

WASHINGTON ACTION PROJECT

About 275 people were arrested here as they were marching to the Capitol Building in an attempt to convene the Assembly of Unrepresented People on the Capitol steps. They were charged with things like disorderly conduct and refusing to move. Among those arrested were leaders Staughton Lynd and Bob Parris.

According to Eric Weinberger, the total registration at the AUP was about 1500, although more people may have come who didn't register. Most were college students.

Tuesday, August 10, 1965

GEORGIA REPORT via Albany, Joyce Brown and Jim Parry/Jeanne and Bab
CORDELE Nancy Cooper spoke to the Supt of schools. He told her that the schools will be integrated first-through-ninth grades this fall. Parents will have to send in written requests to have their kids transferred. Transfer dates are Aug. 9-25, and school begins the 30th. People feel they won't have the time to get the application in because the transfer date is so near.

ALBANY A barbeque-rally-discussion of the voting bill is planned for this Saturday.
BAKER COUNTY, NEWTON 25 people this morning and 37 this afternoon demonstrated today at the courthouse. Their aims were to demand longer hours for opening the registration books, and also to protest the beating of the crippled George Crawford by Deputy Sheriff Johnson. After he was beaten by Johnson (See WATS # 145), he was taken from the Camilla Hospital to the jail, where he is being held on 4 counts: driving on expired license, insulting an officer, resisting arrest, and ?. Several carloads of state troopers were around the demonstrators.

The boycott of downtown stores is continuing. There are reports that local merchants are losing money.

QUITMAN, GA, (BROOKS CO). New project: c/o Rev. Ponder, 501 South Madison
912-263-4540 Workers are George Bess and Ernie McMillan

SELMA, ALA. Shirley Walker/Jeanne

Four federal examiners are registering people at the federal building. Approximately 200 people are down there being processed very quickly.

CANTON, MISS. Eartiss Crawford/Bab FEDERAL REGISTRARS UNDER VOTING BILL

This was the first day that federal registrars were in Madison County. (Apparently Madison and Leflore Counties, both in Mississippi, are the only counties to which federal registrars were sent under the voting rights act so far). Three white registrars have set up an office next to the NAACP office. Loads and loads of people were there. There was no public announcement of where the office would be before it was opened, according to Eartiss.

They have been boycotting the three Fred's Dollar Stores since last Friday.

AMERICUS, GA. 7:30pm John Lewis just getout of jail.

WEST POINT, MISS. There has been a boycott of the schools in the Beasley Community because of the split session since July 26. The first week, 9 workers were arrested. Last week 54 kids using the school bus to the freedom school were arrested. The next day there was a demonstration at the Board of Ed (where the State Trooper died). The FDP plans a demonstration this Friday morning in front of the board of education and the courthouse. The Chief of Police said they should talk to the Mayor about whether or not they will be arrested.

(over)

GEROGIA REPORT via Albany, Jim Parry/Bab

AMERICUS Yesterday about 120 people marched to the courthouse in the rain. Over 300 people were registered. Now there is no literacy test--people don't even have to sign their names.

NEWTON After people had picketed at the courthouse for about three weeks, Mayor Sidersine finally decided today that he wouldn't allow picketing there. City police turned a group of demonstrators away. They marched back to the church, then a delegation went to the mayor to ask him why he had outlawed picketing. He didn't tell them. So a group of 19 people started back to the courthouse. While they were walking on the street, they stopped at a traffic light. There the police engaged them in a discussion, finally arrested them, charging them with refusing to obey an officer and blocking the street. Bond is \$350 each. According to the version told by State Police, the picketers were given two alternate routes to the courthouse and refused either one, so then they were arrested. Among those arrested are Janet Vrchota (23, Mason City, Iowa), Paul Menzel (22, Manchester, Michigan), and Walter Draude (Baldwin NY, 24, Gerogetown U.), all white.

POWHATAN CO, VA. Betty Cummings/Bab

On Monday there was a demonstration at the county courthouse to urge fair hiring in state jobs, removal of "White"- "Colored" signs from the courthouse, desegregation of public facilities, and formation of a biracial committee. 11 people (4 local, 7 members of the Va. Students Civil Rights Committee) began a sit-in at the courthouse that night, and stayed all night because nobody molested them.

LAUREL, MISS. Arthur Lee Jacob/Bab

According to today's paper, federal registrars were supposed to be in Leflore and Madison Counties (cf. #145 report from Cleve on Sunday). There was also a statement in the paper by Charles Evers, criticizing the government for sending registrars into only 2 counties instead of all 82.

COLUMBIA, MISS. Curt Styles/Bab

Since Monday they have had a voter registration drive; during the past three days, approximately 50 people have registered.

A biracial committee has been formed; it has 20 whites and 2 Negroes, both ministers. (Curt says they're pretty good.) However, according to the papers, this committee will administer the War on Poverty.

On Monday there was a meeting between the Mayor and local white merchants. They decided that they didn't want another Selma. Also, the Klan is very strong in Walthall Co., which is one county over, and the Mayor doesn't want them in Marion Co. So all the restaurants agreed to integrate, and today Curt and the others used a white restaurant and went to the movies.

Thursday, August 12, 1965

NEWTON GA via Albany, Jim Parry/Jeanne and Carolyn ARRESTS CONTINUE

16 more people were arrested here today while they were attempting to picket at the courthouse. The people were given a restricted area in which to picket. They wanted to picket where they wanted to. They were all arrested by State Troopers on orders of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, charged with obstructing a highway and refusing to obey a police officer. Bond is \$300 each. Included among those arrested today are Bill and Ruth Minter, from Tucson, Ariz, and Union Theological Seminary.

Last night, the sheriff sprayed DDT in the cell where the prisoners were. Everybody, men, women, and children, had been placed into one small cell.

(more)