

UNOFFICIAL

WATS REPORT

TAKEN BY JAMES BOND AUGUST 7, 1964

WASHINGTON: A vigil started yesterday at about noon and will continue the memorial service which is at 1:00 tomorrow. Involved are 3 people with a fourth passing out literature. It has been organized by SNCC and CORE. CORE is supplying most of the people involved. On Sunday, memorial services will be held at local Washington church. Speakers will be Low Smith of CORE, Rev. Charles Sherrod, Rev. Lipman and perhaps others. They are attempting to invite a Catholic Priest.

A telegram was received by a Washington SNCC address to Washington SNCC and COFO. It read: In regards to our telegram (this is not word for word) about the possibility of burying the 3 bodies at Arlington, we have been advised that the laws governing such action forbid it. It was from Lee White, special to President Johnson.

WEST HELENA: taken by LL from K. Haberman in Greenwood at 1:20 P.M. Bill Hansen, Larry Siegal and Joe Wright were arrested around 12:15 in West Helena. Policemen went up to the house that they were staying without a warrant and arrested the three without giving charges.

AUGUST 8, 1964

JACKSON Hunter Morey/ERIN RE: Tallahatchie County

Yesterday approx. 5 local Negroes attempted to register at the courthouse. Last night and today they have been subjected to constant harassment and they fear for their lives. The local whites have been surrounding their homes and are carrying guns. Contact law student Len Edwards in Ruleville, c/o Mrs. Hamer for more info. Atlanta should start pressure on the Justice Dept. to have j.d. men sent into the county to observe the situation and see that these people are not harmed. John Lewis should be asked to call, too. Len Edwards is now at 601-756-4876 last Tuesday they first went to the courthouse that night two truckloads of whites came to the farm where this family lives and searched with guns for the people who had gone to the courthouse then white people with guns came back twice that p.m. and again the next day and the next. one individual, lives alone and has not been able to return to his farm to pick cotton.

Len Edwards/Erin Len is about 25 miles from where these people live and he is going to attempt to see them tomorrow morning to get affidavits about the intimidation. He has been with the people when they went to the cth. and when they were at the farm when the whites with guns came.

GREENWOOD Penny Patch/Erin

6:30 p.m.

John Handy arrested on "inciting to riot" while with his youth group at Slim Henderson's Grocery. He had been beaten severely while in jail last week. A doctor went to see him in jail and said that the arm which had been injured last week is hurt again and that he had been hit three times with a billy club on the back. Greenwood SNCC is trying to raise his bail - \$500.

W. Hehena (via Greenwood Patch/ERIN)

Bill Hansen held on investigation and then released. Others arrested still held on \$500 bond each. Charged with vagrancy. Lawyers filing for removal to federal court.