

County Convention Report  
Canton, Mississippi (Madison)  
June 23, 1964

Dorothy Teal: Communications

Five delegates from the west precincts of Canton tried to attend the Madison County Democratic Convention Tuesday, June 23, in the courthouse in Canton, Mississippi.

Mrs. Margaret Glover, 408 Cowan St.; Mrs. Alberta Kelly, 501 N. Singleton; Mrs. Annie Devine, Apt. 347-D, Housing Project; Leonard Clay, 500 Welch; and ~~Mr~~ the Rev. W. M. McCloud, Rt. 1, Box 6-B, made up delegation of elected representatives from the west precinct of the city. They reported that they entered the courtroom at 10 a.m. and sat down without interference. Sixteen men were seated around a table.

Mrs. Devine said that Mayor Stanley Matthews, who appeared to be chairman of the group, appointed three men to a credentials committee. The committee left the room and returned shortly with a report or statement on a sheet of paper. The report was handed to Chairman Matthews, who announced that the credentials committee report was accepted unanimously. The report was not read aloud.

Then Mayor Matthews announced that this meeting was a meeting of the executive committee and that no visitors were allowed. After a moment's silence he repeated the announcement. Mrs. Devine requested permission to speak and said her group was the delegation from the west precinct seeking recognition from the Madison County Democratic Convention.

At this point the Mayor said that there "wasn't going to be any convention," reported Mrs. Devine. He repeated his announcement about the group being an executive committee and asked the west precinct delegation to leave, whereupon they left.

Having been denied a chance to meet with other elected Madison County Democrats, the west precinct delegation held their own "county convention," electing Leonard Clay as chairman. They selected the following representatives to attend the Democratic District Caucus: Mrs. Annie Devine, delegate; and the Rev. W. M. McCloud and Leonard Clay, alternates.