

**RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 3, 1965**

On August 4, 1965, R. F. Dukes, Sheriff, Orangeburg County, S. C., advised the voter registration books, under South Carolina State Law, are opened the first Monday of each month, with August 3, 1965, being designated as that day. Sheriff Dukes stated that the Orangeburg County, S. C. officials agreed to keep the books open two additional days to accommodate Negroes desiring to register.

Dukes stated that on August 2, 1965, the day normally set aside for registration, all three county registrars worked, and the registration proceedings went off without incident. On August 3, 1965, one of the registrars could not work and a second left at 3:30 PM due to illness, leaving one registrar to finish out the remainder of that day. When the books closed at 5 PM, August 3, 1965, those still waiting to register were requested to return on the following day. Dukes stated those individuals left the courthouse peacefully, however, a group of individuals affiliated with the SCLC refused to leave the courtroom where the registration was being conducted. According to Dukes, he spoke with the Reverend Herman Harvey, a Negro leader of the Voting Registration Project and Harvey requested of Dukes he be permitted to talk to the group, in an effort to get them to leave. According to Dukes, this was approximately 5:15 PM, August 3, 1965. Dukes stated only those actually there to register had left.

Dukes advised he addressed the group, which consisted of Negro teenagers and white out-of-state residents, informing them they would have to leave, as the courthouse had to be closed. According to Dukes this group refused to listen to him and Earl W. Coblyn, a local Negro attorney for the Voter Registration Project requested he be permitted to talk with the demonstrators, in an effort to get them to leave. Dukes stated he gave Coblyn about an hour and then went back to the courtroom where the demonstrators were located, and granted Coblyn an additional 15 minutes to get them out of the building.

Dukes stated he returned to the courtroom at 6:45 PM at which time the demonstrators were standing and jumping on the tables, and yelling and singing. At this point, according to Dukes, he advised the group they could all leave and if they

**RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 3, 1965**

refused they would be placed under arrest. All, in unison, yelled their refusal to leave, and Dukes ordered the law enforcement officers present to place them all under arrest.

Dukes advised some of the demonstrators went limp and had to be carried from the building bodily and others vehemently resisted the arresting officers. Dukes stated at no time did the arresting officers employ the use of clubs, night sticks, blackjacks or any other devices to effect the arrest and removal of the demonstrators.

On August 6, 1965, Sheriff Dukes advised that during the three-day period, the voter registration books were opened, approximately 850 individuals were registered, the vast majority being Negroes. He further stated that he had been informed by the Reverend Herman Harvey, one of the leaders of the registration drive, that he, Harvey, had no complaints regarding the registration, and was satisfied with the cooperation given by the Board of Registrars.

On August 5, 1965, Chief Harold Hall stated he had received information that the demonstrators arrested, on August 3, 1965, were alleging police brutality against the Orangeburg, S. C. Police Department. Chief Hall stated no specific complaints were made to him, however, he did observe several SCLC workers at the Orangeburg County Court House distributing mimeographed forms, which supposedly set forth instructions regarding the filing of brutality complaints.

On August 6, 1965, Chief Hall advised that trial for the adult demonstrators arrested on August 3, 1965, was scheduled to be held at 10 AM on August 6, 1965, however, this trial was postponed at the request of the defendants, as their attorney, Matthew P. Perry, an attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Columbia, S. C., was committed to another matter in Allendale, S. C. According to Chief Hall, all defendants are presently out on bond, the money for which was furnished by the SCLC and a new trial date will be set for the week of August 9, 1965.

F B I

Date: 8/10/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-6-49)
FROM: SAC, SAVANNAH (157-84) (P)
SUBJ: RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 3, 1965
RACIAL MATTERS

Re Savannah teletypes to Bureau dated 8/4, 5 and 6/65.

For the benefit of those offices being requested to conduct investigation, set forth herein, members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) conducted a sit-in demonstration, 8/3/65, at the Orangeburg County Court House, Orangeburg, S. C. Demonstrators protested their efforts in a voter registration drive for local Negroes had been impaired, due to tactics employed by the Board of Registrars, Orangeburg County, S. C. After the registration books were closed at 5:00 PM, 8/3/65, the demonstrators, consisting of local Negro teenagers and out-of-state residents refused to leave the Court Room where registration proceedings were being conducted. Local authorities granted Negro leaders approximately two hours to effect their removal, and when demonstrators refused to leave they were placed under arrest.

