

Harassments in Jackson

Sunday, May 24

3 p.m. Emmy Schrader, a white summer volunteer, was walking on Lynch Street opposite the COFO office. The police came up to her and asked who she was and where she lived. They told her that she shouldn't live with niggers, that niggers would kill her. When the police found out that she was a volunteer worker they told her that she had better get a job soon or else they would arrest her for vagrancy. The police then followed her until she reached the book storage house towards which she had been headed.

Monday, May 25

1 a.m. Richard Jewett, a white CORE worker, was picked up while waiting for a taxi after going to a movie. He was in the company of Doris Derby, Euvester Simpson, and Dona Moses, all Negro SNCC workers. Jewett was taken to the city jail, beaten, and charged with drunkenness and vagrancy. At the trial the following day the vagrancy charge was dropped, but a \$15 bond for drunkenness was posted.

1 p.m. Hunter Morey, a white SNCC worker, Alan Lerner and Charles Woll, both white law students here for the summer, were stopped by police. When Woll and Lerner would not give their residence addresses the police threatened to arrest them on suspicion of being fugitives. Woll and Lerner still would not give their addresses, so they were taken to police headquarters. There another police officer spoke to them, apologized somewhat for what had happened, and had the officers take them back to where they had been picked up.

6:30 p.m. Andrew Barnes, a Negro SNCC worker, was driving a car containing Margaret Burnham, James Pittman, Negro SNCC workers; Bob Weil, a white SNCC worker; Nedra Winans, Nancy Jervis, and Emmy Schrader, all white summer volunteers. The car was stopped, and an officer had Barnes turn on the lights and step on the brakes. The officer said there was only one light back and front although there were actually two lights in the back. The officer then told the car to follow him to headquarters. At the police station the officer asked Barnes who all the people in the car were. When he heard that they were working for COFO he told them to get out of the car and come into the station. There the other people in the car were forced to stand in the waiting room while the police talked to Barnes. The police charged Barnes \$7 for improper lights and \$15 for an earlier suspended sentence. Several times while talking to Barnes the officers grabbed his chin whiskers and pulled on them. Subsequently the car was allowed to return to the office.

8:15 p.m. Pete Brett, a white summer volunteer, was driving a '58 Volkswagen containing Stephen Sokoloff and Bill Light, both white summer volunteers; and Herman Gates, a local Negro worker from Belzoni. The police stopped the car and asked for Brett's license. The license had expired several days earlier, so Brett was told to follow the police to the station. At the station speeding was added to the charges, the police claiming on the ticket that Brett had been doing between 115 and 130 miles per hour. The car had to be driven back to the COFO office to get the money; Brett was kept in jail until the money was found.

10 p.m. Charles Cobb, a Negro SNCC worker, was returning to the office from his residence. A police car pulled up next to him and without saying anything simply followed him the three or four blocks to the office.

From 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. police cars seemed to be cruising constantly in front of the COFO office. The cars would drive up and down, the officers looking out the car windows at the office or at the people in front of the office.

11:50 p.m. Bill Light and Emmy Schrader, white summer volunteers, entered the Limelight Cafe next door to the COFO office. Each ordered a hamburger, Emmy ordered beer to drink, Bill ordered soda. Almost immediately police officers came in and walked directly up to the table. They stood there, just watching. Emmy took a drink of beer. One of the police officers tapped her on the shoulder with a flashlight, told her to get up, and ordered her out to the police car. At the police station an officer told her she had no business coming to Jackson, that she should go on home where she came from. She was charged with public drunkenness though she had drunk less than one-half can of beer. She was released in the morning after posting a \$15 bond.

Tuesday, May 26

1 a.m. A car driven by Charles Woll, a white law student, left the office. In the car were Alan Lerner, a white law student; Charles Cobb, a Negro SNCC worker; Hunter Morey and Bob Weil, white SNCC workers. The car was stopped almost immediately by the police. Woll was charged with having a faulty muffler. The muffler was not perfect; there was a question of judgement about the muffler. The car went down to the station; a \$12 fine was paid. The car left the station; again it was stopped. The car was said to have faulty lights--even though at the station they had been told that the lights were all right. They drove back to the station and paid a \$7 fine. The car drove away again. The car was stopped a third time--for faulty muffler once more. They drove back to the station. After talking to the officers the car was released without payment of a third fine. The car finally reached its destination near the COFO office at about 3:15 a.m.

1 a.m. Attorney Larry Warren, white, of Detroit was followed from the COFO office all the way across town to his hotel by police.

2 a.m. Ed Hamlett, a white SNCC worker, started to drive Jesse Morris and Don White, Negro SNCC workers; Mandy Samstein and Casey Hayden, white SNCC workers, to their respective homes. After Jesse had been dropped off the police started to follow the car. At Casey's residence the police came up to the car and asked to see Hamlett's license. The officers said he was guilty of the "tri-state" law (license in one state, car registration in a second state, and driving in a third). The officers then took Hamlett down to the police station. After some discussion at the police station it was decided that possibly there was no such law. Hamlett was driven back to his car, and he was able to drop off the rest of the passengers without incident.

10:15 a.m. Stephen Sokoloff and Pete Brett, both white summer volunteers, were walking with Herman Gates, a Negro worker from Belzoni, to the office. A light blue Plymouth, Mississippi plate HB1010, driven by a husky man pulled up along side of them and asked where they were going. When they replied that they were going to the COFO office the man demanded that they leave town at once. On finding out that Herman lived with the two others, the man demanded that Herman get in the car with him. The man then drove Herman out of town, told him to get out of the car, struck him several times on the arm with a leather strap, and left him standing by the railroad tracks. The

man told him to get out of town or else he'd be killed. The man then patted the gun he was wearing on his hip several times. The man then got into his car and drove off.

5 p.m. Pete Stoner, a white SNCC worker, was followed when his car left the COFO office. When Pete failed to stop at some railroad tracks, he was stopped by police and given a ticket. Customarily in Mississippi cars need only slow down at railroad crossings although there is a law that cars must stop completely. Stoner was taken to the police station and held until the \$17 fine was paid.

5 p.m. On the way to the station with Pete Stoner the police car stopped a car driven by Sanford Russell, a visiting Air Force Sergeant. Russell was charged with speeding and had to pay a \$17 fine. The police also told Russell that they were going to call his base and get his superiors to order him back to the base in Alabama from which he had come.