

WATS LINE DIGEST, JUNE 30, 2 PM - July 2, 2 PM

JUNE 30:

The members of the White Community project arrived in Biloxi, their project area, only to find that they were not allowed to stay in the Back Bay Hotel as they had planned. Word of the project had preceded them.

Ruleville:

There have been several reports of about 7-8 unlicensed trucks patrolling on Highway 8 between Ruleville and Cleveland and sometimes congregating near the city dump.

A local man seems to have been fired from his job because he was "hiring white workers" - i.e. housing SNCC workers.

Jackson:

Summer Volunteer Jacques Calme, working in Canton, was arrested here for reckless driving (changing lanes too often). Calme was given a hasty trial in the office of the JP. He did not know he was in the midst of a trial until he was informed that he was to pay \$ 9.00 in "court costs" in addition to a \$ 25.00 fine.

JULY 1 :

Holly Springs:

Larry Rubin filed a complaint with the JP for assault and battery against Robert Walker, 30, a Marshall County farmer. Walker has been freed on \$1,000 bond. The case will go before a grand jury in August. Walker attacked Rubin on Tuesday night in a Texaco station near the Freedom house. He grabbed his throat, shook him, yelled and cursed at him and threatened to shoot both Larry and the office with a 12-gauge shotgun.

Ruleville: 12 volunteers talked for about 2 hours with five members of ATAC at Mrs. Hamer's house in Ruleville. The ATAC group was led by Jack Bishop, the son of an Indianola plantation owner and the founder of the group. The five invited the volunteers to have coffee with them, but the white volunteers refused the invitation because the five ATAC people refused to include Negro volunteers. The five were then shown around the Ruleville Community Center operated by SNCC. Volunteers later agreed that though the conversation was fairly cordial, little was accomplished by it. This is the second such meeting with ATAC in Ruleville. The first meeting took place on Monday evening, June 22.

Tchula: 8:30 pm: Two carloads of highway patrolmen stopped at the farm of David Howard, where several SNCC volunteers are staying. They shone their spotlight into the house and asked for Steve Bingham. They said that he had set up some kind of office, but he couldn't be found here. Mr. Howard was frightened, and denied that Steve Bingham was staying there. This happened on July 30. On July 1 at 3:30 pm, the HP came around again and said, "We are looking for Steve Bingham to protect him, whether he wants it or not." They said that calls had come from Washington ordering them to give him protection. At 10:00 pm, The Governor has two patrol cars giving Steve protection at all times. Steve wants to be rid of them, as such behavior is intimidating the local white people, whom the HP is always asking about him. Others on the project feel that the HP is making them more visible and endangering the project.

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