registration to white schools again.

BAKER COUNTY, NEWTON, GA. via Albany Jim Parry/sharon and judy
At about 9:30 pm, five car loads of whites pulled up across the road from the house of Mrs. Gracie Miller, 18 miles South of Newton on highway 91. Mrs. Miller is one of the strongest movement people in the area. Her husband, Hosgy Miller, was killed in March of this year by a white men who claimed that a cow in Miller's pasture was his cow. The trial was supposed to be held in July, but was postponed when Demonstrations began in Baker. When the whites came up, they said that they were going to have a big barbeque. They took wood from their car and started a fire across from the house. Mrs. Miller called some of her neighbors. When they arrived, the whites started shooting at them. The neighbors fell back, regrouped and then came back firing in self-defense. The whites jumped in their cars and got away. A couple of the whites were recognized.. Sheriff L. Warren Johnson was notified. He siad that he would investigate, but didn't come out for two hours. The highway patrol and the FBI were also called. At about 11:10PM, Deputy Herbert and en Johnson arrived at the Miller's place. Five minutes later, the FBI arrived. They all took the names and tage numbers of the whites, and an account of what happened. The FBI found 5 shot gun shells. Deputy Johnson said that the only charge that could be pressed against the whites is disturbing the peace. The Baker County people said that when the whites arrived they heard them say, "The Sheriff and deputies gonna let the niggers take over; we're gonna have a big barbeque tonight; gonna barbeque us some niggers, we're gonna kill Walk Miller". Walk is the brother-in-law to Mrs. Miller.

Two men active in the movement, Tee Kunney and Charles Coawrt, were notified that they had to appear in court tonight on some charge (they didn't know what). They thought that it was some kind of attempt to get them into town. They didn't go,