

JULY 13:

CLARKSDALE: Police Brutality

James A. Campbell, 24, of Clarksdale, was forced to leave a "white" laundromat where he was washing his clothes. After he left and drove off, police followed him for several blocks and then pulled him over for failing to signal a turn. Campbell was arrested and then taken to city jail, where Police Chief Ben Collins and two other officers beat him with their fists and a billy club. "Don't you know you're a nigger and you're going to stay a nigger?" Collins declared. Booked on additional charges of traffic violations and resisting arrest, Campbell was released on \$ 64 bond. Intimidated by this brutal experience, he skipped trial and forfeited bond.

On July 8, Joe Johnson, 58, of Clarksdale, returned to his parked car after a meal, only to find himself accused by city police of having scratched a white woman's car. (Witnesses said the scratches were made by a Negro city dump truck driver). Johnson was taken to the police station, where he was beaten and had his head knocked against the wall. Johnson was not allowed to make a phone call for 17 hours after his arrest.

Also in Clarksdale, Registrar J.W. Smith indefinitely closed the voter registration books. His reason: the circuit court is meeting and the registrar is also a circuit clerk.

NATCHEZ: Two Negro churches near Natchez were burned to the ground. Willie Washington, a local contractor, reported that a molotov cocktail was thrown at his house, but failed to explode.

SHAW: E.C. Fisher, of Shaw, with whom a COFO volunteer is staying, was fined \$112 for speeding and yesterday was fired from his job.

MOSS POINT: Twenty people went down to register at the courthouse today, and were made to go into the office one at a time. The reason given for this new choke-off is that the Circuit Court is in session, and will be for five weeks. Cofo workers who accompanied the registrants were not allowed into the office.

ISSAQENA & SHARKEY: 25 people have tried to register, and many feel that their application forms are being tossed into the wastebasket. The JD is being asked to send agents to check voter registration here. Registrants are allowed in only one at a time, though there are two desks in the office.

The police raided a Negro cafe in Sharkey, looking for SNCC people. Things getting pretty tense in Issaquena: local whites are circling certain key houses and churches. Issaquena mail is being opened, and local people want to sue the Post Office.

JULY 14:

McComb: More than 85 people attended a mass meeting here. A church which had been promised for the meeting was withdrawn after the Natchez bombings. The meeting was finally held on a lawn. A local minister and Rev. McCord met alone with local whites. The gathering went fairly well and next week the meeting will be bi-racial.

Canton: A localman was told he'd be fired if he did not remove his children from the Freedom School. Result: Children are still in school.

BOVINA (Warren County): Three workers went to check on a church which was reported to have been burned on July 7. Everyone they talked to felt that an arsonist was responsible, and a torch had reportedly been found by authorities inspecting the vicinity. The Vicksburg Evening Press reported that the fire had been caused by a smouldering incinerator, but the building had not been in use for several days. The church had occasionally been used for Voter registration classes.

HOLLY SPRINGS: The chief of Police in Oxford warned Ivanhoe Donaldson that he would be picked up if he ever returned to Oxford, after Ivanhoe visited Oxford with Cathy Dahl and Hardy Frye. They were stopped outside of Oxford. The chief threatened to hit Ivanhoe on the head if he didn't say "Yessir". Ivanhoe refused. The police also called Cathy white trash and threatened Hardy. They were given an escort out of the county, but Ivanhoe assured police he would be back to continue voter registration work.

DREW: COFO volunteer, James Dann, 24, was picked up by Police Chief Curtis Floyd while distributing literature in the Negro community. He was taken to see Mayor Williford who told him he couldn't distribute literature without a permit. Dann replied that permits did not apply to distribution on private property. Officials checked city ordinances and discovered Dann was right. Dann suggested the Police Chief might check the city ordinances before picking people up. He was questioned at length about SNCC and COFO and called a Communist. The Mayor's parting words: "You are not American, you have no respect for the white race, you're right where you belong with all the niggers."

Later that night Dann and six others were arrested at an outdoor voter rally for obstructing the sidewalk. Two volunteers were charged for the distributing literature bit as they were passing out song sheets. The meeting did not break up when the arrests occurred. Everybody went on singing.

July 15: 4 AM: Biloxi: 2 Moss Point residents were arrested as they attempted to drive 2 carloads of COFO workers to Greenwood. The whole group was picked up as they had pulled over to switch drivers, slightly West of Biloxi. The drivers, Willie Reese and J.C. Biggs were charged with illegal parking and vagrancy. Reese was also charged for not having an inspection sticker and not having tags. Bond for Reese was \$ 200.

Clarksdale: Stokely Carmichael was arrested in Clarksdale for failing to signal a turn. Chief Ben Collins made the arrest. He was later released on \$ 18 bond and will file for removal.

MEMO TO COMMUNICATIONS PEOPLE:

PLEASE MAIL IN THE STAFF BIOGRAPHY FORMS! WE MUST HAVE THIS INFO *
APPLY ALL PRESSURE - FILL THEM OUT YOURSELVES IF YOU CAN EKE THE
INFO FROM STAFF WORKERS.

Suggestion: Try to find an interested local person who would write a monthly newsletter during the year that he could send to some one in the group, who would be responsible for sending copies to all those who had worked in that area.

Don't forget to check out local radio situation about unpaid announcements of meetings.