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Boston
- 2 - Detroit
- 2 - New Haven
- 2 - New York
- 2 - Pittsburgh
- 2 - San Francisco
- 2 - Seattle
- 2 - WFO
- 2 - Savannah

RMM:lsw
(21)

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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

157-699-102

SV. 157-84

On 8/4/65, Chief C. HAROLD HALL (NA), Orangeburg, S. C. Police Department made available to SA [REDACTED] a list of those arrested and charged with trespassing and disturbing the peace. The following is a list of those individuals arrested, who furnished addresses out of the state of South Carolina:

[REDACTED] white, male, age 19,

[REDACTED] white, male, age 20

[REDACTED] white, male, age 25

[REDACTED] white male, age 20

[REDACTED] white, male, age 35

Numerous other names of white individuals appeared on this list, however, all listed their addresses as 746 Amelia Street, Orangeburg, S. C., the headquarters of the local SCLC group.

On 8/6/65, Chief HALL made available the following list of out-of-state license numbers, which were observed in the vicinity of the SCLC headquarters, and the County Court House at the time voter registration was being conducted. These license numbers are as follows:

1965 District of Columbia license [REDACTED]
(1963 Pontiac)

1965 District of Columbia License [REDACTED]
(Volkswagen Bus)

SV. 157-84

1965 Michigan License [REDACTED]
(1956 or 1957 Dodge)

1965 New York License [REDACTED]
(White Foreign Compact)

b7c

The Bureau is requested to search indices for any references for the individuals whose identity is set forth herein.

All offices receiving copies of this communication are requested to conduct appropriate agency checks and search indices for the individuals living in their respective divisions.

The Detroit, New York and Washington Field Divisions are requested to ascertain the identity of the individual to whom the license numbers from their respective divisions are issued and thereafter conduct appropriate agency checks and search office indices. Leads should be set out requesting the Bureau search these names through their indices.

All offices in searching their indices should be alert for possible references of parents and close relatives having the same surname.



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Savannah, Georgia

August 10, 1965

RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS,
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 3, 1965

In the evening of August 3, 1965, C. Harold Hall (NA), Chief of Police, Orangeburg, S. C., telephonically advised 51 white and Negro members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) had been arrested in the Orangeburg County, S. C. Court House. Chief Hall stated these arrests resulted in the refusal of these members to leave the courthouse, after the voting registration books for the county were closed for that day.

On August 4, 1965, Chief Hall personally advised that the voter registration books for Orangeburg County, S. C., were opened on August 2, 1965, and through agreement, would remain open two additional days. According to Chief Hall, voter registration on August 2, 1965, proceeded without incident. He advised that at 5 PM, August 3, 1965, the closing time for registration, approximately 100 Negroes still had not been processed for voter registration in Orangeburg County. These individuals were instructed to return, on August 4, 1965, at which time registration of new voters would continue. Hall stated they exited the building without incident, however, a

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- 8 - Bureau
- 1 - 111th INTC Group, Columbia, S. C.
- 2 - Savannah (1 - 157-84)
- ✓ (1 - 157-699) (SCOPE)

RMM:lsW
(11)

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157-699-105

**RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA,
AUGUST 3, 1965**

group of approximately 51 whites and Negro workers from the SCLC refused to leave the courtroom, where registration proceedings were being conducted.

b7c Chief Hall stated he conferred with one of the leaders of this group, one [REDACTED] a white male, who advised Hall it was not the group's intention to demonstrate, but to register voters, however, the Board of Registrars had only two members available for processing people on August 3, 1965, and one left in the afternoon claiming he was sick.

b7c Chief Hall made available a taped recording of [REDACTED] address to those refusing to leave the courtroom, in which [REDACTED] stated to the group that the reason they were here was not to demonstrate, however, the purpose of their demonstration at this time was due to the fact that the voter registration drive had been impaired because of the lack of sufficient registrars. [REDACTED] complained only two registrars were working, on August 3, 1965, and one walked out the afternoon of August 3, 1965, claiming to be sick. [REDACTED] gave the group two alternatives, either stay, not knowing the consequences, and being prepared to stay the entire night, or go home. At this point, according to Chief Hall, [REDACTED] asked for a voice vote of the group and they unanimously replied, "Stay".

