

Moss Point: Shortly before 6:00 AM a car load of volunteers headed for the SNCC staff meeting (??) were picked up on the west side of Biloxi for illegal parking. The car had been stopped by the side of the road to change drivers. They were charged with having no sticker, no Mississippi plates, and vagrancy. Willy Reese and J.C. Briggs, local workers, were jailed and bond was \$200 and \$125 respectively. Later in the afternoon, bail was raised \$100 each.

Clarksdale: Stokely Carmichael arrested for failing to make a turn signal by Chief of Police Ben Collins. Bond set at \$18.00

McComb: Registration for Freedom School proceeded without incident although the St. Paul's Church in which they had arranged to have the school reniged on its offer. Ages ranged from 8 to 19, with the older group overwhelmingly girls. Curriculum may include German during evening sessions and interpretative dance taught in late afternoon by Sherry Everett. Rev. McCord reports some success in contact with the white community in McComb, especially in businesses and with one church.

Greenwood: Mayor announced that everyone who takes part in the Freedom Day will be arrested. George Alberts was arrested on a John Doe warrant. Bail was \$50.00.

Moss Point: Lawrence Guyot spoke at a Barbours and Beauticians Union meeting and received \$150.00 which was forwarded to Jackson. 14 people came to the Freedom School art class and play acting was also done. Howard Kirscherbaum threatened by ex- County Sheriff Grinsby. "I just want you to raise your hand so that I can blow your head off."

Ruleville: Just after the start of a Mass Meeting in Drew (just north of Ruleville) 21 people were arrested and charged with willfully and unlawfully using the sidewalks and streets. They had begun the gathering outside the Holly Grove Baptist Church, when the police, working with some of the church deacons, forced them off the property. The meeting moved to the street and arrests followed promptly. The adults were held in jail and the children were placed in a barbed-wire compound. The next morning, the White Citizens Council, including Mayor Indianola, met in a cafe next to the city hall.

Gulfport: Mike Ingraham was arrested for putting up posters, announcing a mass meeting, on a telephone pole. The poles are plastered with old announcements despite a city ordinance against them.

Canton: A volunteer who was at home in the community was surprised when two men came by canvassing whom they had never seen before. Both turned out to be Justice Department men.

Vicksburg: A car is circling the house in which one of the workers is staying. Two drunk white men came and asked for Fred Jenkins. Police drove off in the other direction from them after talking with them.

Greenwood: Eight car loads of whites circled a mass meeting, moving slowly around the block. Some of the cars bore Alabama plates. The 200 people inside the meeting were kept there until the outside whites dispersed. The gathering then broke up peacefully.

JULY 16th

Canton: Erich Morton called from the Canton jail to report that he and Steve Smith, who were arrested for resisting arrest, were beaten by the police with pistols, on the highway before being taken to jail. Steve was quite badly injured. They were also charged with wreckless driving and interfering with an officer.

JULY 16th, continued

Moss Point: Roger Brnhill was taken to the judge, when he brought eight people down to the courthouse to register. The judge told him that he would be held in contempt of court if he entered the courthouse again. Judge said he controlled the courthouse, and the procedure was not to admit people to the courthouse if they were not registering.

Vicksburg: Two incidents -

A white man came to the door of a house where a white worker is living and asked for the owner of the house. The white was carrying a pistol in a holster at his side.

A contact in the white community called to say that the police were going to raid the project. Informant referred to male-female relationships, and said that a white family had moved because of what they thought was going on at the Freedom House. He said, too, that a Negro family complained about a naked woman who was parading around the House. Same contact said that townspeople think that COFO people threw the bomb at the Open House Cafe last week in order to get publicity. He said that local resentment was building up against COFO.

Greenwood: Freedom Day! Onehundred eleven people arrested, including summer volunteers Adam Kline, Peter Orris, Sandy Brown, Bob Masters, Margaret Aley, Ed Rudd, Paul Klein, Linda Wetmore, Richard Miller, Ray Pohrbough, Sally Belfridge, Bambi Brown, Aaron Sims, and Carol Kornfield. Arrested staff members were Eli Z., Gwen Gillon, Stokely, Cortland Cox, Chuck Neblett, Frank Smith, Ruth Howard, and Iris Grenberg and Monroe Sharp.

Police Chief Larry first told the group, "There will be no picketing. You will have two minutes to remove the signs and stop picketing. No one will interfere with your going to register to vote." Then he quietly arrested 35 people. New groups, including workers from Tchula, Clarksdale, Greenville, Itta Bena and Holly Springs, moved in - and were picked up and loaded into a black police bus. Some walked to the bus, others went limp.

One Negro woman dropped her pocketbook. The police approached her and thought she was provoking them. They jumped her from behind, put a billy club across her chest and dragged her to the police wagon. While they were pulling her, her sister ran out, shouting that she was pregnant. (She was clearly at least seven months along.) Sister too was threatened with a billy club and dragged by the police.

Greenville: Another Freedom Day. Two hundred thirteen people went to the courthouse. Of these 110 took the test, the others were too late. At first they went in by fours, later by sixes. The registrar told illiterate people to return the next day. No arrests.

Hattiesburg: A woman who had been housing workers got a phone call which threatened her life. FBI is investigating. Two canvassers - Larry Spears and a local person - were stopped by police, who told Spears that he would be liable if anything happened to any minors in his charge. Police told a freedom school teacher they might charge her with threatening the major. Her students wrote up complaints about lack of police action.