

THE CANTON STORY

This report is actually a compilation of reports on Canton and Madison County, Mississippi covering the period from January 1 to March 8, 1964. Each report is presented as it was written at the time and consequently there is a little overlap in the material.

While no report of this nature can ever be complete, it is hoped that it will convey some idea of what voter registration work is like in a small town and rural county of Mississippi.

ONE man - one vote

This report has been prepared by:

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children, typing and reading classes, etc. The community center has not been established because a suitable building cannot be found. There is a center in Meridian which is functioning well. Currently the staff is also working on a selective buying campaign which is in its eighth week.

In the early 1950's a group of about 300 Negroes marched to the courthouse in Canton and demanded to be registered. A few (believed to be about 40) were successful. In the 13 years since then only 200-250 Negroes have been able to register. In the last eight months, since the staff has been in Canton, Negroes have made over 1,000 attempts to register. Only about 30 have been successful. Over 300 signed affidavits complaining of discrimination have been filed with the Justice Department in Washington.

On January 6, 1964, a selective buying campaign was started against 21 stores and 3 products (Mosby's Milk, Barq's Drinks and Hart's Bread, which are also being boycotted statewide). The staff in Canton estimates that the campaign is about 90% effective among Negroes. One local merchant has been so hard hit that in the third week of the boycott he attended a mass meeting of the Negro community and asked forgiveness and the return of their patronage.

Harassment, intimidation and violence are not new in Canton. On July 24, 1963, a local white gas station attendant, Price Lewis, shot five teenagers, who had been involved in civil rights activity, with a shotgun on Peace St. in Canton. Fortunately, none was injured seriously. Lewis was charged with the unlawful discharge of a firearm within city limits and fined \$500. He is now free. During the Democratic primaries last August whites rode around in the rural areas threatening the few registered Negroes that if they showed up at the polls they would be killed.

Since January, however, intimidation and violence have increased. Faced with both a selective buying campaign and increased voter registration activity, the white community has retaliated in a variety of ways.

The Freedom House in Canton (the building in which the staff lives) has been raided twice by police who searched it. George Raymond, CORE Task Force worker, was told by Constable Herbie Evans that every time the Justice Department comes to Canton it will cost the Negro community \$5,000. In January, Raymond was pistol-whipped by Evans. After the beating, Raymond was charged with intimidating an officer and resisting arrest. He was never tried and is out on \$70 bail.

Mass meetings are usually held twice a week in Canton. Police are always present taking license numbers, taking people's names and addresses, taking photographs of those who attend, stopping cars and asking for drivers' licenses, listening to the proceedings from outside with electronic listening devices, following people after they leave, etc.

Local Negroes are losing their jobs and being arrested for violations which would normally not be punished. Specific information is hard to get because in most cases these incidents are not reported to the staff because, taken individually, the events aren't seen as part of the general pattern.

On January 21 the Board of Mayor and Aldermen passed a city ordinance making it an offense to distribute leaflets, handbills, or circulars on city streets and sidewalks without permission from the Mayor and Chief of Police. The law specifies that a written request for permission accompanied by a copy of the leaflet must be submitted. It provides penalties of not less than \$10 nor more than \$100 and jail terms of up to 30 days. To enforce this law and deal with civil rights workers in other ways both the city and county increased their police forces the week the law was passed.

On January 22 George Washington, a local Negro grocery store owner and property holder, was arrested for "burning trash without a permit" on the sidewalk in front of his store as he had done for a number of years. Washington is in his middle fifties and has lived in Canton since 1935. He was released from jail on \$250 bail and on Monday, February 3, was fined \$100 (which he paid) and given a 30-day jail sentence suspended pending "good behavior." Also on February 3, his store was shot into by a passing car during the evening, when it was closed. Washington had two gasoline pumps in front of his store, but they were taken out on January 29 by the Pan Am company (reported to be an affiliate of Amoco). Also, all meat deliveries to his store were cut off that week. He is now getting meat secretly.

