

WATS REPORTS

Tuesday, January 26, 1965

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. Bill Hansen/Jeanne Brsaker

SNCC workers in Helena were forced out of their office here two days ago. The sheriff and chief of police pressured the owner of th place to stop renting to them.

SNCC now has four offices in Arkansas:

Main office--700 W. 9th St. Little Rock, Ark.	710 North Cedar Pine Bluff, Ark.
520 Ladino St. West Helena, Ark.	116 N. Waters St. Forrest City, Ark.

Wednesday, January 27, 1965

SELMA, ALA. SIX MORE SNCC STAFF ARRESTED, 15 NOW IN JAIL. SNCC staff and volunteers Joyce Brown, Larry Fox, Frank Soracco, Roger Daley and John Litkiss (both of Dartmouth) were arrested at the courthouse today, along with about 30-35 local people. According to later reports, Silas Norman was also arrested. The charge for all is believed to be "unlawful assembly." (Sheriff Clark said that only 100 people could stand in line at the courthouse but they stood in line in excess of 100 anyway.) Bond is \$500 each.

This is John Lewis' sixth arrest in Selma (latest arrest, Tuesday, Jan. 26, 1965.)

On Monday, Feb. 1, there will be a Freedom Day in nearby Perry Co. in conjunction with another Freedom Day in Selma. George Bess has been working in Perry Co. for several weeks now.

Monday, Jan. 25, 1965

SHAW via Jackson The Negro Evans Elementary School was fired into at 11:30 am. Two shots from a 22 calibre rifle ~~xxxx~~ shattered two windows at the school, barely missing one of the students. The section of town in which the school is located is quite active in civil rights. A local Negro saw a car of white men pass the school as the shots were fired, but the sniper has not yet been identified.

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 1965

VALLBY VIEW via Jackson

A school boycott is planned at the Velma Jackson High School (Negro) on Monday, Feb. 1, if a Negro school bus driver is found guilty of a false traffic charge. Albert Katchings' bus was struck by white Louis Hines (they are both of Camden). Hines blamed Katchings for the accident, and Katchings was charged with reckless driving and illegal right of way. Students who observed the accident plan to testify in Katchings' behalf, and if he is convicted, all 500 plan to stay out of school in protest.

BILOXI A group tested Vic's, which had earlier had its lunch counter seats removed. They stood up and were served. Then they were served at Mary's Drive-In.

MORE

## WATS REPORTS

Wed., Jan. 27, 1965 cont.

**HOLY SPRINGS** A local minister and two professors from Rust College here went to the Hurice Restaurant at noon today, where they were met by the manager who refused them service. They then went to the Hitching Post, where they were admitted and served with no incidents.

### CANTON FIRST PUBLIC DEPOSITION-TAKING POSTPONED

The first public depositions of segregationist officials in Mississippi was postponed today by agreement with attorneys for the Freedom Democratic Party and their opposition. The delay came when Negro notary Hercules Jones, who was to preside over the hearings, failed to appear. FDP attorneys said he had "apparently been threatened and advised not to appear." Madison Co. registrar Ellis Campbell did appear, however. He was to be cross-examined by FDP attorneys about discriminatory voter registration practices in the county which, they said, "were in clear contravention of state and federal laws."

Negroes have complained that Campbell refused to appoint a deputy registrar when he was absent, of giving evasive and confusing replies to questions, of unfairly marking tests, and helping whites and not Negroes when they asked for assistance on the examination. (Also scheduled to be interviewed was a white resident of Madison Co. who was prepared to tell how Campbell had assisted her when she took the registration test.)

In Madison Co. of 10,000 voting age Negroes, only about 280 are registered, compared with 4,900 of 5,000 whites. Campbell has continued his harassment of Negro voter registration applicants, according to a COFO spokesman, despite legal action taken against him by the Justice Department last August.

**DO YOU KNOW THIS BOY?** His name is Gerald Westbrook, and he is 17 years old. According to his mother, he left home on Jan. 12 to go to either Selma, Ala. or to Mississippi. If you have any information as to his whereabouts, please contact Barbara Jones or Ruby Doris Robinson at the Atlanta office IMMEDIATELY.

