

REPORT ON THE PHONE CONVERSATION WITH MENDY SAMSEIN ON SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1964  
REGARDING THE FRIDAY NIGHT INCIDENTS CONCERNING MRS. HAMER'S CAMPAIGN.

Mendy and George Greene were looking for Charles McLaurin in Ruleville. They couldn't find him in Ruleville and so went on to Cleveland to Amzie Moore's home. They knocked on the door, but no one answered. Also, they saw his car in the driveway. Since there was no response at the door they left Cleveland and went back to Ruleville, which they reached about 12:30. Mendy said they had campaign material with them which read, "One Man, One Vote," "Come and Hear Fannie Lou Hamer, Candidate for Congress" and "A Vote for Mrs. Hamer is a Vote for Freedom."

They were stopped by police when they reached Ruleville. The policemen got out of the police car and came around to side on which Mendy was sitting, which was the right-front. George had been driving. They were in the 1963 white valiant. One of the cops said to Mendy, "What are doing in nigger town?" They made ~~him~~ the two of them get out of the car. Then they concentrated on George. They kept calling him "Nigger!" and pulling their guns and putting them away ~~again~~ and then pulling them pulling them again. "Are you a nigger or a white?" they kept asking George. Mendy said this was an effort to get George to say "nigger."

One of the cops pulled Mendy, actually pulled and shoved Mendy and had his fist ~~cocked~~ cocked back as if he were going to punch Mendy and said, "I'll take care of this one." He started to ask Mendy questions. Meanwhile the other guy had George and pulled his gun on him again. He cocked the gun and slammed it several times into George's belly. He kept trying to find out from George what they were doing in town. Mendy told the cop that he (Mendy) worked for COFO and SNCC. He told the cop Forman is his boss.

The guy holding George said, "Let's take them in." Mendy and George got into the Valiant and the cops followed them to the hossegow, as Mendy put it. They made them give up all their belongings. Again ~~they~~ Mendy and George told them they worked for the Council of Federated Organizations. The cops asked them what COFO does. Mendy told them they were concerned with voting and education. The cop said, "you must be connected with that fannie." Then he said, "We don't have any nigger politics in Ruleville." Patrolman Mileston was the one who did the talking about the politics. The other guy, a small man, was an auxiliary policeman who was in civilian clothes, just goes on at night, but carries a gun. Both actually hit George with their guns. The little one ~~was the one that had Mendy for a while.~~ was the one that had Mendy for a while.

They were put in separate cells and they couldn't see each other. Eventually they were charged with violating the 12 o'clock curfew.

They were also refused to call on the telephone for a lawyer. Around 11 am the next morning they were taken from their cells individually and fingerprinted. The Mayor, Dorrough, took down the information while the captain did the actual fingerprinting. Mayor seemed very mild, considering the situation, Mendy said. Mendy asked what they were being charged with. The Mayor said there had been some burglaries in the neighborhood and that they were being held on suspicion. Asked Mayor if he could make a phone call and he said when they get through investigating. Then they put Mendy back in the cell and about 20 minutes they took them both out and they went before the Mayor's court where the Mayor told them they were charged with violating the curfew



and George was also charged with running a stop sign. The fine was ten dollars on each count. Mendy told the Mayor that the Supreme Court has ruled that a curfew for adults is unconstitutional. The Mayor said that "that law hadn't reached here yet."

The police searched the car thoroughly while they were in jail. George could see that from his cell. They did take some of the literature. When they were about to leave George asked them if they had taken some of the literature. At first they denied it but George pressed them about it by saying I saw you take some and then one of the cops said, "you mean that stuff about Fannie running for Congress?" He then said something about wanting to keep them and they didn't press the cop any further. Then the cop said something about their getting out of town and don't come back. George told them we'll be back and then they took off.

Schedule: Saturday night the 21st in Greenwood

Sunday in Charleston

Monday doctor in Jackson, possibly Hattiesburg

Tuesday in Greenwood

Wednesday in Greenwood

Mendy wanted me to locate Bob to ask him what he wants to do about Huston in the 3rd. Says we need 400 dollars for Huston and Cameron to file.

Mrs. Evers will not be able to run for Senate, but Mason is still a possibility.

Charles Evers came into the office and asked why they don't drop the whole political business and concentrate on voter registration...sounded like a directive from New York, Mendy said.

Mendy wants to know if any ministers are coming down??

Mendy has worries about Freedom Registration? Ask Julian about the  
Registration <sup>u</sup>books, he asks.

Problem of records: how do we keep them, problem of duplication. They  
need memorandum on how to proceed with the business.

FR is not gettin off the ground—they need the mental gymnastics done here  
and given to them laid out so they can proceed forthwith without tripping  
over their feet. They want directives on how to proceed.