

[1965]

4th Cong. District Office - MFDP/CORE
Daily Log

Oct. 8 : Meeting with Carthage Young Democrats. Had planned to integrate white football game tonight. 20 people present. Didn't have enough money. People didn't seem enthusiastic anymore (it had been their idea). Idea killed when someone announced the game wasn't at home tonight.

We were paid a visit by the local constabulary this afternoon. Deputy Sheriff A.A. Jenkins and police officers Jed Hogue and Lonnie (?) Grier who work for both city and county, came to welcome us to the neighborhood. Said they just wanted to find out who was here and what was going on. They wrote down names of people present (Lynne, Wally, Andrew Green), asked where we were staying, what this place was. Wally told them this was his residence.

Got our phone in today and either the workmen or the police wasted no time in spreading our number around. A call from one George Lockett who wanted to know when the next meeting was (kids had never heard of him), Beulah Dodson who had a problem she didn't want to talk about on the phone (gave her the address), a lady from the Chicago Chronicle (strong Miss. accent) who wants an interview (gave her address, what the hell), an anonymous caller who hung up immediately, and someone from the Jackson Field Office for Freedom Fighters ~~xxxxxxx~~ who wanted to know if all three of us were alright. He said the Field Director ~~xxxx~~ told him to call. Played dumb and got him confused. He finally said am I talking to the right people, told him he was (a mistake?) but that I wasn't.

8:05 - All quiet on the 4th district front.

4th District Office
Daily Log -Oct. 9, 1965

Not too much accomplished today as we were on the phone most of the day, thanks to, we assume, Deputy Jenkins et al. Did get the letter to staff and FDP officers written and the first page run off, also the personnel report forms. Besides the following calls, we called the FBI to tell them we'd been threatened, also Jackson and Atlanta. Jon Steinberg in Atlanta offered to send the Deacons over, but Wally rejected the idea. Rims Barber and Greg Finger came over around 7 and we took turns on the calls -- they also let us get some sleep. Many silent calls and "who is this" type calls. The conversational ones were:

- 1) Call for the undertaker. Me: Wrong number. Him (George): He's on his way, tell him to call 9744.
- 2) Pat Jerks in Harmony. Wants to join our organization. Asked Wally to meet him at White Gables to talk. Wally refused on grounds he wasn't eager to get his head bashed in. Pat refused to meet anywhere else.
- 3) Johnny Smith. "What are you doing tonight." Me: We're going to be busy. What are you doing tonight. J: Oh, we've got plans for tonite. Me: What are those? J: You'll find out.
- 4) (Nasty voice) We all know you're there. Just don't be there tonight. (something about them coming over. Me: What time. Wouldn't tell me. Said FBI would also be here tonight as we'd been in contact with them. Nasty: Hmmm.
- 5) Dovie Hudson (name of Negro lady in Harmony). Called twice. First time asked "who is this?" Wally: It's rude to call someone and ask who is this. You're supposed to identify yourself. She hung up, then called back and apologized, gave that name. Said she wants to come see us. Was told to call next week. Was given this number to call today.
- 6) Operator called - complaint about phone not working right. Told phone was fine, could hear her children sounded fine too.
- 10) Malcolm X calling for Malcolm X. Left a message for him "Go to hell."
- 11) Mrs. "Collier" -- what do you have to offer Me: Freedom. Said she has freedom. Would never admit other didn't. Said they wouldn't get beat up, if they didn't make trouble, should build their own places. Races won't mix, Bible says races should be separate. Me: Love thy neighbor as thyself. Turned her over to Rims with whom she discussed his ministerial qualifications.
- 12) Wow! Wally got a response from one of the silents. Damn near converted him with a lecture on Miss. economics, love, peace, non-violence. Guy said he cared about both white and Negroes, that he thought Negro should vote. Agreed we shouldn't be in Vietnam. Really dug the talk on human understanding and that it was good he and Wally talked to each other. Is going to tell people we're not so bad and that they can call and act intelligent with us and have reasonable conversation.
- 13) Man told Rims to go out front into some clump of trees to see a "special light." Took a peek, no light visible from the road, sure ain't going into any clump of trees.
- 14) A number of calls asked when we were leaving, when we were going to bed, and then they started asking when do we get up in the morning.
- 15) Wally got asked for a date. Said he's particular about who he goes out with, has to know someone.
- 16) Director of Operations for the Peace Corps, Elvira Jones, called from Washington to find out how we were doing. (Do they feel Miss. is an underdeveloped country).
- 17) Leroy Lewis called. Rims spoke of love, God etc. Leroy swore. Prognosis: Incurable.