Chief Hall stated E. F. Duker, Sheriff, Orangeburg County, S. C. appealed to the Negro leaders of the Voter Registration Project to get the group out of the building. According to Hall, Sheriff Duker waited from 5 PM, the time the registration books were closed, until approximately 6:45 PM, on August 3, 1965, and when it was evident the group had no intention of leaving, he, Duker, addressed the group advising them if they left the courthouse now, they would not be arrested, however, should they refuse, he would have no alternative but to place them all under arrest.

When they refused, Sheriff Duker ordered the law enforcement officers present to take all into custody. Hall

**RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA,
AUGUST 3, 1965**

stated some of the demonstrators went limp, and had to be carried bodily from the building because of their refusal to walk. Others resisted arrest and had to be subdued. Hall stated at no time were clubs, night sticks or blackjacks employed to effect the arrest.

According to Chief Hall, 51 demonstrators were arrested, some being teenagers and others being out-of-state residents, who did not have the qualifications necessary to register in Orangeburg, S. C. The following is a list of the individuals arrested and charged by authorities with trespassing and disturbing the peace:

- b7C
- 1) [REDACTED] white, male, age 21,
 - 2) [REDACTED] white, female, age 25,
 - 3) [REDACTED] Negro female, age 17,
 - 4) [REDACTED] Negro female, age 16,
 - 5) [REDACTED] white, female, age 25,
 - 6) [REDACTED] Negro male, age 15,
 - 7) [REDACTED] Negro, male, age 14,



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Savannah, Georgia
August 24, 1965

**BURNING OF SHARPERSON SCHOOL
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 3, 1965**

b7C On August 19, 1965 [redacted] Arson Squad, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Columbia, South Carolina, advised that at the request of the local authorities, Orangeburg, South Carolina, he conducted an arson type investigation of the above captioned school.

b7C [redacted] stated he examined the burned out building and resulting debris immediately after the fire was extinguished, and again after same had cooled. [redacted] his examinations failed to reflect any indication of arson or the presence of flammable substances of any kind, in the debris. He went on to relate that as the result of further inquiry, he determined the school building was in excess of 20 years old, and still contained the electric wiring originally installed, at the time of construction. [redacted] stated he determined from the custodial staff of the school that the electric wiring had not been functioning properly, and necessitated that all current in adjacent rooms be turned off, when a given piece of electrical equipment was being operated within the building.

[redacted] advised he examined portions of the wiring and related apparatus not affected by the fire and found same to be in poor condition. He stated that it was his conclusion the fire was the direct result of defective electric wiring, and not the result of arson.

8 - Bureau

Y E L L O W

③ - Savannah (1 - 157-836)

✓ (1 - 157-699)

(1 - 66-1296) (Dissemination of Information)

RMM:mqs
(11)

my
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157-699-127
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8/13/65

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-6-49)
FROM: SAC, SAVANNAH (157-84) (P)
SUBJECT: RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS
ORANGEBURG, S. C.
AUGUST 3, 1965
RM

Re Savannah airtels 8/10 and 8/12/65.

On 8/12/65, Chief of Police C. HAROLD HALL (NA), Orangeburg, S. C. PD, advised trial for demonstrators held 8/12 in Orangeburg and that the state used Chief HALL, a Deputy, and Sheriff R. F. DUKES as state witnesses. Defense did not produce any witnesses. Judge sentenced demonstrators to pay fine of \$50 or serve three days for disorderly conduct. Appeal entered and present bond continued until appeal bond can be arranged. Savannah will follow and report results of appeal.

3 - Bureau
2 - Savannah (1-157-84)
(1-157-699)

TDS:hsc
(5)

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157-699-112