

WATS REPORT FEBRUARY 19, 1965

HOLLY SPRINGS Cleve/Pab

On March 1, 1965, there will be a massive county-wide boycott of all the Negro schools in Denton County. This decision was made at a meeting attended by 300 residents of Denton County. March 1, is the day the county school board is supposed to meet. School integration pledges are supposed to be turned in to the Federal Government by March 3. The parents hope to put pressure on the school board to have this pledge signed. The parents have also been trying to get the school principal of the high school fired for about three months because he is continually harrassing participants in the movement. He also made a statement that if any cr workers showed up at a basketball game, they would be arrested.

SELMA Harriet Lanzman/Pab

On Wednesday, February 17, 100 people signed the appearance book. There was no formal march to the court house.

Today, five people ~~###~~ at the court house asking that the registrar's office be opened five days a week were arrested by the county police. One was Christopher Wiley, a SNCC volunteer from San Francisco. They were charged with contempt, tried and sentenced to five days in jail and \$50.

A boycott of downtown Selma is beginning. The purpose is to force a statement from the white professionals and businessmen.

MARION, ALA. 11 pm STATETROOPERS BEAT MARCHERS IN MARION

As about 200-400 people gathered at the door of the Zion Methodist Church, state troopers converged on them and began to beat them with billy clubs. According to an eyewitness, the wife of Rev. Langford of Marion, "They (the troopers) are running people up on my front porch, knocking them on the heads with black jacks. They hit my daughter in the side with a billy club." According to Mrs. Langford, several people, including her daughter, are in the hospital. The troopers told the people that they better not be caught in the church again. At 11:30 troopers with guns had surrounded the church. There were about 20-30 car loads of them. Some people managed to escape from Marion and got to a hospital. More staff from Selma went to Marion; when they got out of their car, they were forced back in. Frank Saracco and Jerry Harrison talked to Col. Lingo at about 1:30. They asked permission to get doctors in. Lingo cursed them and invited Frank down for a head beating and to be thrown in to the river.

According to Saracco, there were a number of people injured. They include Viola Jackson, Jerry Brown, Albert Jackson, Ben Narfleat. They all suffered head lacerations which required stitches. Silas Norman reported that there were at least 20 people being treated in different hospitals in Selma. Many more ~~###~~ were treated and then released. Jimmy Lee Jackson, 26, was shot twice in the stomach, and is in critical condition. He was also beaten about the head. CFS team was thrown in jail and their cameras were smashed; one guy from UPI is in the hospital. An AP photographer is at the hospital taking pictures. Several people were arrested when they march through the town. No one knows exactly how many, because people were just being picked up off the streets.