

WATS REPORT, AUGUST 18, TUESDAY

MMG

INDIANOLA: via Jackson (Jimmy Womack/Grogan) 4:45 am  
Twenty-five white citizens showed up for the show, "In White America". Indianola people think most of the group were members of the White Citizens' Council. The sheriff came and said that there would be no trouble. Also, about 8 or 10 helmeted policemen arrived in two cars. A group of workers was followed from Ruleville to Indianola by a white pickup truck, license no. Sunflower 8-278.

JACKSON: (Mike Maddell/Grogan) 7:30 am  
There were four people arrested/correction/only one was charged. Jay Litein, Annie Avery, Betty Dougherty, and another unnamed person were parked in front of the Edward Lee Hotel about 3:30 am when the local police came up and charged one with obstructing traffic. The fine was \$12. More information will follow later.

MCCOMB: (Lee Garrett/Grogan) 9:00 am  
In preparation for the first southwest Mississippi Freedom Day, a mass meeting was held in McComb St. Paul's Church. This is the first church which has opened its doors to the McComb Freedom movement.

In spite of harassment, raids and intimidation all day (Aug. 17) over 200 persons turned out for the meeting. Folk singer Lyn Chandler and freedom singer Cordell Reagon opened the meeting with singing. Testimonies were offered by members of the audience. Roy Lee who was imprisoned the night of the last bombing and who was released on Aug. 17, described what had happened to him. Others including delegates to the FDP convention in Jackson spoke on the importance of the vote. The main speaker was project director Curtis Hayes, a native of the McComb area. He put the situation bluntly and demanded a choice from each present. The meeting was a good success both in numbers and in spirit. This is especially the case in light of continued intimidation. Plans for the freedom day were explained and people signed up. Plans for the freedom day continue. Four cars will make runs all day between the Freedom house in McComb and the courthouse in Magnolia. Five persons, including 3 ministers, will be stationed at the courthouse. In the meantime canvassing and leafleting will continue in McComb. It is expected that national press will be present to cover this virgin voyage. Rumor persists of possible retaliation on the evening of Aug. 18. It has been rumored that no Negro had better be on the streets after 5 pm. Also rumors have been reported here to the effect that a shipment of machine guns came into McComb about three days ago. So far the latter rumor remains unsubstantiated.

GREENWOOD: (Haberman/Grogan) 9:15 am  
A Negro man, Fuschens, was shot and killed in Monticello, Miss. Sheriff N.S. Lambert said he was killed with a shot fired from a rifle or pistol. No arrests have been made. Apparently he has no record of civil rights activity. Monticello is in Lawrence County which touches the northeast corner of Pike County. This information came from Atlanta UPI.