

Daily Report - Moss Point - July 9

The Justice Department man came back (Rosenberg) took lists of attempted registrations, statements of job losses due to C.R. participation, of shootings, of threats etc. Wants completed forms on all pertinent info. sent to Wash. D.C.

13 people went to the court house to register, 1 didn't attend, 4 passed, 8 failed. All seemed literate with 6 to 10 years schooling.

Some canvassers talked to local Negro cafe owner about registering. Sheriff had told him that if he went to register, they would close him up. Several people have been threatened in this manner by Sheriff Byrd.

13 youth went (local Negroes) to the Royal theater in Moss Point to buy tickets, they were refused. 1 was refused service at a white restaurant.

Several Moss Point officers went to a 5th district meeting in Hattiesburg to learn about the Freedom Demo. Party and Freedom Registration. Later they went to Gulfport to hear the Freedom singers. The meeting lacked enthusiasm and spirit. Guyot talked about the community allowing the 3 cafe arrests of that day because of their apathy.

A new group of 3 Negroes have formed an anti-cafe campaign distributing leaflets in Moss Point and Passapatania. Purpose is to discourage Negroes from participating in Civil Rights. Sheriff Byrd has given them his blessings. So has the NCC and Chamber of Commerce. While canvassing in Passapatania yesterday, we met with stronger opposition than before probably due, in part, to their work.

Howard Kirschbaum returned today from N.Y. He will be working in Moss Point all summer. While in N.Y. he raised \$2000 for CDR.

July 10 - Moss Point

Freedom school made plans for next weeks schedule. They are setting up adult classes for some 20 adults.

125 Freedom forms filled. 5 went to the court house - 1 passed.

Mernie talked with the registrar, the following is the gist of it: no way to count no. of Negroes registered - against law since 1958 to designate white or Negro on registration books. Not allowed to set up deputy registrar outside of circuit clerk's office - except once every 4 years under special election conditions when all state officials are being elected. When told there would be a lot of people trying to register on Monday, he replied that he would only be able to take 3 or 4 at a time because he and 3 others in the office would be busy with circuit and county court business and there would only be one person available for registration. He could only take 3 at a time and any others would have to leave.

Report to by Nedra Winans (COFO'er) from Mr. John Wiley, a Negro who had been working for the county sheriff's office for 2 yrs., was fired on July 3rd at 1a.m. (444 Victor St. Pascagoula)..... July 2, there was a meeting of the sheriff's office- including white deputies as well as Negroes. Negroes told they would be allowed and were suppose to arrest white civil rights workers. W.C. Tripple - white deputy - questioned the other Negroes' deputies as to Mr. Wiley's feelings about arresting white CR workers. Mr. Wiley believes that WC Tripple knew Wiley was very strongly against this. If it came to his being forced to arrest white CR workers, he would consider quitting..... About midnight, Wiley was on his way to a call of arrest, Tripple flagged him over using his siren. Tripple asked him for his license. Mr. Wiley asked Tripple if he was on his way to a call could he (Wiley) flag him down. Tripple got mad and told Wiley to go to Sheriff's office. Tripple spoke to Byrd and Byrd fired Wiley..... Wiley later explained some of the structure of the Sheriff's department. White deputies are on salary from county budget. Negro deputies are paid \$4 for every arrest made (no other means of income); if there are two Negro deputies, each gets two dollars per arrest. White deputies are supplied with equipped and marked cars - and reimbursed for gas. Negro deputies supply their own cars and must buy siren and light and their cars are unmarked; they pay for their own gas. Negro deputies can't arrest whites; as of now they can arrest CR workers. (Once Wiley had arrested a white and took him to the sheriff's station - they wouldn't let him charge or book him - a white deputy did so).

