

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.