

9:20 9/23 Worth Long to Mary King

500 mass mtg at 1st Baptist Church; 600 mass mtg at Brown Chappel AME Ch.

John speaking - stressing voter registration - one man one vote

Selma Times Journal reported today: "50 state troopers, headed by Al Lingo arrived here during this morning at the request of Sheriff James Clark and are supposedly standing ready at the national guard armory." (evening paper)

Posse has not yet blocked off area around church

Representatives from the state and city present at mass meeting:

Mr. M. G. Bush, Ala. Dept of Public Safety

Lt. E. D. Dickerson, "

Officer Nichols of City Police at Brown Chappel Ch.

No demonstrations today

17 arrested for "truancy" and two for "contributing to the delinquency of minors"

Henry Shannon, 21, and Robert Lee Anderson, 21 : contrib.chg.

the 17 were youths stopped on the street, as they left the church, etc.

asked by police: "do you want to go to school or go to jail."

These 17 chose jail.

W. Long said here: "They wre picked up anywhere there were young people and taken to school or to jail"

Selma Times Journal tonight: "The Sheriff's Dept. has ordered the arrest of Rev. ~~B~~ Benny Tucker, 21, SNCC worker, student at Selma University, a Negro Baptist college here. "The Dept said they ~~were~~ holding a warrant for his arrest on charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor."

Rev. Tucker will stay in the 1st Baptist Church all night, seeking sanctuary, and Worth will stay with him.

Worth: "Selma is an armed state. Everywhere you go you see Alabama state patrolmen, the Sheriff or his 300 odd man posse, or city police. Hundreds of cars are packed with police. We have just seen two cars drive by (one without a license) with rifles, just as the mass meeting started."

Worth: "With 19 arrested the student strategy committee says we can't trun back. They say 'We'll intensify efforts now regardless of Lingo, Sheriff Clark or even Wallace himself. How can we stop now?'"

All of the arrested are in the county jail.

It is expected that there will be trouble.