On January 23-24 nearly all the staff (all but 3 at the time) and some local people were arrested. Except for CO Chinn and Theodis Hewitt, all were arrested for distributing leaflets without a permit. Except for the juveniles, this charge was dropped and others added while they were in jail.

Those arrested:

Pete Hewitt, 17	}	Released after 2 days without bail because they are juveniles. Juvenile court hearing February 5.
Milton Esco, 17		
Levi Jackson, 15		

Released on good behavior and told that if they took part in civil rights activity they would be sent to the Oakland Training School.

Bobbi Robinson, 15 Charges against her were dropped because she and her parents signed a statement for the sheriff that Carole Merritt gave her leaflets to distribute, which provided the basis for the contributing to the delinquency of a minor charge against Carole.

The following defendants were tried Monday, February 3, in Canton city court (Mayor's Court) and found guilty by Justice of the Peace L.S. Matthews (who is also Mayor).

James Collier	Altering the inside of a building without a permit. Sentenced: \$100 and 15 days in city jail. Released Feb. 22 on \$500 appeal bond supplied by the National Council of Churches.
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C.O. Chinn	Intimidating Easter Branch; \$500 and six months in county prison for both of them. Chinn released about Feb. 6 on \$500 appeal bond privately raised. Hewitt released Feb. 21, \$500 appeal bond raised by the National Council of Churches.
Theodis Hewitt	

Carole Merritt Contributing to the delinquency of a minor and publishing libel, for each count \$500 and 6 months. Released February 21 on \$1000 appeal bond raised by the National Council of Churches.

Joe Lee Watts, 20 Interfering with a business and publishing libel; Each count \$500 and 6 months; released February 10 on \$1,000 appeal bond, privately raised.

Richard Jewett } Publishing libel and disturbing the peace; for each
Patricia Meyers, 18 } count \$500 and 6 months.
Martha Jones, 21 } Patricia Meyers released on \$1,000 appeal bond,
William Veal, 18 } privately raised, about Feb. 5
Sylvester Lee } The other 4 released on \$1,000 appeal bond each,
Palmer, 20 } on Feb. 21, raised by the NCC

Alma Bosley Contributing to the delinquency of a minor, publishing libel, disturbing the peace; \$500 and six months on each count; released Feb. 21 on \$1500 appeal bond raised by the NCC.

With the exception of Collier, who was in the city jail because he had violated a city ordinance, all the others were in the Madison County jail. During their stay, some were moved to the Jackson jail for six days for an unknown reason.

On Monday, January 27, George Raymond was told to get out of town by plainclothes policeman John Chance. He did not leave. On Wednesday, January 29, about 11:30 p.m., Raymond was driving from Canton to Jackson following a community meeting in the Pleasant Green Church. He was stopped by the state highway patrol on Highway 51 just outside Canton. He was taken behind the patrol car and found Constable Herbie Evans waiting there. Evans challenged Raymond to a fist fight and removed his badge, gun and watch and verbally taunted him to fight. When Raymond remained passive, Evans kicked him several times, knocking him against the back of the patrol car. Evans then let him go. The passengers in Raymond's car could not see the incident; the only possible witness was a highway patrolman who turned his back during the incident.

On February 3, 1964, two local Negro teenagers were beaten by police, some in uniform, some not, after they left a voter registration meeting on Monday, Feb. 3. The police stopped them in front of their truck outside the church, asked for identification, searched them, drew a gun and told them they were under arrest. Willie Galloway, Jr. was taken behind the jail and hit in the head and stomach by officers and Constable Herbie Evans. They asked him a number of questions about his (Galloway's) father and mentioned that they knew that his father had tried to register recently. The beating, with their fists, was mixed with the questioning. They told Galloway that it would not be good for him if they saw him at any more meetings. They told him to tell his father, a carpenter, that if he went to work the next day, the men on whose property he was working would have an undertaker carry him off the property. They told him not to tell anyone what happened and that if he did, he had better catch the next train for St. Louis. The other young man, Arthur Harris, was taken inside the police station and questioned about what went on at the meetings, what various speakers said. Combined with the questioning they hit him on the head with a

