

CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

Reggie went on the bus to Maryland State to pick up the students. Due to bad weather only 27 students came. CIG brought 60 people from Baltimore. Approximately 30 came down from New York and Philadelphia. We estimate around 100 local people participated.

The groups all met briefly at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Cambridge, before going down town. As before we split the participants up into groups of about ten, each under a group leader. Each group was given a list of 2 restaurants to sit-in, get read out of, and subsequently picket. 250 Maryland State police (one third of the entire state force) were brought to Cambridge to quell violence. The pickets were harassed, as usual, but the police kept a firm hand on things. Only one incident of violence occurred and that was at the same place that Bill was beaten last week, the Choptank Inn.

Bill was made group leader of a special group to again try to enter the vastion of bigotry in Cambridge. Here is the story in the first person.

There were seven in my group. All were males. Five of the group were Negroes and two were white. A local citizen was found to drive us up to the front of the restaurants. As we drove up we noticed a mob of about 75 people in front of the restaurant. Also in front of the restaurant were at least 25 state troopers complete with riot helmets. As soon as the mob saw us approaching they started screaming. As the car stopped we all got out, and headed for the door of the restaurant. Since I was sitting in the front seat by the window I was the first one to get out of the car. I walked right between the state troopers. Not one of them made any attempt to stop me. As I neared the door I noticed the frenzied, hysterical mob on the inside of the restaurant. Standing directly in the doorway was a half drunken man with his fist cocked behind his ear daring me to come closer. As I walked up to the door I turned my head sideways to avoid getting the blow directly in the face. For some reason he lunged and missed. As I walked through the doorway the crowd really exploded. I got about four or five steps inside when I was hit in the back of the head, and knocked to the floor. Immediately people started kicking me all over the body, particularly on my head. I was kicked in the head ten or more times when someone kicked me in the groin, the pain of which caused me to pass out for a few seconds. The next thing I knew two state troopers had twisted me upright and were carrying me out. As we got to the doorway someone hit me over the head with a beer bottle. Then everyone started swinging again and throwing bottles. The state troopers lost control of me trying to protect themselves and I was shoved through the glass door. When I hit the ground I passed out again. I came to as two state policemen started dragging me away from the now insane mob in the restaurant. For some reason one of the policemen had my left arm twisted behind

my back. The police then told me that I was under arrest for trespassing, and put me in a police car and took me to the hospital.

Approximately 400 people attended a mass meeting at 7:00 p.m., back at the church. After the mass meeting all the people joined in a protest march from the church to the city hall and back.

After the march the demonstrators boarded their buses and left Cambridge. Segregation was just as entrenched in Cambridge that night as it had been that morning.

Sunday, January 21, 1962. . . . We went to New York so Bill could get examined by a friendly doctor.

Monday, January 22, 1962. . . . Bill's hearing was postponed until Monday, January 29, 1962. We talked with McDew about Cambridge at Dr. Johnson's apartment.

Tuesday, January 23, 1962. . . . We went to Baltimore and were interviewed concerning the Cambridge Movement by the Baltimore Afro-American and the Baltimore Sun newspapers.

We arrived back in Cambridge late at night. Fred St. Clair picked us up at the bus station and informed us that someone had put up \$1,000 for Bill, dead.

Wednesday, January 24, 1962. . . . The phone was installed in the office of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee. It will also serve as a ANCC regional office. The address is:
217 Pine Street
Cambridge, Maryland
228-4754

A reporter from the Cambridge Daily Banner tonight asked Bill if he knew that his life was in danger. He said some people in the community were planning to kill him.

A Maryland legislator today asked the state's attorney general, Thomas Finan, to have the Subversive Control Commission investigate the groups and the individuals participating in the demonstrations. More to come.