

SUMMARY OF EVENTS, October 22 through October 28

- I. Between October 22 and October 25, 22 election workers were arrested in Indianola for distributing leaflets without a permit. (Four SNCC workers were arrested, convicted, and appealed on the same charge in September of 1962. The charges were dropped and the bond returned when the Justice Department intervened; there was a consent agreement that no more arrests would be made under the ordinance.)
- The 22 were sentenced to \$25 fines and 30 days in jail (suspendable upon payment of fines).
- II. In Clarksdale on October 24, after attending a meeting in the home of a gubernatorial candidate, the Chairman of the Campaign Advisory Committee and 2 Yale students were arrested while crossing the street from their parked car to enter the hotel where they had planned to spend the night. They were charged with violating a curfew and put in jail.
- The next day another Yale student was arrested and charged with distributing a leaflet without a permit. He has been fined \$50. Today, four Yale students were stopped by police and told they could not stay in the Negro section of town. "Either you stay in the white section or get out," they were told. The students will spend tonight in two Negro homes.
- III. A Yale student and 2 SNCC workers arrived in Yazoo City, at 4:00 PM, October 23. At 4:30 PM the police phoned the office where they were meeting with local Negro leaders. Presently it was "suggested" that they let the police escort them out of the city to "protect" them from injury. Otherwise, the Negro leaders warned, there was no telling what might happen to them. A rally scheduled for Yazoo City for the following evening was subsequently cancelled after similar warnings.
- IV. The mayor of Columbus refused requests for permits to distribute leaflets for Aaron Henry because it would "cause racial disturbance." Requests for permission to use a sound truck in Columbus were also denied. Distribution of Mississippi Free Press has been prohibited. Similar refusals of permits for the distribution of pro-Henry materials have been reported from all over Mississippi.
- V. Two white Methodist ministers were arrested in Jackson on Sunday October 27 after they had attempted to enter the Capitol Street Methodist Church with a Negro student. There had been 15 other arrests in Jackson in the last 2 weeks for similar activity. The standard punishment for attempting to attend church services in an integrated group is 1 year in jail and \$1,000 fine.
- VI. It is commonplace for campaign workers throughout Mississippi, with the exception of the city of Greenville, to be harrassed on a variety of traffic charges. Perhaps the most difficult of these to cope with is "suspicion of auto theft," a charge which has been levelled even at people driving their own cars and carrying car registration on their person. Persons driving cars owned by relatives or borrowed from friends have found themselves detained for long periods, and, have had their cars in effect impounded by the police.

VII.

In Jackson it is the habit of the police to apprehend campaign workers en route to and from campaign offices during the evening hours. The custom to date seems to be to trail cars, quiz drivers and passengers, and search interiors, and in about every third instance, to take driver and passengers to the police station for "questioning." These procedures have produced a substantial number of traffic fines, but no arrests as of this evening.

VIII.

In Hattiesburg, the chief of police has announced that any white "agitators" found in the city limits will be sentenced to 6 months in jail and a \$500 fine. Four Yale students who had arrived there at 1:00 A.M. on October 28 were taken from their beds to the police station for "questioning" at 8:00 A.M. They were released after 3 hours and after the intervention of an FBI agent had obtained the release of one of the four who did not have his draft card with him. Subsequently, however, a Yale divinity student was picked up on "suspicion of auto theft" and convicted of "interfering with a police officer" after he had asked if the police, who were searching his car, had a warrant to do so. There have been 3 other arrests in Hattiesburg today, including that of a cafe owner who had served a meal to two Yale students. She is out on \$100 bond on charges of "illegal possession of alcohol", but before "finding" the half-pint of whiskey which formed the basis of the arrest, the police had "searched" the premises in such a fashion that the garbage had been dumped all over the floor along with a considerable part of the food stock.

IX.

The daughter of SCLC field secretary in Ruleville was arrested for "shoplifting" while shopping today.

X.

During The last two days a succession of calls has arrived at headquarters from pastors and storekeepers who had given permission for the use of their facilities for meetings, or for "freedom ballot" boxes, (On November 2, 3 and 4), rescinding said permission. Many of these calls have included bitter or pathetic descriptions of threats.

XI.

Last week a white worker in the Literacy Project of Tougaloo College was arrested while driving back to the college, charged with "obstructing the flow of traffic", grilled by detectives for half an hour ("what are you doing here?" "who are you sleeping with" "etc.") and fined. This sort of interrogation by officials occurs constantly, often without any charges being lodged, either before or after interrogation.

XII.

Responsible and careful persons, including Senior members of the journalistic corps and the chaplain of a Negro college near Jackson, had what they consider incontrovertible evidence that their phones were tapped. There is also some evidence that mail addressed to people active in the civil rights movement is tampered with.

XIII.

Threats and violence by non-official persons have added to the atmosphere and required such measures as the posting of guards near the homes of whites who have been active in desegregation efforts, etc.