

WATS Report - July 6, 1964 - Taken by John Perlew 10:00 pm

Americus, Georgia (Sumter county) NEGRO AND WHITE MOBS FORMING Robert Mants
About 150 whites are grouped downtown in front of the Martin Theatre, scene
of a riot last night. Negroes have been grouping to oppose them and dispersing
periodically. Mants has helped to disperse them. Police and firemen are
present in the area. Earlier in the day Negroes ate at George's Restaurant
and the B&B Restaurant in downtown Americus. There were no incidents.

Atlanta, Ga. July 6, 1964 8:15 pm John Perlew

REPORT TO FBI - I informed agent Charles Haynes of Atlanta FBI that Willie
Ricks in Americus had called at 8:00 pm, had said that Negroes were organizing
to meet a white mob tonight, that there was a white mob downtown, size unspecified.
I insisted that the very presence of a mob at the site of a public accommodation
which Negroes had been using constituted interference with the implementation
of the Civil Act of 1964. I said I understood that anybody interfering with the
implementation of the Act was liable to prosecution. I claimed that I thought
FBI agents should go immediately to the scene and if necessary use their power of
arrest to keep the situation under control. Haynes replied that he was not determin-
ing policy, that it was determined from Washington, and that the policy was not
to go into the field and interfere with the actions of local law enforcement
officers to keep law and order. I answered that I wasn't sure that law and order
would be kept, that my concern was preventive measures, not post facta reports.
Reminded Haynes that Sunday night the police and firemen had attempted only to
disperse the Negro mob and not the whites.

Atlanta, Ga. - July 6, 1964 - 10:00pm John Perlew

REPORT TO FBI - Called Albany FBI agent Joseph H. O'Rourke and informed him of
what Mants had said concerning mobs forming in Americus at the time. O'Rourke
said he couldn't act except on orders from Atlanta FBI agent Charles Haynes.
When I said I had already talked to him, O. asked me what he had said. I told him.
I emphasized that my concern was prevention of an incident, not reports after the
fact. He said he had been informed that the State Patrol had been held in reserve
last night in case police couldn't handle the incident.

WATS REPORT - July 6, 1964 11:10 pm Taken by John Perlew

Americus Ga. (Sumter County). Robert Mants. WHITES SHOOTING IN NEGRO SECTION
Carload of Whites went through Seaboard side of Americus shooting in Negro
residential area. So far no one reported hit. The downtown area appears to
be clear of groups now. All people in SNCC house have just taken refuge
in Barnum Funeral Home when they heard noise of what sounded like an approach-
ing crowd. Learned the crowd was going down Forsyth St. about a block away,
parallel to the street which the SNCC house is on.

WATS REPORT JULY 6, 1964 Taken by John Perdew

Americus, Ga. (Sumter County) Robert Mants. REPORT OF SHOOTING CONFIRMED, MAYOR ISSUES STATEMENT BLAMING OUTSIDE AGITATORS FOR FRICTION. Reported that seven carloads of whites were seen going through Seaboard side, Negro section of town. Whites came to Hope Merritt's Grocery Store. No one reported hit in shooting. Mants and Ricks back at SNCC house, expect trouble tonight, if whites continue going through Negro section. Ricks claims mobs still downtown. R. and M. have decided not to move from the SNCC house on Jefferson street.

Mayor Griffin Walker issued a statement in the Americus Times-Recorder today calling for an end to violence and mobs. He urged that children be kept home, blamed the friction in the last few days on outside agitators. State Patrol seen cruising the area.

M King

SELMA, ALA. From Matt Herron (Mr. J C Grendel) 1:10 am
Mass meeting - Abernathy spoke, at Shiloh Baptist Ch. 350 people there. At least 150 policemen outside, about 30 around front and up road, then busload plus 8-10 carloads totalling 150 up side. Ready for action but there was no action. Very quiet there tonight "yown dead." No action since afternoon arrests he knows of. Matt thinks he can hold out for awhile so long as noone blows his cool. Concerned that other person who went to jail has any jail and whether he can get it out. He'll try to get to jail tomorrow and get film and info. Needs local contacts because everyone is out of sight.
Tell Danny Lyon his next assignment is to take the next four days cruising the Delta doing anything that strikes his fancy. One requirement: that he stay in close touch with an office.

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12:30 MOSS POINT, MISS. from Charles Glenn
Lamar Turnipseed arrested. He was one of a group of local Negroes who pursued the car of whites doing the shooting. Unconfirmed report that E.J. Wiggins was also arrested. Guyot called at 1:20 to say that L.T. was being held without charges at a jail - no. SO 2-4383. He asked for long distance calls to be put through the jail, worried about his protection since a 16-year-old youth, Fletcher Ledille, was kicked by police at a service station in M.P. and the police looked prone to violence. Glenn also reported the second shooting occurred on Magnolia Street in M.P.; same group of whites.

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1:00 am MOSS POINT From AP in New Orleans
1. - the earlier report of a car being overturned was rebuffed by police AP said the chief of police told him the police car was not overturned but involved in a routine incident - routine wreck.
2. - the same car of whites shot at a passing car of newsmen on their way to the KP hall. - reported to NO AP from Mobile.

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Glenn also said the report by Guyot of police telling Guyot that martial law had been declared referred to the curfew. Guyot said police at the hospital had given him one minute on the phone and told him "martial law has been declared."

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Jessie B. Stalworth - correct age: 19, according to Glenn.

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Sheriff's office reported at 1:25 am that "Fred Turnipseed's charge would probably be public drunk." He confirmed there had been "some shooting at the colored's meeting."

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