

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 a.m. Tuesday

MOSS POINT, MISS --- Jessie Mae Stalworth, 19, a Moss Point Negro woman, was shot twice here tonight while attending a voter registration rally at the Knights of Pythias Hall.

She was taken to Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula, where officials told ~~Un~~Associated Press International her condition was "good." She was among 300 who heard a talk by Lawrence Guyot, SNOC project director for the 5th Cong. District. Witnesses said three shots were fired from a passing car, believed to be a late model green Comet, ~~and~~ ^{at} 9:45 p.m. Four white youths were reported inside the car.

Two of the shots struck Miss Stalworth as she stood by a window singing "We Shall Overcome." Sheriff's deputies had left the meeting five minutes before the shooting.

~~Shooting at Knights of Pythias Hall~~

A second burst of shots was fired later, but no one was injured. Guyot and another SNOC worker ~~who~~ who went to the hospital to check ~~on~~ on Miss Stalworth's condition, were told to leave by local police because martial law had been declared.

Later in the evening, two Negro cars pursued the vehicle they believed had been involved in the shooting from Magnolia Street to a Texaco Station on Highway 63. The driver of the first car got out, ^{E.J. Wiggins} ~~found~~ ^{saw} a shotgun aimed toward him by the whites, turned back toward his car, and discovered the police were ready to haul it away. He was put in a state highway patrol car, driven to the Pascagoula jail, and charged with attempted assault and using profane language.

Two passengers in the second pursuit car, Lemar Turnipseed and E.J. Hudson, were held at the same jail on concealed weapons charges. Police made no effort to search the white ^A's car, contending it was not involved in the shooting.

The Knights of Pythias Hall was firebombed June 23. Damage was slight. ###