

June 20, 1964

Jackson: taken by Sandra Stoball.

Last night at 7:30pm, Marion Gillion and Eddie McKay were forced to leave an announced open picnic at which Barry Goldwater, Jr., spoke at the state fairgrounds in Jackson. As they tried to enter, the sponsor of the program blocked their path and said if they refused to leave they would be arrested. A paddy wagon was available. The two students from Tougaloo had sent telegrams to Senator Goldwater asking that future meetings in the South sponsored by the Republican Party that Negroes be admitted. It was sponsored by the Young Republicans and another organization.

Claude Sifton mentioned this morning that the students had not been allowed to attend because 'it would embarrass the Republican party'.

Jackson

George Greene was arrested last night at about 8pm MLK while walking to a restaurant about 8 or 9 blocks from the COFO office with Annell Ponder. He was charged with public drunkenness and was bonded out for \$15 at about 2am this morning. His trial is scheduled for Tuesday.

While in jail one of the arresting officers said to him, "Don't you think you'd be better off with another job and put that nonviolent shit down?" George answered that he was content with what he was doing and saw no reason to change. When he was being taken up in the elevator one policeman hit him in the stomach and said, "that's just a sample, and when I get you upstairs it's going to be a whole lot worse." He did not hit him any more though however.

Nashville

Yesterday John Lewis, Lester H. McKinnie, and Frank Perdue, a student from Columbus, Ohio, were sentenced to 12 hours in jail to work off a \$25 fine and court costs. The sentence resulted from demonstrations at BMW last year. Since then BMW has been integrated and the management had dropped charges. The charges were picked up by the state however, using the case as an example.

Oxford, Ohio

The following statement was issued from Oxford yesterday re passage of CR bill: The passage of the civil rights bill by the Senate is a victory for the forces of good will and the legislative process of this nation. It is my hope that the executive and judicial branches of the government will not only enforce the new laws but also the already existing civil rights laws. In the meantime we shall continue to utilize every nonviolent means to remove the conditions in our nation which make a civil rights law necessary. The passage of the bill is only the beginning, it is not enough.

s/John Lewis

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Jackson:Hunter Morey

A suit was filed yesterday in Greenville, Miss., asking the courts to declare unconstitutional and enjoin enforcement of the unpledged elector statutes. The suit also asked to the Panola county decision applied on a statewide basis (i.e. let Negroes register under earlier more liberal laws) and asked that the county, district and state political conventions be enjoined until there is effective Negro registration so there can be Negro participation.

There are three classes of plaintiffs in the case, representatives of the Freedom Democratic Party: Mrs. Victoria Gray, Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Mr. James Houston, Rev. John Cameron, and Rev. Edwin King; Negro registered voters: Mrs. Cleola Wallace, Robert Lanier, Mrs. Marion Robinson; and those denied the right to register: Mrs. Susan Eiesta Stokes, Mrs. May Williams, and Mrs. Rosebud Clark.

The defendants are the state of Mississippi, the election officials, Democratic Party officials, and the registrars. The suit was filed by ~~the~~ ~~Kunstler~~ Kunstler and Kinoy, Nel Wolf and local Jackson attorney, L.H. Rosenthal.

Springfield, Mass.: Frank Smith

The Mass. state convention of the Mass. Democratic Party passed a resolution ~~last~~ ^{yesterday} ~~last~~ stating that the credentials committee of the ~~Massachusetts~~ Democratic National Convention should not seat any group which isn't constitutionally constituted. We had ~~been~~ ^{hoped} for a stronger ~~kick~~ resolution focusing more specifically on the state of Mississippi. Prof. Samuel Bear, Harvard University, who is a ~~member~~ member of the credentials committee is likely to give a strictly legal argument for unseating the Mississippi delegation.

Frank feels that ~~most~~ people who have been approached ~~seem~~ seem convinced that the Mississippi delegation should not be seated. They are not yet convinced, however, that the Mass. Freedom Democratic Party should be seated in their place. More work must be done in this area.