

WATS REPORTS

Monday, Feb. 1, 1965
 McCOMB J.D.Smith/Bab

Sheriff Daniel Jones, of Amite Co., the suspected murderer of Louis Allen, is beginning to make his presence felt. On Sunday, Jan. 24, COFO had a meeting in Amite ~~xxxxxxgex~~. E.H.Hurst, who killed Herbert Lee, rode back and forth a few times. On Sunday, Jan. 31, they had a meeting at E.W.Stepto's house, which is right across the road from Hurst's. Sheriff Jones and another man who looked like a KKK member drove up to the house and parked outside and waited through the meeting. When the meeting was over, Smith, Stepto, and Marshall Ganz went out and approached the two men. Jones said to Stepto, "Well what do you want, E.W.?" Stepto replied, "What do you want? You drove up to my house." Jones said, "I just came by to see what was happening," and then drove away.

This is our workers' first contact with the white community.

Tuesday, February 2, 1965

via Jackson, Pete Mailenburg

ROLLING FORK The principal of Henry Withers HS here threatened to expel two MSU members for organizing 150 students into wearing freedom pins to school on Monday. Many students were sent out of class and asked to go home by their teachers. The Negro principal, following instructions from the white school board, told the two organizers that wearing the pins was "against school rules." He gave them the choice of taking off the pins or being expelled from school. The two boys said they would rather leave school.

HOLLY SPRINGS DB #9 2-2-65

MFDP lawyers Frank Pestana and Ed Mosk of Los Angeles today examined 13 residents of Benton and Tippah Cos. The witnesses testified about various forms of harrassment and intimidation they had undergone after trying to register to vote. A Negro bus driver did not have his contract renewed after he became a registered voter. Another man had his window smashed by a group of white teenagers. A man and wife, each with eighth grade education, had attempted to register 14 times in two years but had failed the test every time.

HOLLY SPRINGS Morgan von Fazel, a white (blonde) court stenographer who is accompanying the FDP lawyers, was asked to leave Maurice's restaurant, the scene of two tests, after the manager found out her companion, also white, was a COFO worker.

MERIDIAN DB # 10 2-2-65

Adverse witnesses Sheriff Rainey and Deputy Cecil Price, who were scheduled to appear today, did not show up.

CORDELE, GA. Judy Richardson/Bab

A local Negro man who was charged with assault after he defended himself from a white store owner who swung at him with a chair because the Negro did not speak "correctly" to him, who was jailed for 4 months until the community raised bond for him, came to trial today. Negro spectators packed the courtroom, and in the opinion of Negro Atty Slater King, this was why the judge held the trial in his private chambers. King plans to appeal on the grounds that Negroes were excluded from the jury.

SELMA COMING UP.....

522-1420

WATS REPORTS 2-1-65 cont.

MORE FROM MARION p.m. George Bess 115 people got in to take the test. The courthouse took the names of everyone else, and gave them numbers (366 people) so they should be first to be tested next time the courthouse opens--third Monday in Feb. Officials processed about 7 people at a time.

This evening a group of 24 went to the theater, where they were admitted without any trouble. Then they went to the Dairy Queen and the Burger Treat, which closed down. Nichol's BarBQ was closed all day. The Corner Cafe charged 25¢ for a 10¢ Coke, and had "reserved" tables for \$5. The Marion Drug Store, on a return visit, began to reserve tables, and when the group ignored this, it closed down. The College City Drug also closed down when group came back.

SELMA Fay Bellamy/Jeanne and Bab

This morning approximately 264 adults were arrested as they marched from Brown's Chapel to the Cthouse. They were charged with parading without a permit. Among those arrested were Martin Luther King and Ralph Abernathy of SCLC and Frank Soracco and Bill Hall of SNCC. They were charged with parading without a permit. They were marched in twos when stopped by Police Comm. Baker. They knelt down in prayer, then went to the jail.

This afternoon, a group of students marched downtown in protest of arrests, and 500 of them were arrested.

State Public Safety Director Al Lingo and his men are intown.

Police used cattle prods on two Tuskegee students who were in Selma to help with the Freedom Day. Seven Tuskegee students were among the arrested adults.

Bail is being set this evening at \$200 per person, but local people are being let out on their own recognizance.

COLUMBUS Bridgeforth went up for a hearing today, and his bail was reduced from \$5000 to \$1000. Starkville says they can raise this locally. Governor Volpe of Massachusetts (Carver's home state) has protested arrests to Gov. Johnson, and demanded an investigation

JACKSON DB #8 2-1-65

Attorneys for the MFDP today interrogated members of the State Sovereignty Commission, a tax-supported agency whose purpose is to maintain segregation. Erle Johnston, the Chairman of the Commission was very tight-lipped and failed to produce records as subpoenaed. Andrew Hopkins, an investigator for the agency, which conducts investigations of Negro voter registration campaigns, said that it had found no evidence harrassments of participants in Canton and McComb Freedom Days. FDP attorneys countered that when Negro voter registration applicants had gone to the courthouse in Canton last Feb. 24, police had marched up and down the line of waiting Negroes, interrogating each person as to why he was there and who had sent him, and insulting the participants. Hopkins admitted the State Sovereignty Commission would not investigate reports by Negroes of voter registration harrassment, nor was he concerned with "how many Negroes were in fact allowed to register."

In the afternoon, State Senator Hayden Campbell, a die-hard segregationist, and member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and of the White Citizens Council since its beginning, refused to answer almost all the questions put to him.