

WATS REPORT-----AUGUST 19, 1964-----WEDNESDAY

TAKEN by SANDY Stovall from GRAHAM WIGGINS

Graham Wiggins went to take a few people to register about 4:30 pm to the courthouse in Americus, Georgia. As he was walking down the hall to the restroom, the Justice of Peace, J. U. Southwell hollered don't go in there. But Graham went in anyway. At that time, Southwell followed him and said didn't I tell you not to come in here. Graham made no reply. Then Southwell hit him with his fist and started choking him. Graham grabbed him and pushed him against the wall and started to walk out. As he walked out, Southwell kicked him but he kept walking.

AUGUST 20, 1964 WATS REPORT

NMG

MCCOMB (Janet Jemmott/Grogan) 1:30 am via Greenwood

Took 15 people to register. The sheriff was there when a vr person, Pat Walker, and a minister, who were helping to guide the people were standing around outside the courthouse. The sheriff told them if they remained outside the car they would be arrested. "We don't need all of you here." The workers were given 15 minutes to leave the premises. At which time they got inside the car and stayed. In other words, all they wanted there were the driver and the people. The workers sat inside of the car, did not leave the premises and they were not arrested. One of the relay drivers, a person who was taking the people to the courthouse and back, was arrested for speeding. The driver was guilty. His bail was \$23.50. He posted bail and is going to forfeit his bail. Other than that, there were no other incidents.

GREENWOOD: (Jemmott/Grogan) 1:40 am

John Ball was followed from Holiday Inn by a Chevrolet, gray top and red bottom. They chased Ball from the Inn to the intersection of Highway 82 and Avenue "N". The car had three riders, one female, 19, and two males, ages 21 to 24. The car contained two visible rifles.

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ALBANY: (Barrett/James Bond)

Things were a lot quieter tonight in Albany than they have been on previous nights. There was a rally in Harlem and from there a march to the courthouse to sing songs to Rev. Walls who is incarcerated there. When the people got to the courthouse they were turned around. The people were evident during the march and at the court house but were not like last night when they marched down the streets in the Negro neighborhood and cleared the streets. One worker was shaken up, and one fire bomb was thrown. Things are quiet, now.

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MCCOMB: (David Garber/Travis)

MORE ON THE ATTEMPTS TO REGISTER ON AUGUST 19: One volunteer took a picture of the proceedings outside the courthouse in Magnolia. One of a group of three deputy sheriffs said, "Boy, don't take that picture." When he took the picture, they confiscated the camera.

ATLANTA: Grogan; 4:00 am

The Atlanta AP has the following report: Rev. Samuel B. Wells and Donald Harris were arrested in Albany, Georgia on the morning of Aug. 18. Wells was charged with inciting insurrection and circulating insurrectionary papers. Harris was charged with the latter offense.

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Harris has not been arrested. There is a warrant out for him which cannot be served due to his absence from the state. Mary King confirmed that he is in Jackson, Miss.

GREENWOOD: (Haberman/Grogan) 4:45 am

Atlanta called Greenwood and asked them to call Albany County Jail to check out the charges, etc. against Rev. Wells. The jailer said Karen would have to call back in the morning to get any information. He said, "Yes, that son of a bitch is back there in the jail." The jail number: HE 6-1561.

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MCCOMB: (Lee Garrett/Grogan) 1:25 pm

People went down to courthouse at 10:30. At 11:00 am it was reported by radio that the sheriff told them that the people standing in front of the courthouse would be arrested if they remained standing there. He was referring to COFO staff on the scene. A decision is being made on what steps to take.

At about 11:30 the cops stopped one of the cars returning from Magnolia. Dave Gerber, Chevy Chase, Md. white summer volunteer was the sole occupant. A blue pick up truck was stopped at the same time but none in it was detained or arrested. Dave was arrested, taken back to Magnolia, charged \$22 for speeding, and released. He was released at 12:15 pm. He started back to the office, bringing more people. He called in, saying, "I am proceeding slowly. The sheriff's car is following at a respectable distance."

When Gerber was first stopped, the deputy sheriff, J.A. Simmons, was very polite, but kept calling Dave 'boy.'

M...: (Joyce Barrett/IRIN) 3:00

A rally was held again last night at Eureka Baptist Church in Harlem on Jackson Street. The rally began at 6pm, but by 7pm the cops had sealed off Harlem and people could enter only on foot. There were about 200 policemen in helmets and carrying shotguns and riot guns. 30-40 policemen were across from the church and other were on the same side as the church on the block before and past the church. This frightened away large numbers of people, and only about 35 attended the rally although there were almost 150 people on their perches up and down the street who heard Slater King's address and the singing of Freedom Songs.