rubber siphon hose, broke a nightstick over his head, cut some hair off the top of his head with a razor, fired a bullet near his feet and held a pistol loaded with blanks up to his head and then fired a blank close to his body (he has powder burns on his coat). They told him not to tell anyone what happened or they would put a weight around his neck and drop him in the river. They also told him that if he came into Canton (he lives in the rural area), he had better be home by 9 o'clock. They were not actually arrested, apparently.

On February 7, Claude Weaver and Ed Hollander were arrested for allegedly "intimidating by threats of force and violence" a woman named Charlean Smith and her child. The threats were supposed to have been to keep her from accepting a job at the C & C store #2, one of the stores on the selective patronage list. Neither Weaver nor Hollander had ever met or heard of Charlean Smith prior to their arrest. They were found guilty on February 10 and sentenced to \$500 and six months. Both were released February 21 on \$500 appeal bond each, raised by the National Council of Churches. They had been in the Madison County jail.

On February 15, Henry Lee Chinn, 21 (son of CORE Task Force worker C.O. Chinn) was arrested for speeding and not having his driver's license with him. Plainclothes policeman John Chance and another policeman questioned him about civil rights activity, the whereabouts of his father and beat him on and off for over half an hour. They hit him in the face, head and stomach with open hands, fists and a nightstick. He was confined in a cell briefly afterwards, then released.

On February 23, Richard Jewett was arrested, just two days after he had gotten out of jail, on a charge of reckless driving. He was released later that day after paying a \$36 fine.

In January state senator Ed Henry and representative P.L. Hughes, both from Madison County, introduced bills to make it illegal to promote selective buying campaigns (boycotts are already illegal) by the use of leaflets and other means. One of the bills has passed the state senate.

On February 25, the state legislature passed and the governor signed a bill providing for "mutual assistance pacts." The bill provides for cities to loan each other police and equipment to deal with any problems. Though the plan had been in the hopper, it seems to have been rushed through with Canton in mind. Madison County Sheriff Jack S. Cauthen has told newsmen that every city, large and small, is standing by to help Canton.

No one knows what will happen in Canton on Friday, February 28, Freedom Day. Negroes are going to attempt to walk to the courthouse, stand in line and register. Norman Thomas and about 15 ministers from various denominations, under the auspices of the National Council of Churches, will be present as observers. These ministers will be from such places as New York, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Hays and Wichita, Kansas; Chicago, Chapel Hill, NC. and Westfield, N.J.

Local officials likely to be involved: Sheriff--Jack S. Cauthen, Police Chief--Dan C. Thompson, Assistant Chief--W.R. Cook, Registrar--Foote Campbell, Mayor--L.S. Matthews, Deputy Sheriff--Billy Noble (former sheriff and very powerful), City Attorney--Robert Goza

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Freedoms Day in Canton saw over 300 Negroes stand in line to register in the state's largest registration attempt. Negroes from all over rural Madison County waited at the courthouse between three and five hours in the chilly air. Registrar L. Foote Campbell admitted only five to take the registration test. He told them they would be notified by mail "in about 30 days" whether they had passed the test. Despite Canton's history of violence and harassment there were only minor incidents as more than 50 police patrolled the streets. The shotgun and tear gas equipped police - city, county, state, special and some from other counties - prevented any crowds of on-lookers from gathering. As each Negro took his place in line he was asked his name, address and business at the courthouse. Only residents of Madison County 21 years old and over were allowed to remain on the courthouse grounds. Many of the Negroes were over 40; some were in their 70's and 80's. A group of 15 ministers from the National Council of Churches and agents from the FBI and Justice Department were present as observers.