[1964]

July 11---Moss Point

4 of those arrested July 6 paid \$30 fine for concealed weapons. 1 paid \$72 on 3 courts. Mary Ellickson took 3 people to the court house to register. She was informed that the court house would be closed on Saturdays from now on due to "who knows." Rev. Winham spoke to the State Pres. of AFL-CIO Claude Ramsey, very sympathetic man, wants Negroes in the union. The Freedom Singers were here today to sing to a work shop of some 30 people who will be going to the court house Monday. Cliff Vaughn went to the hospital to see Miss Stallworth, he took his camera in. Mr. Tuck, the superintendent, demanded the film he was backed by a policeman. Rather than have his camera destroyed, Cliff gave them his film. He had taken no pictures in the hospital.

5 people were given a work shop on the work-study project. 4 sent in for applications. (I sure could use some applications).

.... Nedra reports to Ron. Mr. John Wiley, Negro sheriff's deputy of Pascagoula, was fired July 3 1:30pm. There had been a meeting in the afternoon of July 2, at which the Negro deputy sheriffs were told that part of their job would be to arrest GR workers black and white. Wiley probably would have quit if he were forced to arrest CRESS. He expressed his sentiment to other Negro deputies outside the meeting. White deputy, Tripple, questioned other Negro deputies as to how Wiley felt. About midnight, Wiley was on his way to a call when Tripple flagged him down with siren. Tripple asked to see his drivers license. Mr Wiley asked Tripple if you (Tripple) were on your way to a call could I blow you down. Tripple got mad and told him to go the sheriff's station. At the station, Tripple spoke to Sheriff Byrd and Byrd fired Wiley. Negro deputies are not allowed to arrest whites

however, Wiley once during his 2 year service as a deputy arrested a white man, but they wouldn't let him charge him; a white deputy charged the prisoner. Info. from Wiley. White deputies are on salary,

Negroes get paid only by arrests and it is \$4 per arrest; if two Negro deputies make the arrest they get \$2 each. Whites are supplied with equipped, marked cars and are reimbursed for gas and repairs. Negro deputies must furnish their own cars, equipment etc, and are not allowed to mark their cars. They must buy their own uniforms and weapons.

July-12, Moss Point ----

[1964]

Some COFOers went to church. In the afternoon there was a work shop on going to the court house Monday. About 30 people attended this work shop- but some 20 more were mobilized to use their cars for the following day. Much enthusiasm was engendered.

July 13, Moss Point.....

4 Cafers didn't do much today as they came down with some "bug" one day flu. But there was a lot of local community activity at the court house and around Moss Point. From 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. some 50 local Negroes attempted to register. Because the County Sheriff's department and the deputies were enforcing a policy of allowing only one person at a time to go into the court house building, only 17 people out of the 50 were able to take the test. The other 33 had to wait for nothing all day. Seven of the 17 passed the test. If the proportion of people who passed is constant for the group that was not able to get into the court house, 14 people were kept from becoming registered ...One of the applicants was an 83 yr. old woman who had trouble both seeing and walking. One of the cofeers asked if she could help the woman up the stairs and then come right back. The deputy said no, she would have to go by herself. While a Negro woman was registering, a white man came in to register. They allowed him thus indicating that when it comes to whites, the new policy of one by one does not apply. ...There is enough room for eight people to register at a time.

In the afternoon, freedom school had about 13 students. Our new teacher, George Tessaro, from Gulfport, taught algebra, geometry and chemistry. The teachers canvassed for students in the morning. There is a lot of opposition from parents. The youth want to attend but the adults prevent them.

Rita Hoplewits, white cofeear from N.Y., returned to Miami to appease her family who is touring Europe. They demanded her return. She will be back in two weeks. Howard Kirschenbaum is doing very well here. The community is glad about his return.

At tonight's mass meeting, we had some 300 attend. Police protection but no Deputy Palmer tapping the meeting as usual. Mrs. Victoria Gray spoke. There was a lot of participation from the audience. Some 15 signed to go to the court house. The vast majority have attempted to register since we have been here.as of today, we have some 1200 freedom registration forms filled. We haven't done anything about precinct meetings or polling or announcements yet. Begin tomorrow.....