

March 27, 1964

Pine Bluff: Iris

Yesterday Rep. Cottrell announced on the floor of the Arkansas House that he would be a candidate for re-election for Little Rock School Board. He said that he had planned to retire from the board but he had changed his mind because of the planned school boycott and the stand the Arkansas Gazette was taking. He referred to the Gazette's editorial ~~kkkk~~ Thursday saying that they should mediate. He made this announcement while speaking on behalf of a resolution SCRI which "condemned the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee for advocating a boycott of Little Rock public schools by Negro students on April 6. The resolution carried by vote of ~~RRR~~ 95-0." (Ark. Gazette). Cottrell also said he wanted to read an article from the Atlanta Constitution concerning SNCC. He described the Constitution as "no right wing paper" and ~~kkkk~~ Ralph McGill as far out in left field. He referred to the fact that several SNCC workers have been involved in CP activities: "Communist influenced organizations are attempting to stir up strife in our community. We resent this. A majority of the Negroes in the community oppose this." People from the Pine Bluff Commercial seem to feel that the bill will probably die when it reaches the Senate.

Yesterday a bill was passed and signed making it a felony to make any disturbance in, at, or near a polling place. The same act was previously a misdemeanor. The law will go into effect on July 1, 1964.

Cliff Vaughn was arrested in Pine Bluff last night for speeding. He should be out this afternoon.

They are still picketing in Pine Bluff (Cohens). Few Negroes are shopping in the store and some whites come by and give support.

There will be a mass meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas tonight. The University of Arkansas is in Fayetteville. It is a predominantly white town (about 400 Negroes). The University is 3-4000 students. 20 of them are Negro. Amongst those 20 are previous leaders of the Pine Bluff Movement.

Greenwood: Dick Frey.

Two more traffic tickets were given this morning. Tony Gaenslen was ticketed again today (yesterday also), this time for running a stop sign, which he did not do. He was scheduled to appear in court this afternoon on both charges. He was planning to "stand mute."

Mrs. Lily B. Stuart of Itta Bena received the other ticket this morning. She was stopped by a policeman, and charged with speeding. She was driving 20mph in a 25mph zone. She had been carrying people to register during the week and she has been to register herself. While the policeman was giving her the ticket a white man came up and slashed her tires.

Dick Frey was nearly beaten again today. He and one of the Iowa students went downtown this morning. When he left one store he notice a couple of white guys watching them. He went into another store and went back to the car a different way. ~~kkkk~~ When he reached the car he found five big guys waiting there on the other side of the car. He and the Iowa student jumped into the car. One of the ~~kkkk~~ guys ran up and kicked the car leaving a dent in it. Frey drove off.