

June 19, 1965

MEMO to Friends of SNCC:

Horrible reports have been coming from the Medical Committee personnel in Jackson and from people who have been released from jail regarding police brutality in the jail. The morale of the people in jail is very low and today 7 people went down to picket the Fairgrounds with the intention of getting arrested in order to take news and moral support to folks in the jail.

Please keep urging people to come to Jackson. THERE WILL BE A LARGE MASS MEETING IN JACKSON ON TUESDAY NIGHT. PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ARE URGED TO ATTEND. DEMONSTRATIONS WILL CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

ON MONDAY, EMPHASIS WILL BE SHIFTED FROM JACKSON TO NESHOPA COUNTY WHERE MEMORIAL MARCH WILL BE HELD FROM THE BURNED CHURCH TO PHILADELPHIA.

Please continue to raise money for the people in Jackson. People who have been beaten and are sick must be bonded out. Bail money is low. Money for day-to-day operations of the demonstrations is practically non-existent.

THIS IS A CRISIS SITUATION AND WE CANNOT STRESS TOO MUCH HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR YOU TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE PRIORITIES OUTLINED IN THE MEMOS OF THE LAST TWO DAYS.

Today in Washington:

The Mississippi people, including Mrs. Victoria Gray, went down to keep their appointment with the Clerk of the House which was set at 10 AM. The Clerk sent word that he could not keep the appointment because he had to attend a funeral.

The people decided to wait until he came. Police closed the office to the press and would not allow any food or other people to come into the Clerk's office. Many of the Mississippi people are very old. About 5 PM police arrested 12 of the people, including Mrs. Gray. Acting Captain of the Capitol Police who ordered the arrest said he did so in consultation with the House Sergeant at Arms and with the U.S. Attorney's office in Washington, DC.

The 12 were taken to the DC Police Detective Bureau at 100 Indiana Avenue and charged under Section 3102 of the DC Code. An inspector of detectives informed the Washington MFDP office that bond had been set at \$500. The inspector was asked if Speaker McCormack knew of the arrests. He replied: "yes." The inspector was asked if the Speaker approved of the arrests. He said, "I hope so."

Men were separated from the women and the women have decided to remain in jail. A hearing on the case is scheduled for Monday morning at 9 AM.