The registration drive, organized by CORE and SNCC, under the structure of COFO (Council of Federated Organizations), was viewed as largely successful by its leaders. Said CORE Field Secretary Dave Dennis, "Today was a dramatization showing that the Negro people in rural Mississippi want to vote and are willing to risk harassment and intimidation in order to register." "The only thing preventing them from registering is the unwillingness of local officials to let them register." Dennis said the drive would continue with smaller numbers for at least the next several weeks. Additional large demonstrations were a "definite possibility" he said.

"Many more people could have taken the test," Dennis stated, "if county officials had heeded our request for additional registrars on Freedom Day." "Negroes have been deprived in every conceivable way for hundreds of years." "Society has to make that up as quickly as possible." Dennis added, "they managed to obtain plenty of extra police."

Dennis, who also serves as COFO's assistant program director, said that a new strategy was being used in Mississippi, one of preventing incidents during publicized events but still not registering Negroes. Because of this, he said, many people think that violence and brutality have lessened in Mississippi and that Negroes are being allowed to register. Dennis called both impressions "very false."

At his news conference on Friday in Jackson, Governor Paul B. Johnson urged citizens to stay away from demonstrations, saying that such matters "should be left in the hands of law enforcement officers." He added, "When situations such as these arise, I'd like to see the people laugh."

Apparently with Canton in mind, the state legislature on Wednesday, February 26 passed a bill providing for "mutual assistance pacts" among Mississippi municipalities. The bill provides for cities to pool "personnel, equipment, supplies and material" to combat natural disasters and for the "prevention and alleviation of riots,

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or civil disturbances of the peace and tranquility within such municipalities." The act provided that it should be "liberally construed" to serve its purposes. The presence in Canton of police from other counties indicates that the bill was being put to prompt use.

The legislature also passed a bill allowing cities to restrict to movement of any citizens. The bill provides that in order "to protect the property, health and lives and to enhance the general welfare of the community" municipalities may "restrict the movements of the citizens, or any group thereof, of such municipalities when there is eminent (sic) danger to the public safety because of freedom of movement thereof." On the day after Freedom Day, Saturday, February 29, Canton Mayor L. Stanley Matthews declared a 10 PM curfew on all citizens.

A third bill passed by the legislature last week was introduced by state Senator Ed Henry from Canton. Canton's selective buying campaign against 21 stores and three products is in its ninth week and is about 90% effective. Senator Henry's bill provides penalties of up to \$500 and six months in county jail "if any person shall wilfully and maliciously print, circulate or distribute" any material designed to "wilfully and maliciously interfere with, or prevent another from exercising a lawful trade or calling, or engaging in lawful use and enjoyment of his property."

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CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

On the evening of Freedom Day (Friday, February 28) Milton Esco, 17 of Canton, was arrested outside the Freedom House at 7:15 PM. By being around the Freedom House he had, apparently, violated a juvenile court order directing him not to be involved in civil rights activities. Esco had been arrested on Jan. 23 for violating an ordinance hastily passed by the city on Jan. 21 requiring a permit to distribute leaflets. Unlike his first arrest when he was not held in jail, this time he was kept in the county jail all week until his juvenile court hearing on Friday, March 6. The staff in Canton reports he is out but hasn't gotten the details of what happened at the hearing. Also, no one has yet been able to verify reports that he was roughed up in jail the night he was arrested.

On the evening of Freedom Day there was a mass meeting of over 200 at Asbury Methodist Church on Cameron Street.

On Saturday, Feb. 29, about 50 people stood in line at the courthouse to register; only two were admitted to take the test. On Saturdays the courthouse closes at noon. During the afternoon a police car cruised through the Negro areas (don't know about the white areas) announcing over a loudspeaker that Canton Mayor L. Stanley Matthews had called a 10 PM curfew for all citizens and that anyone on the streets after that time would be picked up for questioning. During the week leading up to Freedom Day the state legislature passed a bill, among others that seemed related to the Canton situation, authorizing municipalities to restrict the movement of any and all citizens to protect the public safety. It is not known whether the Mayor was acting under the new statute. The curfew has continued through the present (Sunday, March 8, this being written March 9). On Friday, March 6, George Raymond, CORE Task Force worker, called the police station and was told that the curfew was on indefinitely. In its first nine days there are no known arrests for violations.

