

July 8 - 1964 - Moss Point

Weekly Report 7/8 - 7/13

Rev. Winham's wife called Dr. Calhoun's wife (the former employer of Mrs. Grandinson who is housing 2 cofeers and was fired from her job yesterday because of it) to seek an appointment about the incident. She was refused.

Rev. Winham has been trying to talk to leading whites in the community with little success. He talked with the editor and leading reporter (Haines and St Pe) of the Miss. Press Register about the shootings of July 6 and their coverage (also about their being shot at while coming to the meeting). They admitted bias and a need to stay alive financially.

7 Cofeers and 2 SCLC visitors today from Gulfport.

171 freedom registration forms filled today.

Mermie and John went researching. Library and court house were helpful. Mermie is doing research for her "sociology class." Also may get a phone for \$30 according to the phone co.

8 youth came back with 25 borrowed books from the library. Checked out about 20.

Freedom School- Sue Ryerson talked about So. Africa this morning trying in the two revolutions (Miss. Negroes). 35 attending students. In the afternoon, the general classes went on with some 40 students. There are about 80 youth who are always around participating one day in school another in canvassing.

5 Negroes have been fired from their jobs since yesterday because of their attending Monday's meeting and for housing 2 of us.

2 Justice Department people were here today (Rosenberg was one). They were very nice and wanted us to send them any significant complaint.

A local Negro, on his own, took two people to register today. They passed. Monday and Tuesday cofeers took 13 people down - only two passed. There may be discrimination on the part of the registrar against cofeers. We have been gathering people to take to the court house for next Monday.

Mermie and Debbie, for two days, have been receiving constant telephone calls with no one answering or silly statements made. Keeps them awake at night. (After tonight's mass meeting, Mermie called "our friend" Constable Alford about this. There was a general conversation; Alford said they would try to do something but they couldn't do much; they too get stupid calls. They have tried tapping phones over things like this but it's not a good idea. He reassured us that they were protecting us by "canvassing" our homes. Mermie was very appreciative. (It was a friendly, innocent conversation).

Mass Meeting: Some 500 persons attended. There was initially a general fear in the hearts of everyone. Charles Glenn spoke in length about the meaning and necessity of the struggle. The initial signing was very loud and emotional. Guyot spoke about why and how everyone should work. A work shop on precinct meetings was conducted. Local Negroes participated - did a good job. About 40 people signed to go to a work shop Sat. to learn how to fill out registration forms and then to go to court house Monday. 21 cars were offered for cofe

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work. \$28 was collected with 23 persons committed to do canvassing for contributions. 40 more people signed up to do canvassing here and surrounding community..total of 60 now. The police were in here in full force. Deputy Palmer was inside taping meeting. Some of us expressed our appreciation of their protection but not their "spying". (Also some 15 adults signed to take classes).

(Later some local Negroes gave us some info. on the earlier shooting). (Someone knows the license number and description of the car that did the shooting. It has been reported to the FBI. They are returning tomorrow to investigate. Also when Miss Stallworth was shot, 2 other young Negroes girls were wounded - not seriously - one in the collar bone one in the leg - probably ricochets). ~~the~~

As the meeting ended, we sang "We Shall Overcome"..everyone seemed to be remembering the previous evening when we were shot at while singing.

(Mervie's calling the police and my asking them to be at the meeting seemed to begin to establish a sense of respect and confidence???????)