

SELMA ALABAMA

October 15, 1963

from John Lewis

6:15 A.M. first people arrived courthouse

Willie C. Robertson there at 6:30 AM

Four whites ahead of him, one Negro

7:30 Sgt. Bates of police arrived, called whites to side of building.

gave them small numbered cards.

then gave numbered cards to Negroes

Told they could leave line for bathroom, eat, return & resume
place according to number

Willie C Robertson says Negroes got higher numbers

Lewis says people can go tomorrow to line, cash in old numbers,
get new - only passed out 60 numbers

Federal hearing:

John Doar of J D and Wasserman of J D

Judge Thomas refused to give ruling

motion filed for preliminary injunction against county officials

and state solicitor to enjoin from interfering with potential

voters and voter registration workers

only testimony Judge would admit on August happenings re Bossie

Reese, Bernard Lafayette, Alexander Brown

would not admit testimony on recent brutality

hearing resulted from writ of mandamus (MANDAMUS) filed Fifth Circuit

Court of Appeals - rather than answer to writ decided to

have hearing

Judge Thomas took case under advisement, (could mean three weeks)

2 Negro school teachers testified that they had not been intimidated.

at 3:00 people on line without numbers told to leave.

today the line was swung through alley into courthouse so no

people on street

at 3:00 about 325 people in line

about 250 inside courthouse, 75 stepping back to parking lot.

Lewis and others had dinner with J D guys

suggestion that all people refused registration write letters

to judge with dates, etc. This move based on Civil Rights

Act of 1960. Selma people to send copy to J D, keep

copy at office

already done with Perry Co., Ala. and Carroll Parish, La.

S.T.-J. " 31 registered 10/15
(1st 12 white) "