On Sunday, March 1, between 7:30 and 8:00 PM a young man phoned the Freedom House and said in a slow, almost sing-song voice, "in about an hour we're going to throw a bomb up there." Lenora Thurmond, CORE Task Force worker, who took the call acknowledged the message with something like "Oh yeah" and the caller hung up.

On Monday, March 2, the students at Rogers Junior-Senior High School staged a boycott. Monday's attendance figures for Canton Negro schools, as given by J.M. Allen, Superintendent of Canton Public Schools, were: 2,625 absent and 915 present. At the Rogers school 1,396 were absent and 316 present, these figures obtained by James Anderson, a student there, who called the school. The students, who organized the boycott almost completely by themselves, gave 13 reasons for it.

1. Books in poor repair and not enough of them
2. Not enough chemicals and equipment for the chemistry laboratory
3. Typewriters in poor condition and not enough of them
4. Home economics laboratory poorly equipped
5. No physical education for high school students

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6. No foreign languages taught
7. Insufficient first aid equipment
8. Insufficient library
9. Inadequate shop facilities
10. Overcrowded and broken busses
11. Overcrowded classes
12. Building in poor repair
13. No lockers for students

During the boycott about 115 students participated in a Freedom School held at the Pleasant Green Holiness Church. In the morning they discussed nonviolence, what was wrong with their school and why they were participating in the boycott. After lunch they organized themselves, set up committees and discussed plans for the future. Nothing has come of their request to meet with a representative of the Board of Education on Friday, March 6.

On Tuesday, March 3, all the students who were absent were given letters to take home to their parents, addressed to "Negro School Patrons of the Canton Schools," it was signed by J.M. Allen. There was a form on the bottom of the letter for parents to explain why their children were absent on Monday. Students unable to provide excused absences would receive zeroes for their work, the letter admonished.

On Monday, March 2, Sheriff Jack S. Cauthen stopped James Collier, SNCC field worker, two white ministers and two other field workers from canvassing in the sawmill quarters. With the Sheriff were about a dozen other men, mostly in pickup trucks, one of whom claimed to be the owner of the land who said he wouldn't let the canvassers on his property. Sheriff Cauthen also told Collier that he "had heard all about" him and that up to now he had been protecting him but now that Collier was playing with dynamite (apparently canvassing with white ministers in Negro areas) he would have to leave town. Cauthen told Collier that something would have happened to him long ago were it not for the protection he had received.

Tuesday about 10 PM the Sheriff stopped Collier as he was going up the steps to the courthouse grounds, leading some people to register. Cauthen told Collier that apparently he hadn't gotten the message the previous day but that he had really meant it. He gave Collier 30 seconds to get off the steps and told him not to come back again. Later in the day Collier talked with city attorney Robert Goza about the possible lifting of the curfew. After that Cauthen told Collier that if it were lifted, he'd see that it was put back on, adding something to the effect that he thought Collier might try something like that.

On Tuesday evening, about 7:30 PM Collier was stopped by about 6 white men in two pickup trucks (one red, one blue and white) while he was walking on Hickory Street with Joe Lee Watts, Marcellus Byrd and Henry Lee Chinn. They told him that there were people in the community who would rather kill him than Medgar Evers.

On Tuesday a Negro teacher, Tom Summers was arrested for driving with a revoked license (which is true). He paid his fine and was released on Wednesday.

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At about noon on Monday, March 2, George Raymond was arrested for driving a faulty car (bad brakes). Raymond says that the owner of the car is a mechanic and that he says there was nothing wrong with the brakes. He was released from the city jail on Tuesday, about 12:30 PM after paying a \$16 fine and \$2 jail costs. In the jail Sheriff Jack Cauthen told Raymond to shave his beard off or he would do it for him. George did it himself.

