

FIELD REPORT. Reginald Robinson
William Hansen, Jr.
January 25, 1962.

CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

We spent the early part of the day trying to publicize the boycott itself, according to rather sketchy reports, seems to be taking affect. According to one rumor, on Saturday, January 19, the local hardware store didn't make enough to pay his gas and electricity.

Twenty-two students and seven non-students met at the office at 3:30 p.m. After a brief meeting they were divided into groups and sent downtown to demonstrate at three restaurants. (Collins Drug Store, Dizzyland, and Four Corners' Restaurant.) After being "read out" they picketed in front of all three. Small groups of hostile whites gathered and started with the usual name calling but no violence occurred. The groups were lead by local people. We stayed back at the office. Local leadership finally seems to be developing.

At 7:00 p.m. was a mass meeting of the Cambridge Nonviolent Committee (CNC). Approximately 350 overcrowded St. Luke's A.M.E. Church. A report of the previous week's activities was made. The people voiced approval of continued demonstrations and also support of the boycott. Negroes have also been registering to vote in very large numbers since the demonstrations started.

Friday, January 26, 1962. We cleaned up the very dirty office. At 3:30, thirty-one people, mostly students at Maces' Lane, met and picketed at the same three restaurants as the day before. The results were the same, also, as the day before.

At 7:00 p.m. the executive committee of CNC met and discussed ways of continuing the fight. We kept quiet most of the time, allowing the local people to make suggestions and discuss things. Various aspects of the program already set up were discussed.

Saturday, January 27, 1962. The days demonstration was scheduled to start at 3:00 p.m. Thirty-six people came from Maryland State, CIG sent about forty people, approximately twenty-five people came from northern areas, and about one hundred local people participated. All of the areas of public accommodation were hit. It was decided that Bill shouldn't go out to the Choptank Inn because of the extreme animosity directed toward him only, by the whites, and the fact that extreme amounts of publicity was making it seem like Bill Hansen fighting Cambridge rather than the real picture of the Cambridge Negro fighting segregation. The police had decided that no one was to picket the Choptank Inn so we sent a special group of six people out there to test the validity of this regulation by refusing to move on when ordered to do so. The six picketers were arrested for disorderly conduct.

The usual hysterical mob of 300 to 400 people were inside of and outside of the restaurant. Two instances of violence occurred during the day. Bill was the group leader of a group picketing the Cambia Restaurant. After being "read out" they commenced to picket in front of the establishment. They had picketed for about a 1/2 hour when a local white walked up to Bill and slugged him in the face knocking him on his back unconscious. The police and the crowd immediately converged on him. The police got there first and dragged him across the street to a police car and drove away. Bill was then arrested for disorderly conduct. His assailant was also arrested for assault and battery, Gifford Pinchot was also assaulted on the street. He was hit in the stomach and as he was on the ground gasping for breath the police ordered him to move on or they would arrest him for loitering. He was not arrested. A mass meeting was held at Waugh Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. Four hundred people attended the meeting.

Sunday, January 28, 1962. . . . DAY OF REST

Monday, January 29, 1962. . . . The hearing were set for 2:00 p.m. before magistrate Allen Baird. Two of the seven defendants were late and they were arrested for contempt of court necessitating that they be bailed out again at \$100 a piece.

Our lawyer, Paul J. Cockrell - Baltimore NAACP, preyed a jury trial. Bill and Gifford Pinchot refused to testify against their assailants causing them to be acquitted. The refusal to testify completely befuddled the states' attorney, the magistrate, and the defendant.

We attended the executive board meeting of the Dorchester NAACP. After a lot of procrastination one of them said that an investigation should be made of the activities of the Maces' Lane High School. Reggie hit the ceiling a split second before Bill did. It was an implication that the kids we had picketing were the hoodlum element of Maces' Lane. Reggie made a few scathing comments and then walked out. Reggie came back and together we convinced the NAACP that we were not subverting the children of Cambridge. A brief description of the meeting would be how CNC can help project the NAACP.