

INCIDENT SUMMARY -- AUGUST 26, 1964

Moss Point: Six local Negro citizens were arrested here today for urging fellow citizens not to patronize a local segregated laundromat. On Monday evening Moss Point Negro citizens decided to protest the arrest of a local Negro woman who attempted to wash her clothes in the "white section" of the laundromat. Yesterday morning the owner of the facility, a Mr. Cunningham, acknowledged that Negroes account for 80% of his business but that whites would not wash there if he removed the partition. Cunningham's refusal prompted "selective buying" action by local citizens.

This afternoon police approached a group of approximately 25 Negroes who were around the laundromat to urge citizens not to patronize it; police said that if the group did not disperse they would all be arrested. Later this afternoon, Rommy Reeves, Rosemary Simmons, Willie Reeves, Eartha Fountain, Deloris Washington, And Nellie Seller, all Negro residents of Moss Point, were arrested as soon as they arrived at the laundromat. Charges and bond have not been stated by local officials; the six are being held in the Moss Point City Jail.

Canton: A 22 year old voter registration worker here, George Johnson, was shot at three times on his way to the Canton Freedom House early this morning. Johnson reported that he was approximately three blocks from the house when a car pulled up from behind and fired three shots from approximately 500 feet away. Johnson identified the car as a police car since it was equipped with a searchlight and a red warning light on top.

Johnson, who both heard the shots and saw the flash of the bullets, ducked into nearby bushes and sought shelter in a local house. Approximately 10 minutes later he started back to the Freedom House down another street and stated that he saw "the same police car which came past me at fifty or sixty miles an hour, shining its spotlight on me." Johnson entered another local home for refuge.

Late last week, Johnson, in response to Canton CORE office policies, registered with the police as a civil rights worker and gave the Freedom House as his home address.