

To: The Press and others.

From: Bob Moses

Re: The events surrounding the voter registration drive in Ruleville, Mississippi.

Thursday, Aug. 9: Amzie Moore and Bob Moses helped Celeste Davis conduct a class in registration to vote at William's Chapel in Ruleville. Mrs. Davis had been conducting citizenship schools for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for several months. At the meeting they decided to meet back at the church the following Monday and go down to register on Tuesday.

Monday, Aug. 13: The meeting took place as scheduled; we agreed to meet at the church in time to leave by 9:00 A.M. the next morn.

Tuesday, Aug. 14: Five people went down to register at Indianola, the county seat (which is also the birthplace of the White Citizen's Council.). All five: Mrs. Celeste Davis, Mrs. Irene Johnson, Mrs. Rebecca McDonald, Mrs. Louise Taylor, Mrs. Hattie Sesson, were allowed to take the test at the same time, there was no friction to speak of at the registrar's office, they were given sections 12, 15, 18, 19 and 23 of the constitution of Miss. to interpret. When they were through the registrar, Mr. E.C. Campbell told them they would have to wait until Sept. 1, while he ran their names in the paper, before he could tell them if they passed. Amzie Moore (Pres. of Bolivar County Branch of NAACP) and myself accompanied them.) The applicants used Mrs. Irene Johnson's car.

(Note: the last time Negro citizens from Ruleville had been to Indianola to register was two years ago when they were followed and frightened by several highway patrol men. Amzie Moore went with them on this occasion.)

Thursday, August 16: Four more Negro citizens went down to Indianola to fill the registration form: Mrs. Ida Mae McIntosh, Mr. Ollie Young, Mrs. Ruby Davis, Mr. Jessie Shield. They were accompanied by Mrs. Celeste Davis. They were required to fill out the form one at a time and were also told to wait two weeks.

Friday, August 17: The mayor of Ruleville, Mr. Charles M. Dorrough, talked to Mr. Leonard Davis, who was at the time a worker in the city sanitation department. The mayor showed Mr. Davis a list of names and told him these were the people from Ruleville who had been down to Indianola on Tuesday and Thursday to register to vote. The mayor pointed out Mrs. Irene Johnson's name to Mr. Davis, and then Mrs. Ruby Davis' name, and Celeste Davis' name (They are his wife and daughter-in-law respectively.) The mayor asked him what kind of classes they were having at the church and when Mr. Davis said he didn't know and had never attended one, the mayor told him that he himself knew what they were doing. The mayor told Mr. Davis that anyone attending a class would be given a one way ticket out of town (Reverse Freedom ride?) and if that wouldn't do it, they would use whatever they had available. The mayor asked Mr. Davis if he liked the job he had, working with the city (This is as reported to me by Mr. Davis.)

Sunday, August 19: Three student workers: Charles Cobb, Charles McLaurin, and Landy McNair came to Ruleville to live and work on the Voter Registration efforts. They were staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe MacDonald.

Monday, August 20: The students began canvassing and arranged for a meeting with young people that evening.

The Mayor, who is also local newscaster for the Ruleville-Drew radio station WCLD, called a meeting, "to discuss about outside agitators". The meeting was set for Tuesday night, at the Ruleville community house. Mr. Dorrough is on the air Mon. thr Fri. between the hours of 8 and 9 A.M.

Tuesday, August 21: Two of the student workers, Charles McLaurin and Landy McNair, were stopped in the street by the mayor and told they were under arrest, and told the other students with them to go home. He carried them down to City Hall and took their names and home addresses and left for about 15 min. Upon his return he told them that Ruleville had an ordinance forbidding the solicitation of names, and that he thought that's what they were doing and released them. During the course of the conversation he shoved