

# BLACK OUT DOWNTOWN CANTON

TO THE CITIZENS OF MADISON COUNTY

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We feel many of you do not know of and understand the terrible incidents of brutality of the Madison County Law Force and the Mississippi Highway patrol. You have a right to know the true facts. The leaders of the movement have spent several weeks, and most especially Thursday, discussing and planning for the march which was to come through our town. Even though we had no choice as to which direction the march would take, we welcomed it and supported it 100 percent. Madison County Negroes, following the guidance of the leaders, committed themselves to the Non-Violence philosophy, and deserve commendation for their show of unity and order. Mr. Cauthen was contacted about the use of the County Court House. He readily consented to the use of it for the six o'clock rally. The following are some important points concerning the march:

1. The Madison County movement asked the mayor for the use of the Negro park, which is now closed because of an injunction. According to the court order, the city is enjoined from the use of the white and Negro parks. We, the marchers, would have exercised our rights under the injunction by going onto the park and pitching the tents.
2. The use of McNeil grounds had been discussed with Mr. Charlie Snodgrass, head of the State Highway Patrol, who advised us to speak with a Mr. Morgan who is chairman of the School Board of the Canton Separate School District. (Let us clearly understand that both of the sites mentioned above are public property with adequate space for the tents that would have been needed for the camp.) Mr. Morgan gave his approval to Mrs. Annie Devine by telephone. At that time there were no problems with a camp site that would have provided adequate space in the Negro park, which also would have provided shower facilities. We, the Movement Committee, then told the tent crew to proceed with pitching the tents. They, in turn, were intercepted by the City Police.
3. The marchers and Negro citizens were well-disciplined. Not a single law violation throughout the whole day and night can truthfully be stated by anyone--black or white.
4. The white man who threw the bomb on the ground of the Movement building, 832 Lutz Street, got away as usual without any law official making any effort to catch him. C. O. CHIN IS NOW OUT ON \$7,000.00 BAIL ON THE FALSE CHARGE OF SHOOTING A WHITE MAN.
5. The Madison County Movement places the blame for the brutal way innocent citizens were treated squarely on the Governor of Mississippi Paul B. Johnson, the State troopers, Game and Fish Commissioners and the County officials.

THERE WILL BE A RALLY TONIGHT AT THE CATHOLIC GYM  
at 7:30 o'clock. BE THERE!!

BLACK OUT DOWNTOWN  
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