

[1945]

WHY WE PROTEST

We, as Negroes and as concerned citizens of Bogalusa, submit that the agencies of government have failed in their duty to maintain true justice in our city. We cite the following points of grievance:

1. Both city and state police have failed repeatedly to protect peaceful Negro demonstrators from harassment, intimidation and frequent outright violence from white bystanders.

2. FBI agents have taken at least a hundred statements since February, by conservative estimate. These are stories of capricious and frivolous arrests, of police brutality, of armed nightriders, of roving armed gangs, of mobs, of attacks on children. Much less arrest, there has not even been a statement of concern from the Justice Department. Persons who complained have received no answer, no relief. The Federal Government is silent.

3. We specifically point the finger of accusation at Deputy Sheriff Adams of the Washington Parish K-9 Squad. More than any other city or parish officer his name is synonymous with brutality and race prejudice in performance of his duties. He has been cited more frequently than any other officer in written complaints by Bogalusa Negroes.

We directly propose to government at all levels that:

1. Policemen assigned to peaceful demonstrations who exhibit obvious racial bias be replaced. This would apply to supervising officers as well as the others.

2. White persons who attack Negroes be arrested, charged and tried.

3. The Justice Department break its shy silence, either to invoke present laws or propose new laws to Congress that will give that department the necessary authority to deal with such gross negligence in law enforcement as exists in Bogalusa.

4. Deputy Sheriff Adams be removed.

5. For once let governmental officials--instead of the Klan--converge on this city to witness its problems, its failures and work to introduce justice to our community.

Bogalusa Civic and Voters League
A. Z. Young, President