Had told sheriff's office about threats this afternoon. Sheriff did drive by a few times. Also, a green pickup truck with no plates kept driving by. No trouble however. A.J. says white folks around here are chicken. Also, Wally went to P.O. Said town very hot -- everyone stared, muttered things, was followed by white Chevy, 64 or 65. Lost him.

Fourth District Office
Daily Log - Oct. 10

A day off, more or less. Exhausted from keeping watch Sat. night, took the phone off the hook and slept all morning. Afternoon -- Mr. Lockett informed us that a group of the men had been on the watch with guns last night and would watch again tonight. Our very own deacons -- organized by the people themselves. Put phone back on and got lots of silent calls, except for 2 notable ones. The State Fire Board called (Wally thinks it really was.) Asked if this was a commercial establishment and if we were connected with COFO. Said we weren't approved for a commercial establishment. Wally said Cofo doesn't exist any more. That this was his private residence, tho he had an office here for his own use. Told him that he'd told police that it was his residence and they had accepted that. Guy said OK.

Another call went this way: Lady: Who is this Wally: Who is this. You're supposed to tell me first. Lady: Are you ashamed of who you are. Wally: No, are you ashamed of who you are. Lady: No. Wally: Now we've established neither of us are ashamed of who we are. So the next thing it that it's only courteous when you call someone to say who you are first, because you know who you're calling. Lady: I want to know if I have the right number. Wally: it's the right number, I'm positive you have the ~~MMMMMM~~ right number, it's your intentions that are wrong. Click. (She hung up first).

Did get another page of Office Memo run off and a list of files prepared.

Workers from Jasper and Clark came over. Wally wanted to go with them to make district visits. Insisted I not stay here alone. Me, full of pride (re my own courage and feminine equality) insisting I wanted to stay. Got Rims and Greg to come over. Wally and rest left and for the next hour, while waiting for the Canton people, I kicked myself. Heard cars, people walking around, stopped trusting the "deacons" realized what I'd known all along -- that if someone did attack this place, there was absolutely nothing I could do to stop them and I might get myself killed to boot. A cold knot of fear in my stomach for that hour. Once they got here, all o.k. No phone calls even. Talked, all want to sleep.

LH

Oct. 11

The phone calls are tapering off. One at 6:30 A.M. conveniently waking up RIMS and Greg who had to be in Canton at 7. Several (from whom I think the same silent person at lunch time, a couple in the afternoon and several around dinnertime. Spent most of the day cleaning the office. Finished typing and running off the Office Memo.

4th C.D. Office
Daily Log - Oct. 12

Ran off phone log for credit card calls. Filed. Wrote Judy Richardson of SNCC for Freedom Primers and literacy materials. Started mailing list for Northern contacts re funds. Several people dropped by -- talked about ASCS, and with Dismuke girl about integrating library (she needs to go there to get material about nursing schools, but doesn't want to integrate it) and about colleges -- how to get information on. Spent a couple of hours with Justice Dept. in afternoon -- told them what I knew about school situation here, had argument about whether Justice Dept. and FBI doing all they can. Spoke to Jackson about lack of communication with 4th Dist. FDP and how people are not making the decisions. They pleaded lack of funds for mailings. Also gave following info: reapportionment suit to be filed on 15th of Oct., Kay Prickett in office gives ASCS info.; contact Roberta Geller, FIC, Box 366, Edwards for workshops and speakers. They want information on voter reg. for all counties -- who's working, where, want success, local people etc. Said to hold off on county and district meetings -- some legal snafus.

