

Clarksdale

COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS  
429 Yazoo Ave.  
Clarksdale, Miss.

For Immediate Release  
June 25, 1964

Clarksdale, Miss.--The trial of Reverend J.D. Rayford, 68, on charges of reckless driving and driving while drunk was postponed today in Clarksdale City Court until ~~Thursday~~<sup>Thursday</sup>, July 1. Police Chief Ben Collins announced that the mayor had been called on urgent business to Jackson, necessitating the postponement.. The trial was attended by approximately thirty members of the local Negro community and summer volunteers in COFO's Mississippi Summer Project, who were kept waiting in the courtroom for over half an hour until the postponement was announced.

The Reverend Rayford was arrested while driving from Memphis to Clarksburg early Wednesday morning and is free on \$119 bond. A Baptist minister and pastor of four churches, he is chaplain of the Coahoma County NAACP and active in the civil rights movement in Clarksburg. His arrest is viewed here as a further instance of police harrassment.