## WATS REPORT

Thursday, January 28, 1965

**SELMA** Fay Bellamy/Jeanne Breaker **MASS BOYCOTT PLANNED**

The people who are in jail will stay for another day. Fred Wallace, NAACP Legal Fund Attorney, will try to get the bond lowered in a higher court.

On Monday, SNCC is trying to have all Negro businesses close down, all people to stay home from work, and all school kids, elementary to high school, to stay home. There will be another Freedom Day on Monday, Feb. 1.

About nine people sixty years and older were released from jail on Wed.

**COLUMBUS** Don White/Breaker Mike Higson, 28, from England, was arrested here by City Police at 8 am this morning for "passing out leaflets without a permit." The leaflets dealt with the recent attempt by MSU members to integrate the white library. His bond is \$200, trial Monday at 4 pm. COFO is trying to raise property bond.

**BATESVILLE** Ninety-three Negro citizens were notified by the Panola Co. registrar (Ike Shankie) today that they had successfully passed the voter registration tests during the past week. The Panola Co. Voters League is trying to get as many Negroes as possible registered before the Federal injunction against the registrar, which bars the interpretation of the Miss. constitution from the test, expires at the end of May. As of now, Panola Co. has 1100 registered out of 7200 eligible Negroes, which is believed to be the best record of any county in the state.

On Monday, Feb. 1, members of the MSU ~~will~~ and junior members of the Panola Co. Voters League will discuss county-wide p.a. testing. (Meeting in Sardis.)

**MERIDIAN** Joseph Morse/Bab Jackie Robinson, Charles Evers, etc., will be here some time next week (?) to test public accommodations. COFO has already instituted a suit against 25 restaurants in Meridian, and will inform Robinson and Evers of this fact.

**NATCHEZ** DEPOSITION BULLETIN # 1 (not counting first release, from Canton, Wed., Jan. 27) Lawyers from the FDP took depositions in the COFO office here from four witnesses, who discussed what they termed "the general pattern of harassment" against Negro civil rights efforts, in today's second public hearing of the Party's Congressional Challenge. SNCC workers Dorie Ladner and Janet Jemmett told incidents of harassments and violence against civil rights workers. Two local residents told of economic harassments suffered after they had become involved in civil rights activities (for example, drinking from a fountain marked "white" and joining the FDP). The hearings will be continued tomorrow.

(Note on Wednesday's cancelled hearings in Canton: Negro notary Hercules Jones, who was scheduled to preside over the interrogation of Madison Co. registrar A.E. Campbell, apparently did not appear because he was convinced by a Negro lawyer from Jackson that he did not have jurisdiction to hear the deposition. He said he did not feel he had the jurisdiction after speaking to the above-mentioned lawyer.)

## WATS REPORTS

Thursday, January 28, 1965

HOLLY SPRINGS Cleve Sellers/Barbara Brandt

Five COFO workers were served at the Maurice Restaurant here today. Three Negro customers were denied service here yesterday.

Friday, January 29, 1965

JACKSON Deposition Bulletin #2

Mississippi's Secretary of State, Haber Ladner, was interrogated this morning as part of the hearings conducted by MFDP attorneys to support their challenge to the five regular Mississippi Congressmen. FDP attorney William Kunstler of New York sought to question Ladner as to why candidates of the FDP were kept off the ballot, charging discriminatory procedures on the part of the State Board of Elections. Ladner declined to answer about half the questions and claimed there were no previous precedents for the running of independent candidates. Ladner did not bring election records as subpoenaed, but promised to bring them in within what he called "a reasonable length of time." FDP attorneys fear this to be a delaying tactic to keep the records out of the hearings, which end Feb. 13.

Attorney General Joe Patterson will be examined this afternoon in this state's first examination of ~~xxxxxxx~~ state officials since reconstruction time.

HATTIESBURG Howard Hammerand/Jeanne Breaker

Trial was held yesterday for M.W. Hamilton, notorious civil rights worker-beater. Hamilton didn't appear, and forfeited his \$75 bond. 10 ministers and 25 local people attended the trial and sat in an integrated group without incident.