Spent an hour on phone with segregationist. I'm afraid I didn't win as he claimed I didn't know "facts" and his "facts" were different from mine. His axe: Negroes are inferior, have smaller cranial capacity. Only way they'll raise themselves is by intermarrying and mongrelizing the white race. They caused the downfall of Egypt (says in Bible) in this way. Still eat each other in Africa. Only bright Negroes have white blood. All men are brothers in their spiritual soul & but not otherwise. Says people around here won't harm me. Said we get nasty calls because people down before have done bad things, whites and neg. walking around being affectionate in public was repulsive to people. Said even white people acting this way was repulsive. Ladies don't neck in public, or drink soda out of same glass etc. Claimed Watts people had high incomes, they took care of niggers down here, only way they could survive. Doesn't matter white incomes low because living costs lower. It was Northerners who brought niggers here, should have sent them back to Africa. Have bad morals, all they want is welfare etc. etc. Said he had gone to Columbia -- Dean of Psych. at Col. wrote that neg. have smaller cranial capacity and thus are mentally inferior.

George and Justice Dept. met in evening to discuss case. Cops stopped to give them tickets for parking on road. When found one car was from Jus. Dept., forgot about both tickets.

Fouth District Office
Daily Log

Oct. 13, 1965

S spent most of day culling files for a fund-raising list (out-of-state). Sent off letters to two personal contacts calling on them to organize fund-raising and material-raising groups.

Phone company (they said) called. Asked if phone was oaky -- said people had reported trying to call and not getting anything. (It's frustrating them when I take the phone off the hook to sleep.) Stayed at office alone -- felt OK except for rats scratching around. Hope they're mice.
Oct. 14, 1965

Typed and ran off letter calling for district meeting on the 21st. Prepared mailing with memo on office function, personnel reports, car authorization, and meeting notice for each project and FDP chairman.

Went down to ASC office with Green and Wilders. Man not in -- third time they tried. Andrew thinks they're getting run-around...Gave a small typing lesson to a local young man...calls slacking off, only a couple today. News from Jackson: Cox handed town a temporary suspension order saying kids who are out of school because of tuition law can go back free of charge till case decided. Higson thinks we'll win case.

Mailings sent out to projects.

Wally had long talk with the racist from Columbia U. (who had called the 12th). Made no progress either...I was invited to klan meeting at the White Gables tonight by Mr. Simonet.

Oct. 15, 1965

ASC information sent to Clarke. Letter to Donna Allen asking for Vietnam booklets. A little excitement in the evening. About 10:45, someone set this house on fire. (See statements in this file.) Police and Fire dept. came about 5 minutes after we called them, tho by that time Wally had fire out. The cardboard over the side window was completely burned and the boards around window and in the rafters were charred. Also map on inside of window. We think arsonist must have been Negro, because we heard no car and he must therefore have used back path. Might have been the cop, Marvine, whom Wally had a not-too-friendly conversation with today. (Marvine insisted he call Wally "sir", while Wally insisted he call him "Wally"). The fire occasioned at least 20 phone calls. This included me calling FBI (they said someone would come over on the 16th), Jackson calling FBI and the President's Comm. and the Pres.'s Comm. calling the FBI. Obviously sick of being called, the FBI called us and said they'd send someone up right away. Mr. Harold Fabrizo (who had dropped by to see us in the afternoon -- the police having told him we're here) showed up about 2:30 A.M., checked the site, took pictures, said rag was doused with benzene, took information on us and statements about what happened. Left about 4:30. Also, Mr. Sellers and Willie Ricks ran up from Jackson "to collect the ashes" of which there were none. Also George and Sears sped over from Canton in about 15 minutes, finding it faster than calling by phone. Wally has decided life in Carthage is getting more interesting and he will not leave to organize Texas, Nevada and Arizona.