On Monday night there was a mass meeting on the Pleasant Greer Church of about 140 people.

On Tuesday, March 3, about noon the owner of the car and Matt Suarez, CORE Task Force worker, went to pick up the car which was in the custody of Campbell's Recker Service. They went first to his house where the car was parked, but Campbell (Charles L.) was having lunch and told them to go to his place of business. They went there about 1:30 and paid \$30. They went back to Campbell's house, got the car keys from his wife and got into the car which was still outside his house. They discovered that the brakes had been removed and that a hole had been punched in the muffler. They had driven about two blocks when stopped by police and given a ticket for improper brakes. Suarez explained that they had turned the motor off before the police had come close enough to have heard the faulty muffler.

On Tuesday night there was a mass meeting of about 80 people at Pleasant Green Church.

On Wednesday morning, March 4, at least several hundred students were turned away from Rogers High School because they didn't have their absence excuse slips for Monday. It is also reported that on Wednesday morning James Jones, Jr., principal of Rogers, made a complaint to police as a result of a discussion he had with Scott Smith (identified below).

About 10:30 Wednesday morning, nearly the entire city and county police forces raided the Freedom House. Most waited outside while Sheriff Cauthen, Deputy Billy Noble and five or six Canton police came inside. Asked for a warrant, the police said they didn't need one as they walked into the building. They sent the local adults and children who were there at the time home and arrested everyone else for "investigation," a total of 12.

James Collier, SNCC field worker, Negro, 28, from Jackson, Miss.
 George Raymond, CORE Task Force, Negro, 21, from New Orleans
 Mattheo Suarez, CORE Task Force, Negro, 26, from New Orleans
 C.O. Chinn, CORE Task Force, Negro, 42, from Canton
 Joe Lee Matts, CORE Task Force, Negro, 20, from Canton
 Theodis Hewitt, CORE Task Force, Negro, 25, from Canton
 Richard Jewett, CORE Task Force, white, 30, from New York City
 Andrew Lee Green, SNCC field worker, Negro, 29, from Hattiesburg, Miss
 Marcellus Byrd, Canton volunteer, Negro, c. 21
 John Newman, white, 20, from Kalamazoo, Mich., with the National Conference of Methodist Youth Fellowship
 Stanford Brown, volunteer from Chicago, Negro, 29
 arrested 5 minutes after others, at Pleasant Green Church.

Lenora Thurmond was not at the Freedom House at the time. The rest of the staff were either in the rural areas or outside the county at the time of the arrests.

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In the county jail everyone was questioned about whether they had been on school property that morning. They also received lectures on the error of their ways (that the students should be in school, that the higher the school's average daily attendance, the larger their budget, etc.). They were told that they could be charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, aiding and abetting disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace.

Also at about 10:30 AM Rev. Frank Gibson of Cincinnati was asked to come to the Sheriff's office for questioning which he did.

Between 4 and 5:30 PM all but two were released. C.O. Chinn was held for disturbing the peace and carrying a concealed weapon and Scott Smith for disturbing the peace. They appeared before Justice of the Peace Milton H. Sandige on Thursday, March 5. No staff attended and they don't know just what happened at the trial. What they think is that Smith was sentenced to \$500 and 6 months and that Chinn, for some reason, wasn't tried. Chinn's bond is reportedly \$1,000, Smith's \$500, both required to be property or surety bond.

On Wednesday night, March 4, there was a mass meeting at the Pleasant Green Church of about 100 people.

Property was secured in Canton for Chinn's and Smith's bond. James Collier went to the sheriff's office on Friday, March 6, to get the two out. The deputy in the sheriff's office was filling out the papers when Billy Noble came in and asked Collier if he were a lawyer. When Collier said no, Noble told Collier to get out, that they wouldn't give him the time of day. George Raymond went down and was told that he would have to get a lawyer's seal on the papers. On Saturday George went again and this time Noble told him, "You have our registrar in Jackson, we have these niggers in jail. Come back Monday."

