

SELMA

NOT FOR RELEASE

INTER OFFICE MEMO

OCTOBER 2, 1963

CONVICTIONS TODAY:

John Lewis, Lilian Gregory, Wolf Lawson sentenced to 180 days, \$300 fine.
\$1,000 appeal bond each. \$1,000 peace bond each. "Unlawful assembly"
2 Selma University students, "unlawful assembly." \$100 fine. \$300 app. bond

BOND POSTED:

Worth Long, Wilson Brown. Peace bond being "challenged, litigated"

On Monday, Sept. 28, the 28 Selma U. students were to have been tried. State wanted to try them in a group because they could not be separately identified. Had picture of one from group, wanted to try all on the basis of that picture (which was wrong picture Prathia said.) Solicitor McCleod (?) said he would try them individually, but needed time. Trial then set for today. Today 19 students did not show up.

INSIDE STORY: Last night President Owen of Selma Univ. plus local minister, Rev. C.C. Brown (Reformer Presbyterian Church, affiliated with Alabama Board of Missions of United Presbyterian Church, under Eugene Carson Blake) went to jail and talked with the students in a secret session. They told them that if they wanted to get back in school they would have to agree to Owen's terms. If they all pleaded guilty, they could return. The 19 who did not appear this morning in court accepted the terms. All of them were released on fines and suspended sentences. Prathia thinks fines were \$100 each. Not clear if fine was paid with agreement that parents would repay Owen or what. Attorneys Chestnut and Hall are no longer their (Selma students) attorneys. Prathia says this is important in terms of J.D. intervention.

Meeting with adults is scheduled for later tonight, to confront them with this "Tomism."

Prathia suggested telegrams to J.L. Ware, Birmingham, state president of National Baptist Convention with which Selma U. is affiliated. Telegram would go from John Lewis, fellow Alabamian and Baptist minister.

Also, telegram to Eugene Carson Blake asking him to pressure Brown. Prathia: wants to "smoke out Toms and discredit them before any more damage."

State SCLC secretary called to say that MLK would be coming in Tues., Oct. 15. Fred on 22nd (already planned.) Wants us to "think about it" in terms of strategy.

Prathia said she wants suggestions on strategy.