

Report: Selma, Alabama
From: SNCC office
Date: October 21, 1963

Everything went smoothly today which ~~is~~ was not expected. There were over 20 Negroes registered today, 26 to be exact, which is the first time since the Voter Registration Movement began in Dallas County.

Sixty cards were given out. Reports show that there were only nine whites in the line, the rest were Negroes. Those persons who didn't go in today were told to sign a list (same as Friday) and to report back in the morning at 8:00 o'clock.

Persons reporting to us today told us that the only minor incidents were: the sheriff's possemen who were standing out to watch the line were making all Negro men remove their hats and letting all white males keep theirs on. There were about 30 Negroes in line today that did not get cards with numbers on them. These people were not told why they didn't receive numbers.

Rev. Benny Tucker was out passing leaflets today, advertising Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth's coming. The deputy on the line asked him, "What are you doing giving those things, boy." Give me one of those things." Tucker gave him one of the leaflets and left the Dallas County Court House.

There were no other incidents today. As stated before, everything ran smoothly and nicely. We don't know what will break tomorrow. But we expect anything.

We are planning a call meeting of the office staff tonight at 6:00 p.m. There are a few wrinkles that need to be ironed out.

DAILY REPORT from:
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
31 1/2 Franklin Street
Selma, Alabama
Tuesday, October 22, 1963

Selma

October 22, 1963. Voter Registration began, at the Dallas County Courthouse, at 8:30 am. There were 60 numbers given out this morning. Eleven of those numbers were given to whites. Twenty Negroes were carried over until this afternoon. There were 49 Negroes given numbers.

Mr. John Fry, of the United Presbyterian Church, went down to the Courthouse and was chased out by a deputy. Everything is quiet again today, which is very unlike Whitey. Therefore, we expect anything to break any minute.

Two Negroes were disqualified this morning, no. 15, because she couldn't read or write, and no. 17, because she was old and didn't have her glasses, therefore could not see what was on the blank. The Registrar would not and absolutely refused to assist her with this.

The registrar is also telling Negroes that they will hear from him in about three weeks. But, when the whites go through with their registration, they are going to the window to pay poll taxes. This is another trick that slows down the Negro Voter Registration Movement. The same old trick of giving three pages, two of which you are not supposed to fill out, is still being used. The registrar will not tell persons that those sheets are not supposed to be touched, but will let you start on them and then tell you that he is supposed to fill out. This way, you will have to read through the first pages, which is a way of stalling for time, to get to the blank that you are supposed to fill out.

They are still giving out cards with numbers on them in the evening and taking them up the next morning to slip in a few whites maybe that were not there the morning or day before.

As stated before, things are quiet here, too quiet. We are looking for Whitey to wake up anytime now. When he does, we will then have to pay what he thinks will be a fair price for upsetting his kingdom.

Wilson Brown and Alvery Williams were arrested in Maplesville, Alabama on Sunday, Oct. 20. They were released this morning at 10:45 am. They were not allowed to make a phone call, or to do anything to let us know that they had been arrested. Mr. Brown was charged with reckless driving and Williams, who was in the same car, was charged with vagrancy.

Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth is to speak this evening at a Mass Meeting beginning at 7:30 at the First Baptist Church. He will stress Voter Registration in his lecture or talk. He will arrive about 7:00 here in Selma.

Rev. Thomas Brown is expected back today from Montgomery, today.

Report: Selma , Alabama
From: SNEC office
Date: October 22, 1963

Today a total of thirty-three persons were registered at the polls. Sixteen of these persons were white and the remainder, 17, were Negroes. Approximately 90 to 95 people were there in all. There was a turnout of seven people from Orrville, a small town just 15 miles south of Selma. This is quite a good turnout under the circumstances from Orrville, and we expect more in the near future.

