

NEWSFLASH FROM HATTIESBURG

Tuesday, January 26, '65

An Antioch College student was beaten twice and attacked a third time in Hattiesburg, Mississippi this week. Richard Heitler, a 19-year-old from Chicago, was beaten Thursday night along with two other white men, one of them a minister representing the National Council of Churches. Heitler, along with others, was also attacked on Saturday, and again on Monday, both times in broad daylight. Three of the attackers have been arrested and released on bond, Hattiesburg police chief H. W. Herring said yesterday. No one was seriously injured.

In the Thursday incident, the three men were beaten as they emerged from a public meeting called by the White Citizens Council in Hattiesburg.

The Saturday incident followed an attempt by high school students from Hattiesburg to get a restaurant to comply with the civil rights law. The district director of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was "knifed but not seriously hurt," according to Heitler.

Heitler and others were jumped again Monday as they emerged from a city court hearing arising from the earlier incidents.

According to Heitler, they were "roughed up" before the police intervened. Both they and their attackers were taken inside the building, where the police, according to Heitler, served their attackers coffee and offered them chairs.

ASK PHONE CALLS, TELEGRAMS

Heitler said on the telephone that he was "really scared" Monday, when the police permitted their assailants to spit on them, abuse and kick them inside the city building. He said they "fear similar treatment" in a hearing set for 4 p.m. Thursday, January 28, 1965.

The freedom center in Hattiesburg is urging people to "phone the police chief and the Mayor of Hattiesburg," urging protection of civil rights workers and prosecution of their assailants, Heitler said.

Phone numbers are:

H. W. Herring, chief of police, 1-601-583-3511; Claude F. Pittman, Mayor, 584-8431 (city hall) or 583-2525 (home).

They also urged people concerned with their safety to wire or write the President, their representatives in Congress, and the Justice Department.

One telegram, sent to Ohio's Senator Stephen W. Young, has already brought the following reply:

"Responding to your telegram: Am giving this important matter regarding Dick Heitler my personal attention. Thank you for wiring me and giving me this opportunity to render service."

OUR EFFORTS TO ALERT OUR REPRESENTATIVES DO COUNT! WIRE OR WRITE TODAY!