On Wednesday afternoon March 4, three boys were arrested in the town of Madison, Madison County. They are Floyd Bouldin, 19, trespassing and resisting arrest; Ernest Bouldin, 16, trespassing and resisting arrest; and Arthur Lee Bouldin, 18, trespassing, resisting arrest and carrying a concealed weapon. The story which came to us third hand is this. The three, plus a brother Samuel (who was driving) and a sister Benny Lou, were driving in Madison. They pulled out onto a street behind a highway patrol car and in front of the car of Constable Runo Holley. All three cars happened to stop at a store down the road. Constable Holley gave the Bouldins a hard time, claiming they had pulled out too close in front of him. The highway patrolman left without saying anything, indicating that they hadn't done anything wrong. The Bouldins and Holley then went to their respective homes, but the Bouldins decided to go to Holley's house and apologize to him (one of them had mowed his lawn and knew him to some degree). When Holley saw them walking toward his house, he must have thought he was being attacked for he came out of his house and fired a pistol to the side of them. He had another man hold a rifle on them while he handcuffed the three brothers. Benny Lou and maybe Samuel watched this from their car. The three were taken to the county jail in Canton. Their father was at the sheriff's office arranging to post bond when someone there said that he had been seen on Freedom Day trying to register and they wouldn't let his sons out. The brothers were tried on Friday but no one knows the results yet.

On Thursday, March 5, the U.S. Justice Department filed a suit in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi charging

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Madison County registrar L.F. Campbell with discrimination and asking the court to issue a preliminary injunction against him and the State of Mississippi, named as a codefendant in the suit. A closed hearing was held Saturday, March 7, in Judge Harold Cox's office. He has asked for briefs to be submitted by Tuesday, March 10. His decision is expected Wednesday.

On Friday night, March 6, about 9 PM Andrew Lee Green was arrested in Sharon, Madison County. He was arrested while sitting in the Pleasant Green Church by Billy Noble at the request of Forrest County (Hattiesburg) Sheriff. The charges against him were speeding, driving without a license (which is true) and an unpaid traffic ticket. He was taken to Hattiesburg on Saturday morning and was being held for \$40 or 40 days. The staff in Canton sent money to get him out but they don't know if he is out.

There are not very accurate records of the people going to the courthouse. The staff is trying to improve on this. The best available for last week are:

	Went to Courthouse	Took test
Monday, March 2	15	5
Tuesday, March 3	12	9
Wednesday, March 4	5	3
Thursday, March 5	11	10
Friday, March 6	12	8
Saturday, March 7	(unknown as the staff was in Jackson, hoping to be present (with some Madison Co. local) at the hearing of the Justice Department's	

During the week the following incidents were reported to the staff; none has been really checked on.

1. Lank Williams (40, a truck driver) and his family live and work on a plantation owned by Joe Smith and Billy Leadbelly, northeast of Sharon in Madison County. He has lived in Madison County all his life. On February 29 Smith told all his employees that anyone who went to try to register on Friday (Freedom Day) would be fired and would have to leave their homes on the plantation. Lank Williams' two sons had already decided they would go and they did. On the afternoon of the 28th Leadbelly told Lank that he had seen his sons at the courthouse and that they (the sons) would have to get off the place. They did immediately and a week later Lank and his wife (no information about any other members of the family) moved off to keep the family together.

2. Lilly Mae Murphy worked in a clothing store in "downtown" Canton. Her boss told her that if she tried to register she would be fired. She tried to register on Freedom Day and was fired.

3. It is reported that on Friday, Feb. 28, the "boss" of the county maintenance department order space cleared in the truck shed, saying it was for demonstrators if the jails didn't have enough room. He told his employees that if they tried to register they would be fired. Apparently addressing his employees, he told all of them who were "with me" to come over to the side of the shed where he was standing. It is reported that less than half of the 50-75 employees went over, but as far as it known, none tried to register.