Rev. Wilson Brown and Mr. Alvery Williams were arrested on Sunday in Maplesville, Alabama. They were charged with reckless driving (Rev. Brown) and vagrancy (Mr. Williams). The police made them trail them to the courthouse in Maplesville, then transferred them to the jail in Clanton, Alabama. They were released from jail this morning at 11:45. Their car was searched and the policemen cursed them, calling them names usually given to the Negro, ~~the~~

Mr. John Fry of the United Presbyterian Church went to the courthouse this morning and was chased out by a deputy sheriff.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF ARREST AND DETAINED from:
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SNCC)
31 1/2 Franklin Street
Selma, Alabama

October 22, 1963

SELMA, ALABAMA

On October 20, 1963, I Mr. Wilson Brown, And Mr. Alvery Williams were stopped at 11:PM, Three miles from Maplesville, I discovered a car trailing me a couple of miles ^{from} Maplesville, So when I arrived at the Jimerson cut off, The police came behind me with his red light flashing, But he did not say a word, And I did ^{not} say a word, So I made my left turn to Jimerson, So after I had driven a quarter of a mile, They came up behind me, With his siren on and his red light blinking and stopped, and I got out, He asked for my Drivers License, And I asked them could I go to the car to the car and see if I could find them, After I could not find ^{them} And I had lost them I could not find the money order stub where I had sent for new drivers license, He said ok, trail him back to city hall with him trailing me, So when we goto to the cut off he got in front of me, So I trail him back to city hall and by that time I had found my Drivers License stub, When we reached the City Hall I got permission from the policemen to go out to the car to see if I could find some thing with my name on it, By this time the Chief of police had arrived and he search the car over.

After the Chief of police came up, I asked would it be possible for them to call to Birmingham, Ala, And see if I own the car the tag was were bought in my name, He said just a minute he would do so, By this time I were back inside of City Hall, They were still checking over my car, We had taken off our SNCC pin and the chief of police came back to the office with some information on the SNCC, Office in Selma, Ala, And he started cursing us and calling us Niggers, you schould keep your dam ass off the highway, and you bunch of thubs, speaking to me, He said ' If I had a pair of pliers I would pull your whiskers out one by one.

He said we were in Selma, stirring up trouble, and he swung at me, and said Nigger I schould kill you, and they searched us with our hands over our head, And put all our thing on the table, And they found our SNCC pins, Then the other two policemen started cursing and calling us Niggers, and they said that they had some good Nigger in Selma, And no later than Saturday some Nigger came from Selma, and said they were going to do away with the Nigger who were stirring up the trouble He said some of the Niggers had moved from Selma, because of the trouble, and we were booked, I were charged with Reckless driving and defective tail lights, And Mr. Alvery Williams was charged with Vagrancy.

Then we were put back in to the police car and took to Glanton Jail, We were asked our address and Names, And they put us in Cells the size were 4by 8 with 4 bunks, with a mattress on it and no coveron it, They served us four meals, for breakfast we had Muffin dried grits, no butter, fat back, and syrup and for dinner we had dried butter beans and dried squiel, biscuit, And the same for supper as for dinner.

We were release today at 11:PM, October 22, 1963, then we proceeded to the Negro Community and we stopped at a lady house by the name of Mrs. Hall, And we called the SNCC, Office in Selma, And they sent us thirty Dollars at Rice Drugs Store, The Waitress said we had to have some kind of identification, and all of that were left in Maplesville fifteen miles away, and we went.

back to the County Jail, And tried to contact, The Bondsmen , the man there showed us where the Bondsmen Office were , And he was out, We went to the County Court House , There we found the Chief of Police, And we told him we needed some one to stand for the \$30.00 , We did not have and have any Identification , Then we went back to the Rice Drug Store and the Chief of Police told her we had been in Jail , There at the Drug Store we found the Bondsmen, After we got the check cashed we gave the Bondsmen \$20.00, and \$10.00 went to Mr. Williams for his bus fare from Maplesville to Gaston and from Gaston to Selma, Ala , Then I my self and the Bondsmen travel fifteen miles back to Maplesville there doing this course of time the Chief of Police had called them and told them not to let me have my car unless I had \$59.00, That is \$50.00 for no Drivers License and \$9.00 for the Cost of Court , When the bondsmen and I arrived at City Hall the desk Clerk said I could not have my car unless I pay \$59.00 for it.

I decided I would call the SMO, Office in Selma, for some one to come to Maplesville to pick me up , The mayor of Maplesville came and told me it would be all right for me to have my car , And for me to meet Trial Monday night, October 28, 1963, And then I proceed back to Selma, Alabama.

Sign Wilson M. Brown .