

WATS REPORT: TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1964

unofficial report

Helena: Barry Siegel

Groups of whites have been coming to the house of Cornelius Perkins, where SNCC staff ~~people~~ people are living for the past three nights. On Saturday night about 80 whites circled, parked, and ~~came~~ came by again and again, for about 3½ hours. On Sunday night Mr. Perkins, who has been fired from his job with the Water Co. for housing SNCC workers, was out of town. The staff people decided not to stay at his home that evening because of the trouble Sat. night since they do not have a phone and cannot reach help if trouble develops. Neighbors reported that an ambulance, a fire truck, police cars, and cars of other whites came up to the house and five men with shot guns and gunny sacks entered the house. Monday night they got a phoned threat at the house ~~where~~ where they can receive calls saying "we missed you last night but we'll get you tonight." While they were holding a voter registration meeting of about 70 people in front of the house last night one policeman came by asking them what they were doing. He left, and after the meeting a number of police cars circled the house for about an hour. Local Negroes who have been guarding the house during the last couple of nights reported that last night when the police stopped circling they went down the road and parked with about 20 cars of whites. Local people are getting fed up with this sort of harrassment and they are planning on continuing to guard the house.

~~KKKKKKKKKK~~

Last night the home of a girl who has been participating in testing was shot into five times. At present she is unwilling to give her name. Also, KKK stickers saying "a Klansman was here" have been left on two homes of Negroes.

The FBI has been by in connection with the testing of public accomodations and have taken statments concerning the mobx of whites. They were also told that Mayor Porter and Chief of Police Jerry Encoles have been by the house to tell SNCC workers that they should get out of town. They also made accusations about communist activities.

Justice Department man John Martin was informed of the Helena situation by Atlanta.

Selma: John Love

The Elks Hall, which was reported closed yesterday, merely had its liquor license revoked. ~~This~~ This was done because of a meeting which was held there last week with Craig Airforce Base people concerning the testing of public accomodations. ~~Some~~ Some places in Selma have been tested (not sure if by Craig people) and service ~~has~~ has been refused. The places tested were Carter's Drug Store (affiliated with Walgreen's) and The Glass House restaurant.

last week

John Love ~~has~~ filed a complaint/about phone and mail tampering with the FBI and Justice Department people in Selma. He feels that mail ~~service~~ service seems somewhat better already, though Selma still has considerable difficulties with telephone service.

GREENWOOD 3:30 am (Garman/Haberman)

TWO FIRETRUCKS OUTSIDE GREENWOOD OFFICE - Two firetrucks are outside the office with their lights blazing. No one in the office had placed a call asking for the trucks. While the firetrucks were there a man called and said, "Ain't no fire out there, is thar?"

Stearns

Itta Bena: from Ed Rudd: 9:45am

Last night the Freedom Center (voter registration center) was wrecked about midnight. ~~Ed~~ Eddie Hendricks, who live near the center at 153 Love Street and his neighbor ~~Ed~~ Mary Hendricks both saw three people around the house during the time they heard noise there. This morning when the damage was inspected they found the posts supporting the porch had been broken and the roof they support was sagging. The front door was torn off and windows were smashed. Posters for Martin Luther King and Mrs. Hamer had been ripped off the outside of the house and were lying on the porch. One book from the library ~~that~~ that is being developed was found on the porch, and glass was on the floor inside from the broken windows. Otherwise there was no damage in the house.

Willie McGee who works in Itta Bena, but lives in Greenwood, was not informed of the damage until the morning. ~~Neither~~ Neither of the witnesses have telephones, and they didn't want to go out during the night.

This morning McGee called the Deputy Sheriff and Town Marshall H. E. Weger, Jr. Within 15 minutes or so Weber was at the ~~kkk~~ office examining the damage. He spoke with the witnesses and generally seemed fairly helpful. ~~As far as we know nothing was missing from the office.~~

The Itta Bena office has been receiving threats that the office would be destroyed for the last couple of weeks. Often the threats came in almost every 15 minutes. No threats were received yesterday.

Willie McGee received one call saying "You don't realize what you're doing" and "If you don't stay away from the courthouse some niggers will be hurt".

John Paul, volunteer from Ossining, N.Y. received a call for Willie McGee and they caller demanded to know why they had taken so long answering the phone.

Wendy Klein, summer volunteer in Greenwood received a call telling her that we should not be surprised to find all the SNCC workers in Itta Bena dead. This call came in about two weeks ago.

Ed Rudd is calling the FBI about last night's damage.

Washington, D.C.: Freedom Democratic Party: Walter Tillow

The state convention for FDP will be on August 6. At that time the platform and loyalty resolution will be passed and the remaining delegates will be elected.

~~Miss~~ Miss Baker is trying to get a keynote speaker for the convention.

The brief to be presented to the credentials committee for the unseating of the Miss. Dem. party and the seating of FDP is nearly complete and writing will soon be begun.

The FDP office heard from Rev. Jim Breedon in Boston that 6 Massachusetts delegates have come out publicly for the seating of the FDP at the convention. The Mass. state resolution is for unseating the Miss. Dem. Party but they did not go further and support seating us.

Mrs. Hamer spoke at a mass meeting in Atlantic City last night. She will be in Westchester on Thursday and Philadelphia on Friday.

~~Delegates~~ Delegates for the FDP will be staying at the Jamaica Motel, 1140 Adriatic Ave. in Atlantic City. Charles Sherrod, Reggie Robinson, and Leslie MacLemore are working in Atlantic City.

McComb: Lee Garrett

Two precinct meetings were held last night. Precinct 1: 20 adults and 30 students came, and at Precinct 2: 34 adults and 25 students came. Delegates were elected for the July 31 county convention. There should be 1 or 2 more precinct conventions before then. /// About 75 students are coming to the Freedom School and they expect to open another with about 30 students Monday if they get the teachers.