

SUNFLOWER CO, MISS. (Indianola) Linda Jenkins/Bab * *VR REPORT* *

Some people who can't read or write are being turned away, but some Negro illiterates are being allowed to register. The registrar also asks people where they work. Linda knows of at least one case in which, after a Negro woman went to register, her employer stopped coming for her. Linda thinks the registrar told the employer.

They have sent at least 40 complaints to the JD.

GREENWOOD, MISS. James Moore/Bob * *VR REPORT* *

He is not satisfied with voter registration. Out of 13,500 Negroes in Greenwood, only 3000 are registered so far. However, they are getting people from almost every town in the county to register. In Greenwood, they are doing block organizing to increase registration.

The county registrar closed her office two or three days after the voting bill was put into effect. She said she "didn't have the new forms." The KKK and the White Citizens Council had said they would have a drive to get illiterate whites registered, but on the day they were supposed to have the drive, no one showed up at the courthouse.

Since Tuesday, all the Federal Mailboxes in the "egro district of Greenwood, which are on telephone or telegraph poles, have been removed. Local authorities say there is some ruling that mail boxes can't be on utility property. (These are US, not private mailboxes.) The only mail box Moore knows of in the South Negro community is one that stands on the ground. He thinks this is being done to retaliate for presence of federal registrars in Leflore County.

WASHINGTON CO., MISS. (Greenville) Eric Goldman/Bab * *VR REPORT* *

The registrar is not registering illiterates. He says that if people can't read or write, they just aren't allowed to register right now (although they will be able to register some time in the future), and the civil rights workers are wrong for telling them to go register now. They have sent 25 complaints to JD.

A registration drive was started in Leland yesterday. 25 people went down yesterday, about 50 today.

Glen Allen: They had an organizing meeting for the Mississippi Student Union, 40 kids attended. (This is more than there are in Glen Allen.)

MISSISSIPPI from Jon Steinberg * *VR REPORT* *

On August 18, Attorney General Joe Patterson of Mississippi told FDP volunteer Bob Coppock (working in Greenville) that the official state policy of Mississippi is to continue use of the literacy test. (Note: this was one of the provisions of the Constitutional Amendment that was passed in the Aug. 17 referendum.)

MERIDIAN, MISS. Joe Morse/Bab SCHOOL REPORT

Lauderdale Co. schools announced just last Saturday that they would be integrating the 1st and 12th grades. Today, Joe, another volunteer, and three mothers drove three teenage girls to the West Lauderdale HS (in the rural) to get registered. The adults were told that only students would be allowed near the school. The adults tried to stay near the school so the girls could get a ride home with them when they had finished registering. First white FDP volunteer Mark Levy was arrested for improper parking. Then Joe was arrested for disobeying an officer and improper parking. They were both arrested by local constables, taken to county jail, bail \$55 each. An hour later, Joe was arrested by another constable for a defective windshield, bond \$34.

The three girls were courteously treated, and are now registered as the only Negroes attending West Lauderdale HS.

SUMTER CO. ALA. via Selma, Willie Emma Scott/Jeanne

Alvery Williams was fined a grand total of \$219--charges: reckless driving, driving while license was suspended, and parking on highway. (These all came out of his attempt to get away from a white guy who was chasing them and trying to force them off the road.)

GREEN CO. ALA. Memorial service for Rev. Daniel was held at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, with Unitarian minister Henri Steins delivering the eulogy. There were approximately 300 people present. SCHOOL REPORT:

Rev. Wm. Branch, President of the Green Co. Chapter of the NAACP, and Pres. of the Green Co. Civic Org., was fired from his job as a teacher in the Green Co. Public School system yesterday. This occurred at a meeting in the county courthouse, which was attended by both white and negro teachers (the first time an integrated meeting was held.). Rev. Branch was told by the Supt. of Ed. that because of his part in the movement, his services were no longer needed. Branch had just returned from a fund raising trip in Chicago and Detroit. He was offered a church in Detroit, and he might take it.

This morning, SNCC worker Ed Smith took a group of parents and children to an all-white school. They were turned back at the driveway and told to get the hell out of there. Four other car loads of people made an attempt to enter the school, and were given the same reception. Parents in Green Co. decided they would boycott the Negro schools if they are not integrated.

NATCHEZ, MISS.

Around 12:30pm today, a bomb placed under the hood of George Metcalfe's car exploded as he started it. Metcalfe is the head of the local NAACP, and housed COFO workers. He was taken to the Jefferson Davis Hospital, where he was treated for broken arm, leg, and other injuries. No arrests have been made.

CORDELE, GA. via Albany

There were elections for the Negroes on a biracial committee. They were all Movement people. The city commissioners refused to accept them. They said they wanted "neutral" Negroes.

School report: 17 students applied to transfer to the white school. All five of the boys, and 5 of the 12 girls were turned down. Reasons given were poor record and bad character. This probably means that they were connected with SNCC, because, for example, one of the boys who applied was called by his principal "One of the best in the school."

* *VR REPORT* * 300 people have been registered since the voting bill was passed. The registrar is very nasty, but she registers everybody.

AMERICUS, GA. via Albany, Jim Parry/Bab VIOLENCE TO DEMONSTRATORS

There was a two week period during which all picketing was called off. That period ended today, and demonstrators went out to the Quik-Chek, Piggly-Wiggly, and Colonial Stores. They told police they would be demonstrating, but no police were around. All in all, 10 people were beaten while picketing.

At the Quik-Chek, 8 picketers were set upon by a group of whites who beat them first with fists, then began to take out tire irons and shot guns. The pickets started to run away. Richard Adler, a white volunteer from Los Angeles, tripped, and was beaten by 15 guys with billy clubs (standard police issue) and tire irons. He suffered a possibly broken finger, and a hernia. Adler later asked Chief of Police Ross Chambliss why there had been no protection. Chambliss said that it was his duty to protect demonstrators while they were demonstrating (although they weren't there then), but the beating occurred while the picketers were running away.

BELZONI, MISS. Ellis Jackson/Bab * *VR REPORT* *

The circuit clerk is asking people where they lived for more than two years back. They have sent in 40 complaints to the JD. Since the voting bill, 250 people were registered.

(over)