WATS LINE DIGEST: JUNE 28

Daily Report to Field

1:00 am: <u>Vicksburg</u>: Neil Hindman reported that a local high school girl who works with the movement was called and informed that " your friends are going to get it."

7:00 am: Canton: Scott Smith reported that they have been getting threatening phone calls periodically throughout the night.

7:30 am: Philadelphia: A white source feels certain that the Sheriff and his deputies were directly implicated in this week's tragic events. He thinks the FBI knows this, but it doesn't have sufficient proof. He thinks the FBI knows this, but it doesn't have sufficient proof. He thinks the three were kept in jail only long enough for the sherrif to alert a mob. The ku klux klan is extremely powerful in Philadelphia, according to this source. The sheriff is a member, according to this source. IMPORTANT: All the foregoing is unconfirmed rumor!! This man feels that if workd of Gregory's offer of a \$25,000 reward were more widely spread around, it might shake some tongues loose. He suggests we rent a helicopter and drop leaflets in the county about the reward. (Gregory's reward was for information which would lead to actually finding the missing three and/or o to the arrest of the persons responsible for the crime. He wants the persons alive or the persons responsible alive.) The wite source in Philadelphia has had his life threatened and feels that he is in great danger. He is clearing out.

8:30 Philadelphia: Reporter Nick Von Hoffman reports that the Navy men are not EXECT searching today. (Later news reports said that they had Sunday off). The pearl river will be dragged. There are lots of EXECT FBI men in the area. Says, "We have in a general way some idea of who did it (Hoffman says that). Doesn't know whether can be proved.

9:45 am: Minneapolis: One Angus Clarke called to inform us of the formation of the Minnesota Task Force for the Miss. Summer Project, a group which will devote itself to money raising a efforts. Reports that though there was apathy earlier in the summer, the group is getting moving since the evnts in Philadelphia.

1:00 pm: Philadelphia: Same white source reported that he called the FBI Monday, June 22, at 11:00 am, totell them that he had heard the known three were still in jail at 9:00 pm the night before. This man said he known they were still alive. He also told the FBI he had been threatened known a week or so before the June 16 burning of the Mt. Zion Methodist Church. The FBI did not seem interested.

3:05 pm: Jackson: Bob Weil and Hunter Morey called FBI agent Helgesen at his home, and advised him of the situation of our white source in Philadelphia. They compared the situation mx to that of Louis Allen. It was explained that the fact that the source had relayed this info over the phone x might heighten the danger he was now in. FBI protection was requested for the man until he could leave the area. Helgesen seemed receptive, but did not reply that he would do anything in particular.

3:30 pm: Columbus: Eight people still in jail. One of the fellows

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in the city jail, who was picked up Tuesday night, overheard a conversation by white people in the jail who seemed to be bragging to themsalves for doing such a good jog of keeping our missing three in Columbus. There has been no substantiation of this rumor.

4:00 pm: Ruleville: Ruleville Maze Mayor Charles Dorrough this morning told a white Methodist minister that he could not worship in a local white Methodist church. The mayor told the Rev. James Corson, "You've come down here to live with the Negroes; you can go to church with them" The Rv. Corson, kw who is Chaplain at Stafford in California, had planned to attend the Methodist church this morning, but Mayor Durrough paid him a personal visit at 9:30 am to tell him not to go. The minister pfztgz of the white church said Corson's presence would detract from the spirit of worship. Rev. Corson, along with three white volunteers, attended services at the Negro Methodist church, where they were warmly recieved. The Rev. is in Mississippi with the NCC.

TO PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS: Please inform Jackson of all positive as well as negative developments. So far news coverage has been almost totally concerning the impediments faced by summer workers. It is important that positive accomplishments become known also. These levelopments will make good material for feature stories. Please report, either by phone or mail, the following type of information: numbers of blocks canvassed, people taken to courthouse, people actually registered, number of students in Freedom schools, their response, how the community center is recieved and utilized by the community, general involvement of the Community in the priprint project, text etc.

MINNESOTA DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION unanymously adopted a resolution yesterday, condemning the Miss. Demos and supporting the FDP in its demand to be seated in Atlantic City. These brings the list to four major state conventions, (Mass., Wisconsin, and Michigan have done the same), as well as the Calif. Democratic Council and the New York State Central Committee. We may make it!

COMMUNICATIONS STAFF NOTES: Congratulations to Dale Gronemeier and Terrie Shaw for some k very fine reporting... Barring any mojor developments in the Philadelphia search, watch for a shift of news interest out across the state... One media measurement: 83 newsmen have been registered during the past week at a single Motel in Meridian

To: FREEDOM SCHOOL COORDINATORS

Some of the project directors received a notice from Jackson saying that Freedom Schools would start July 1. I can't find out who sent the notice. If the Freedom School has been announced for July 1 in your community, you will have to cope with this situation as best you can. In Hattiesburg, for example, schools were announced for July 1 - their solution is to have the community center open for all ages July 1, and shift teen-agers to the schools on July 6. If schools were not announced for Julu 1 in your community, our understanding at Oxford still stands: open the schools when you feel ready.