

WATS REPORT: WEDNESDAY JULY 8, 1954

unofficial report

Selma: Tom Brown: 9:30am (Atlanta time)

a press conference was held last night with ABC, UPI, AP, NBC, and New York Times. A meeting was held with adult steering committee. The decision was made to hold testing of public accommodations until Sunday (after the voter registration drive is over this week).

Today there will be picketing at the courthouse, the jail and the federal building. People will be sent out in teams of 5 or 6 each hour starting at 11:30am. They expect about 30 arrests today.

Tonight there will be a mass meeting (place not known yet). On Monday Sheriff Clark told Mr. Gildersleeve of the Dallas County Voters League that he would break up all mass meetings from now on- that none would be allowed from now on. Therefore there may be trouble tonight.

Tomorrow there will be an all day mass meeting for students. Workshops will be held on all titles of the Civil Rights bill; there will be workshops on the history of songs of the movement. Students will be sent down to picket from the meeting.

BACKGROUND: Karen House was charged with trespassing and carrying a concealed weapon when arrested Saturday. The concealed weapon was a chain medallion- which she had in her pocketbook. The medallion was broken. Karen's bond is \$1000.

The Justice Department and the FBI have both been notified about plans to picket today.

McComb: 21 years old

Dennis Sweeney (who's name is not on parents list) is summer volunteer from Portland, Oregon. Parents: G.L and Carol Sweeney. 6811 N.E. Hancock, Portland. Sweeney is from Stanford University, ~~kkkkkk~~ has been there 3 years. History major.

Re McComb: Danny Lyong

Congressman Edwards of California stayed at 702 Wall Street on Monday night, the night before the bombing. Edwards and Danny went to see the ~~kkkkkk~~ mayor of McComb yesterday afternoon asking for police patrol of the house because no police had been by at all. Edwards left McComb at about 3pm yesterday, only 12 hours before the bombing. Edwards will be contacted about the bombing by his son, Len,

Selma: Tom Brown: 12:15 noon

white

Last night a man came to the Freedom House at about 3am. He tried to break in and kicked the door, broke of the mail box and tore the signs off the door and said something about the fact that he was going to get the Freedom Fighters. His daughter had been hit by a brick at the Wilbey theatre on Sunday. She has in the hospital. Tom expects that he'll probably come back again until he catches one of the SNCC workers at the house. The incident was reported to sheriff Clark and will be to the FBI,

sidewalks

The ~~kkkkkk~~ are all blocked off by the courthouse. Only people going to register can by. They will still try to get picketers down there however, within the next 15 minutes.

July 8

Wats Report from Jackson Bill Light 4:40 AM taken by Karen Haberman

MCCOMB Miss. time

3:20 Jackson recieved a call tha a house in McComb had been bombed, 702 Wall St. The entire front end of the was smashed in. Curtis Hayes was cut up by a smashed window. He had cuts all over his arms, face and body but he is not badly hurt. Police and fire dept. showed up 20 minutes later. Two quart oilcans were found facin the left front of the house, Before the blast, no one heard ~~xxxx~~ anything. The people in the house wer e: George Greene, Wendy Sampstene, Denis Sweeney, Curtis Hayes, D. nacord, Sherry Everitt, Pat Walker, Freddy Greene, Clint Hopson, Jesse Harris. Sweeny had a couple of cuts but it is not serious. He had been sleeping in the same room as did C. Hayes.

After the blast about 100 Negroes ~~xxxxxx~~ gathered and were standing outside. Curtis tried to get a doctor but couldnt however he is all right, he says he was sort of knocked unconecious and didnt hear anything before that. George G reene said t at he heard three explosions second after ~~xxxxxxx~~ second. Said were like gunshots only was louder. Hayes is 21. a native of McComb. SNCC worker and Negro.

John Doar called 5:30 AM