PHILADELPHIA: Ralph Featherstone

There were three carloads of whites armed parked in front of the COFO office. The police were called and cruised the area. They then stopped and talked with one of the white men in front of the office. One of the local Negroes overheard the white man tell the police, "The job will be done tonight." The office has received about 25 phone calls telling them, "Tonight's the night and your time has run out. You will be bombed tonight." The FBI has been in the area but has not been able to do anything because there had not been a federal violation.

A policeman told Featherstone that the fact that one of the workers outside the house had a hoe and that could be construed as having a weapon. They only have one scout car for Philadelphia and they said it may take a little time to answer a call. The cops also sent over to the office a local uncle tom to softsell the point and to try and get them to leave town tonight.

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PHILADEL.(Allan S./Grogan) 2:10 am

Everything is very quiet and very tense. There have been no crank calls in the past two hours. No whites have been riding past the office since the crowd of whites in front of the office earlier in the evening dispersed. There is no evidence of any activity in the vicinity of the office. Guards are posted around the outside of the office.

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PHILADEL: (Featherstone/Grogan) 3:45 am

The situation is still the same. Crank calls are coming in but not frequently.

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MCCOMB: THE SITUATION IS QUIET _ 4:45 amGREENWOOD: (Haberman/Grogan) 4:45 am

Mrs. McGee, mother of Silas, Jake and Clarence, was arrested today. (August 19). Some of the SNCC people, knowing there was a warrant out for her arrest, took her to the FBI office to be interviewed. Apparently, from what Ed Rudd, who was in the FBI office at the time when one of the agents received a phone call, the sheriff called the FBI and was reaming him out about having Mrs. McGee in the office when a warrant for her arrest was out. The sheriff, accompanied by at least four other law enforcement officials, came to the FBI office to arrest Mrs. McGee. The SNCC office, anticipating her arrest, had already raised \$1,300 bond money. Her bond was \$500 and it was paid and she was released before ever being placed behind bars. An unconfirmed report from Haberman states that the charge on Mrs. McGee was probably "assaulting a police officer."

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ABINGDON, VIRGINIA Grogan 12:15 pm

A 1964 Plymouth sedan was totally demolished in an accident in Abingdon, Va. at 4:00 am. The driver was William Clay. Occupants: Minnie Evans, Jane Adams (white), Malcolm Teller, Henry Davis, Melvin Whitfield. Clay was charged with reckless driving. He was jailed from 8 am to 10 am. The fine was \$62.75. The trial is Sept. 11. Money for busfare to Washington, D.C. and for the fine was wired by the D.C. SNCC office.

Melvin Whitfield is in the Johnson Memorial Hospital for examination. He has no fractures and seems to be in good condition. He is being held for a few more hours in the hospital for examination and expects to be released by 4 pm. No other occupants in the car were injured.

Clay, the driver, was rounding a sharp curve when a sleeping passenger fell against him, causing him to lose control of the car. The car went off the right side of the road, regained the road and ran off the left side of the road, hitting guard rails and a guard post. The car came to rest at the right side of the road.

Trooper Kirk investigated the accident and placed estimated damage to the car at \$1,500. The car is at Neese Auto Parts (703) 628-2211. Mr. Neese described the car as a total loss: extensive damage to the left front and rear, top damaged, windshield broken, right front door mashed. License (Hinds County) Miss. H47091, motor number: 3111250055. Slater King and associates have been contacted and are handling the car.

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ALBANY: (Joyce Barrett/Grogan) 3:00 pm

A second insurrection charge had been made on Nick Louketis. He was picked up and has been in jail since Sat. (an approximation). It was in the local paper today that he is being charged with inciting to insurrection. He is in late 30's or early 40's. Is employed at Marine Supply Depot at Albany. He has participated in movement activities since movement began and is known by police to be sympathetic to the movement.

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Greenwood: (Cornfield/ERIN) 11:00pm

8:45 Miss. time. Belzoni... Three Negro voter registration workers, Ellis Jackson, Joe Stigler, and C. Robert Bass were trapped in Wimpy's Cafe by 12 car and truck loads of armed white men. Carol Cornfield called the Greenwood FBI and agent Murphy said that the FBI had nothing to do in a case like this. The sheriff was then called and his wife said he was asleep and could not be called to the phone. The police were called and they took the report and then hung up. 9pm Miss. time Carol called James Horten, Negro owner of Wimpy's and was told that he had seen no whites around the place and that the voter registry workers had left 20 min. before.

Janet Jemott called the sherriff acting like a southern white women and was able to speak to a deputy. She was told that the sheriff had closed the place. The deputy then asked if she were Minnie, and she replied yes. He then told her that the sheriff had gone out there after receiving a call that the three workers were there and that he was not very angry. She was also told that the sheriff put the three into their own car and let them drive off as he followed in his car.