

Wats report May 15 Jackson

from Bill Light taken by betty

Doug Smith, Larry Rubin, Jesse Davis, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Jesse Harris, Doug Mac Cotton, Lafayette Surney
were enroute from Greenville (from COFO state wide
staff meeting) to Jackson; had trouble with car and stopped
a mile out of Belzoni on highway 12. Pushed car into
Belzoni; found out that car couldn't be fixed that night;
split up trying to get ride into Jackson; rounded up two
by two by members of Belzoni police force; officer Ivy
and officer Roos (?); brought to station and arrested on
investigation of burglary; kept overnight in Belzoni jail;
in am they were questioned by highway patrolman Charlie
Snodgrass (special investigator for highway patrol) assigned
to civil rights beat. During confinement they were treated
with courtesy; no threats, etc.; they claimed that this
incident not connected with the fact that they were civil
rights workers. (ie. sheriff claimed this). Sheriff admitted that
night they were picked up it was because they were an integrated
group; told others that the reason they were picked up was to
prevent riots in Belzoni; 11 pm picked up (May 14th)

This am while still in jail Jackson office called John Doar in
Washington and expressed concern; don't know if he followed up
or not; released at 2:30 pm today; May 15th; all photographed
and most fingerprinted; Doug Smith and Larry were not fingerprinted
because police said they had them already; had police escort
out of town; police said they could make phone call to have somebody
get them since car was still broken.

ages: Smith-17; Rubin-21; Harris-22; Cotton-22; Davis-22;
Surney-20;