January 27

Lexington, Miss.: Mandy

3 Negroes were thrown out of the office of the registrar in Lexington (Holmes County), at 9am this morning. They had paid their poll tax and went to the circuit clerk. He asked what they were there for and they said they wanted to register. He said, 'register to what'. They said, 'register to vote'. He told them that if they were drunk and to get out and never come back. "You have been drinking. Get out's here and don't come back."

This info was given to Mandy by Hartman Turnbow from Greenwood.

Jackson office has called the FBI in New Orleans. They have sent the following telegram to Burke Marshall and Robert Kennedy.

"Voting rights of Negroes again outrageously violated in Holmes County. Three Negroes thrown out of county court house this morning by circuit clerk and told not to come back. Demand immediate dispatch of federal marshalls to Lexington to escort Negroes to the courthouse to protect their right to vote."

signed: Dave Dennis

Turnbow has said that the VR drive has been stepped up in Holmes County and he feels the circuit clerk was trying to get publicity for efforts to intimidate Negroes and thereby create fear in the Negro community to stop current drive. Turnbow is convinced that the circuit court will never register any Negroes.