

PERRY COUNTY REPORT

The attitude of the PERRY COUNTY people yesterday was unusually peaceful in the face of attempts by more than 600 adults to become registered voters in the Perry county seat of Marion, Ala. All of the available space in the courthouse was completely used by prospective Negro Voters. Local Negro establishments aided by many local Negroes prepared food and drinks for the voters.

While adults attempted to register, their children, who numbered between 600 and 700 students tested the public eating places (accommodations) covered under the Civil Right Law. The test of public accommodation aided by SNCC field secretary George Bess and MR. Albert Turner, President of Perry County Civic League said that the testing was generally peaceful. However, Bess reported a number of establishments closed down when confronted by negro patrons. Other establishments raised their prices in the face of the Negro patrons. According to MR. Turner, the Perry county civic league will wait before considering further action and they will give the city a chance to prove that it wants to continue in the same spirit of cooperation and justice for the negro citizen before undertaking further action. Mr. Turner further explained that he had talk with city officials, who he did not specify about solving some of the city's problems. The civic league plans to continue holding some neighborhood meetings and mass meetings, once a week. The Marion, Ala. and Perry county civic league decided to attack segregation of all levels in the county, and to set up a steering committee to investigate such.

There were a few people who lost their jobs as a result of their participation in the demonstration yesterday: One lady was employed at Juksin College, an institution supported by the Baptist Church of Ala. The community plans to counteract this. The community plans to counteract this HARRASMENT tactic by refusing to assume jobs from which prospective voters and civic rights advocates have been FIRED. This was unanimously adopted by the more than 1200 citizens of Perry County and Marion, Ala.

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About 11:45 p.m. in Perry County 850 people were arrested for demonstrations against the arrest of the II students who were testing public eating places. They were arrested along with the projector of Perry County Mr. George Bess of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

At Tuskegee today the Student Body held a mass march protesting the arrest of the Tuskegee students in Selma, Ala. and protesting against the arrest of the people who attempted to REGISTER.

***** FREEDOM NOW *****