

INCIDENTS REPORTED TO THE JACKSON OFFICE DURING A
24 HOUR PERIOD:

Ruleville

- June 24, 2 AM: A car driven by whites circled noisily around the Negro community for about two hours, hurling bottles at cars and into homes. Seven incidents were reported to the police, but they never arrived on the scene.
- June 25, 2 AM: Williams Chapel, near the home of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Negro candidate for Congress, was firebombed. Volunteer fireman quickly had the fire under control. The church was a center of voter registration activity.

Drew

- June 24: 30 voter registration workers from Greenville made the first efforts to register Negro citizens in Drew and met with open hostility from local whites. Verbal abuse and threats were hurled at them from circling cars and trucks, some of which were equipped with "vigilante" gun racks. One white man stopped his car and said, "I've got something here for you," brandishing a gun.

Greenwood

- June 23 - 24: 2 separate cars of Magazine reporters were chased at speeds up to 90 mph by a car driven by whites on their way from Ruleville to Greenwood. The reporters were returning from a public meeting in Ruleville held that evening.

Local whites are reported to be trying to intimidate voter registration workers by circling again and again around the SMCC office at night.

Greenville

- June 24: Summer volunteer, Morton Thomas, who left Greenville to carry on voter registration work in nearby Hollandale, had to retrace to Greenville because the Mayor and police force in Hollandale said he could not sleep or work in the Negro community. The Mayor claimed that there was a city ordinance to that effect.

Canton

- June 24: A car frequently used by CORE workers was struck by a bullet about 9:15 PM approximately 2 miles outside of Jackson on the road to Canton. The car was driven by a Canton Negro, Eddie LePaul. The shot came from the grass at the side of the road.

(over)

Last night a Canton policeman threatened to strike CORE worker Scott Smith with a shotgun. The policeman accused him of trying to take over the town, and of having told a white man to get out of town. Smith denied the charges.

Moss Point

June 24: The keeper of the Knights of Pythias Hall reported seeing a white man set fire to the building soon after midnight. Damage was minimal, as the keeper soon had the fire under control. The building was to be used for a coming mass meeting. SNCC volunteers had just passed out leaflets announcing the meeting.

Two Negro teenagers were arrested for allegedly having insulted a white woman. They were released the next day after bond was posted.

Two white summer volunteers, Howard Kirschbaum and Ron Ridenour, were arrested shortly before midnight on the 23rd and subjected to a night of mental harassment and intimidation in the Jackson County Jail, Pascagoula. They were released the next day, with no formal charges.

Collins

June 24: 40 M-1 Rifles and 1,000 rounds of ammunition were stolen from the National Guard Armory in the early hours of the morning.

McComb

June 24: At least five bomb threats have been reported in the two days since the Monday night bombings in McComb.

Vicksburg

June 24: SNCC staff workers coming back from a mass meeting at nearby Yorkena spotted a suspicious-looking 1959 Buick with no license plates. The same car parked for some time in front of the Freedom House that night.

Jackson

June 23: A Negro man was hit twice in the head by gunfire while following a car driven by two white men who had just fired into a Negro cafe on Valley St. The wounded man, Marion Tarvin, 26, was released from University hospital with a bullet still in his scalp.

June 24: About noon a group of white men tried to enter the house of Mrs. Grace Helms at 714 Weaver St., and other homes in the area. They threatened to return again and again until they found some Negro boys with whom they had fought the night before. The previous night the police had picked up the Negro boys involved in the fight, but had not even taken the names of the whites.