BATESVILLE Penny Patch/Jeanne COFO worker Chris Williams was arrested this morning at the Panola Co. Courthouse when he took several people to the courthouse to register. Sheriff Earl Hubbard arrested him for "wilfully going into and remaining in certain premises after being asked to leave," the premises being the courthouse. The ladies who had gone down to the courthouse with him said he didn't even get inside; he was arrested outside the courthouse. Bond is not set.

INDIANOLA Karen Koonan/Bab

A chapter of the N.Y. United Federation of Teachers has adopted the Indianola Freedom School.

JACKSON Pete Mullenberg/Bab The demonstration which had been planned for today to protest the slaying of an 18 year old Negro prisoner by the Hinds Co. jail by a Hinds Co. sheriff around Jan. 25 was called off today. At least two local judges had issued injunctions against mass demonstrations in Jackson. Charles Evers informed the local people (and COFO, FDP, and NAACP members) gathered in St. Peter's Church this morning to plan the demonstration that NAACP lawyers in the North were going to try to fight the injunction through the courts.

NATCHEZ DEPOSITION BULLETIN #3

Three witnesses told about harrassments they had suffered as a result of their activities in the civil rights movement. One of them, George Metcalfe, Pres. of the local NAACP, told of a resurgence of Klan violence through the spring and summer.

## WATS REPORTS

Friday, January 29, 1965

JACKSON DEP. BILL #4 1-29-65

FDP attorneys continued their questioning of state officials in the Federal Post Office Building in Jackson this afternoon. Under questioning by attorney Morton Stavis of Newark 2, Ex-Atorney General Joe Patterson admitted that the state of Mississippi did not investigate charges by Negroes of denial of their voting rights. Attorney William Kunstler sought to prove that the State Board of Elections deliberately set up discriminatory requirements for the three FDP candidates for Congresswomen when they attempted to qualify to run in last November's election. Specifically, the State Board, consisting of Patterson, Secretary of State Heber Ladner, and Governor Paul Johnson, ruled that every signature on the FDP candidates' nominating petitions would have to be validated by the registrar in each county where petitions were collected. The FDP claims that this requirement was made to frustrate certification of their candidates. FDP attorneys cited one instance in which a county registrar had demanded poll tax receipts as proof that a signature on the nominating petition was valid. According to the 24th Amendment to the Constitution, poll taxes in Federal elections are illegal.

Testimony will continue tomorrow (Sat.) and Monday, Feb. 1. New witnesses will include Erle Johnston, Chairman of the State Sovereignty Commission, Highway Patrol Director T.B. Birdsong, and Citizens Council official Andrew Hopkins.

Saturday, January 30, 1965

ROSEDSLE, BOLIVAR CO. via Jackson Friday night, Bob Analavage and Larry Archibald, both COFO workers, were at the Pop-Eye, a Negro cafe. Police officers Paker and Billy-Jo came in and told them to leave. They refused unless they were arrested. So they were charged with trespassing and taken to jail.

SELMA 2:xx (noon) Everybody arrested during the past week is out now. Petitions for removal were filed with Federal Judge Thomas of Mobile; he ordered bond for everyone reduced to \$100 (except for Stanley Wise, who is charged with \$300 for "unlawful assembly" and also public drunk)). He also ordered the local people released on their own recognizance.

JACKSON DB #5 1-30-65

As deposition taking continued today, Mississippi Atty. Gen Joe Patterson admitted that his office had not made "one single investigation" of whether or not Negroes in Miss. were excluded from the voting process. FDP atty Morton Stavis claimed that the AttyGen of Miss has the power to investigate denials of the right to register to vote, but has refused to do so despite evidence from the US Dept of Justice that such denials do exist.

The After the morning session, Stavis said: "Patterson doesn't have to accept what the Fed. Govt. says, but we would assume that he would use his office to investigate and uphold the law." He added "Consider what would happen in any other state if the FBI of the Dept of Justice found evidence that there were wholesale conspiracies by public officials to violate the laws. This could only

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