

WEST POINT, MISS. Leslie Boyd/Jeanne Breaker ARRESTS LEAD TO SCHOOL PROTEST
Yesterday, 55 students were arrested for riding the school bus to the Freedom School. They all attend the Beasley HS. They had been riding the county school bus to the Freedom School every day rather than to the regular school. The Negro school is open during the summer (split session) so that Negro students can work during the fall cotton picking season. When the students left the freedom school yesterday and attempted to get on the bus, Sheriff Strickland told them not to, and warned that they would be arrested if they used the bus. They tried to get on the bus, and so they were all taken to the county jail, booked, and then released on the provision that they didn't try to ride the bus to or from the freedom school again.

Today a group of people demonstrated around the office of the Superintendent of Public Schools. They were demanding an end to the split session, a set of books for each child, a gym, a 4-year integration plan, etc. All of the demonstrators (about 50) were arrested. Charge not known at this point. 25 juveniles were later released.

Yesterday when the students were being taken to the county jail, four workers tried to take pictures of what was happening. They were arrested for obstructing justice.

AMERICUS, GA. via Albany

Hundreds of people are down at the courthouse attempting to register. Four Negro registrars have been hired to help with the registration. 300 people registered today.

EUTAW, GREEN CO., ALA via Selma, Willie Emma Scott/Jeanne

Today local people picketed the downtown stores here. They were pushed and shoved by local whites. They went to the sheriff's office to swear out a warrant for the arrest of the people who pushed them, but Sheriff Bill Lee and County Solicitor Banks refused to discuss the matter with them. Later in the day, 25 Negroes and 3 SCOPE workers sat in at the sheriff's office, hoping to get the warrant by direct action. The sheriff, two police, and the solicitor came in. The solicitor asked them what they wanted. When they said that two girls wanted to swear out a warrant, the solicitor told all the others to "get the hell" out of his office. Before they could leave, they were hit by the sheriff and the policemen with billy clubs.

BELZONI, MISS. John Strand/Jeanne

On July 3, during the Jackson demonstrations, Robert Bass and Houston Archie, two SNCC workers from Miss., picked up two local guys with two typewriters. Bass was followed for a long time, then stopped in Jackson by police, taken back to Belzoni, and charged with burglary and grand larceny. The two boys who had the typewriters insisted that Bass and Archie knew the typewriters were stolen. Bass and Archie insisted they didn't.

The county attorney made a deal with their lawyer, Leonard Rosenthal of Jackson, that if they pleaded guilty to petty theft, the charge of grand larceny would be dropped. On Rosenthal's advice, Bass and Archie plead guilty to petty theft, and were given a choice of three months in the county jail or 2 years probation. They took the 3 month jail sentence.

Bass was very ill with stomach trouble in jail; last Sunday, three nurses from the Medical Committee were able to visit him in jail.

BOSTON, MASS. Pam Emerson/Betty Garman HOLIDAY INN SUPPORT PICKET

20 people picketed the Holiday Inn in Cambridge today to protest the hiring policies and wages in the Holiday Inn in McComb, Miss. CORE and SDS co-sponsored.

PEOPLE SHOULD WRITE to the President, Holiday Inn, 3236 Lamar, Memphis, Tenn., to protest branches that do not comply with the civil rights bill and which practice discrimination in wages, hiring, etc. Other pickets organized by Friends of SNCC are welcomed--in fact, encouraged. (See WATS # 134 on.)

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WASHINGTON DC Marion Barry/Betty Garman LBJ ON VOTING BILL, CR CONF.
John Lewis, Cleve Sellers, and Marion Barry, from SNCC, and James Farmer from CORE met with President Johnson after the signing of the voting rights bill. In response to a question about what steps would be taken to enforce the voting rights bill, LBJ said "The Justice Dept will file a poll tax suit against the State of Miss. on Sat., Aug. 7, and against Alabama, Virginia, and Texas on Tuesday. A list of states and counties falling under the jurisdiction of the Act will be published in the Federal Register Aug. 7/ On Aug. 9, the JD will designate certain counties where there have been difficulties in the past, and the President will order federal examiners immediately into those counties. On Tuesday Aug. 10, federal examiners will begin registering voters for all counties specially designated by the JD.

The Fall White House Conference on Civil Rights was also discussed. It will be attended by 2,000-3,000 people. The President wants SNCC to submit in writing recommendations and suggestions as to what should be done in terms of legislation, executive efforts, etc., to remove remaining barriers to desegregation. The President emphasized that he thought that the problem had shifted to the cities and the breakdown of the Negro family (this was a reference to a 68-page report on the Negro family published by a Government agency, citing statistics on unemployment, illegitimacy, size of family, etc.)

Near the end of the discussion, John gave a copy of the FDP Brief to the President, with a statement of SNCC suggestions.

ASSEMBLY OF UNREPRESENTED PEOPLE, WASHINGTON DC Pat Larsen/Barbara Brandt 8pm
So far 900 people are officially registered for the meeting-workshop-demonstration which is taking place here Aug. 6-9. Today people held a silent vigil in front of the White House to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and to present a Declaration of Conscience--a statement by people refusing to support the war in Vietnam--to the President. Since they were unable to present the Declaration to the President, about 100 people sat down in front of the White House--no arrests yet. In the afternoon, about 2000 people (according to a Washington Post estimate) attended a rally in Lafayette Park, across from the White House. Speakers included Joan Baez, Bob Parris, Staughton Lynd, A.J. Muste, Dave Dellinger, and Rabbi Feinstein.

STATEMENT BY JOHN LEWIS ON SNCC AND THE ASSEMBLY OF UNREPRESENTED PEOPLE (The following statement was issued by John Lewis in Washington today):

Recently there has been a great deal of confusion and distortion about the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's role in the Assembly of Unrepresented People.

While SNCC commits to principles of nonviolence and human relationships makes us opposed to organized war wherever it occurs, the major commitment of SNCC is the establishment, by nonviolent methods, of an interracial democracy in the South. Our program of voter registration, community centers, freedom schools, and other community organizing efforts is designed hopefully to bring this about. Moreover, all of our organizational and financial resources are committed to this effort.

We have not been asked, nor have we volunteered any organizational resources to the protests against the war in Vietnam now taking place. While the Coordinating Committee (the decision-making body of SNCC) has taken no formal position on the issue, our philosophical commitment to the principles of nonviolence is a matter of public record. In addition, the moral and spiritual health of any democracy rests on the right and freedom of its citizens to express their convictions on any and all issues. For this reason, members of the SNCC staff, as individuals, can take positions on any issues of conscience that arise.

MONTGOMERY, ALA: Fred Meely/Bab MORE INFO ON MONTGOMERY CASES

The 167 cases of demonstrators which were thrown out of Federal Court this week (see #141) will be appealed to the Fifth Circuit Ct of Appeals. If this appeal fails the cases will come up in City Court some time after Sept. 13. (more)