

May 13, 1964

Cambridge: John Lewis, Claytha Washington and Danny Lyons

Stokely Carmichael was released from the hospital yesterday. When he got to the St. Clair ~~the hospital~~ he found Gen. Gelson there. Stokely was not arrested, but Gelson threatened to use mustard gas at further demonstrations and also made references to the fact that surplus food was given out on Thursdays and Fridays (implying that he might cut off the food). Last night there was a demonstration of about 150 high school ~~high~~ students. The group marched down to High St. where the Guardsmen and Gen. Gelson were waiting for them. They sat in the street, sang and marched back to the office. Reggie Robinson had been somewhat skeptical about ~~leading~~ leading the demonstrators to a possible second gassing, but he did not want Gelson, et.al. to feel that they had ~~been~~ frightened the people out of demonstrating.

~~As a result of the gassing at the demonstrations on Monday evening, two babies were taken to the hospital. Last night, Rudolf Allen Perry, Jr., aged less than two months, died. His body has been taken to Baltimore (or some other city out of Cambridge) for an autopsy to determine whether the gas was the cause of death. Denny and Stokely both stress that no definite statements be released on the cause of the baby's death until we have a report from the autopsy-- evidently there are laws controlling such statements in the state of Maryland-- there have been press statements mentioning the connections but not stating a definite cause. Rudolf Allen Perry, Sr., was also very sick from the gas and he is now being treated by Dr. Fassett in Cambridge. The other baby (Pritchard family) is four months old and is not in critical condition. The community is very upset about the death of the Perry infant and will probably demonstrate when there is final information.~~

Gloria and the other 13 arrested are to be brought to the magistrate's court in Cambridge for a hearing on their disorderly conduct charges. People will go down to the courthouse in small groups (2, 3, or 4). It will be the first time that any sort of demonstration has taken place downtown (on the 'other side' of Race St., the dividing line of the white and Negro communities).

Denny reports that on Monday night the gassing was extensive in the community. While the demonstrators were still sitting in the street one young guardsman lifted his arm to give a karate punch to one of the demonstrators. There was a spotlight on him and the scene was photographed and on TV (on TV his action was identified as karate). The crowd let out a groan watching him and then bottles and bricks started flying. This made the guardsmen more brutal and even followed fleeing demonstrators, using gas in the streets and on groups of people that were just standing in streets (Larry Landry in one such group). People rushed out of their homes for blocks away from the demonstration, overcome by the gas. Parents were on the streets crying, their children vomiting from the gas. Denny said that when he got to the office which was 7 blocks from the demonstrations, he was gagging so much from the gas in the office that he couldn't talk on the phone. Denny stressed that the papers have NOT mentioned the extent of the gassing within the Negro community as the gas ridges chased after the fleeing demonstrators. A great deal of antagonism has been aroused because of this action.

~~Stokely Carmichael~~

The guardsmen were also very brutal while trying to 'rip' Cliff Vaughn away from the demonstrators who were holding on to him in the streets.

May 13, 1964 (cont'd)

Nashville: Mrs. Catherine Stanton

On Saturday there was a 'Professors' March of about 350 professors from schools in Nashville. Sunday there was a silent protests at the courthouse organized by the churches. The people went down in small groups between 1 and 3pm and stayed for about 15 minutes to 1/2 hour. Because of the organization they have not been able to estimate the total participation. Since Sunday there have been daily demonstrations of about 30 people. Yesterday afternoon two girls were arrested at the Tic Tac when a white girl hit them and they hit back. The girls were Beverly Jo t, 16 or 17, and Barbara Hines, both of Nashville. They were charged with disorderly conduct and vagrancy and were released in the custody of their parents.

Cambridge: John Lewis

Bond was set today for the fourteen arrested on Monday night. Bond was \$100 for Gloria and the other Cambridge resident. The other 12, who are Howard students have bond of \$200.

There were demonstrations at the courthouse today. About 75 went down in groups of two, three and four, and those who couldn't get into the courtroom knelt outside and prayed. When told to disperse by guardsmen they marched through town back to Race St. to show they had a right to peacefully protest.

Hattiesburg: Sandy Leigh

Guyot and Willie Mae Smith were banded out this morning on property bond (see yesterday's report re trial). Billy McDonald is still in jail because the bond for him was not accepted because of some technicality about the property. They are trying to get someone else to put up bond for him.