

WATS REPORT (Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1965 cont.)

MERIDIAN cont.

Lee Chaney, mother of James Chaney. Mrs. Lamar and an employee met them at the door. The employees told them "I ought to knock your goddam black head off." ~~The employees~~ As the group which included Mrs. Chaney left, 15 local residents and 2 COFO workers began picketing. They were immediately arrested by city police and charged with obstructing the sidewalk. Bond was \$50 each.

COFO had sent Moore a telegram telling him that the Hotel was segregated and asking him to cancel his speaking engagement. Moore did not attend the luncheon. Meridian agent Joseph Sullivan appeared in his place, and said, in answer to a question from the audience, that he believed the civil rights movement was Communist-dominated.

ISSAQUENA CO. via Unita Blackwell in Atlanta. The boycott of the Negro high school in Rolling Fork, and of an elementary school used by children from Issaquena Co. are still going on. All the children who are boycotting--several hundred of them--are attending Freedom Schools which are taught by older children and parents.

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 1965

MOULTRIE, GA. Herman Kitchens again calling from the Colquitt Co. jail: 131 adults and students were arrested as they marched to the jailhouse to protest the arrests of the 216 yesterday. According to Herman, they plan to stay in jail "indefinitely."

LAUREL COFO OFFICE BURNED According to Pat McGauley, 23 year old volunteer from NYC, the fire, which occurred around 3 am today, damaged the building very badly, completely destroying one room, and damaging the other two very badly. A mimeograph machine in the office appeared to have been smashed beyond what the fire could have done. The building housed the office, community center, and an extensive library, which was totally ruined. Most of the records, and other equipment, was also destroyed. The typewriters are missing.

The fire was apparently part of a continuing attempt to intimidate the local Negro citizen, Cleveland Golden, who has rented the building to COFO since November. On Christmas Eve, a restaurant he owned was burned. In Jan., fire was set to a hotel owned by Mr. Golden, who was inside at the time, and jumped out of the window, breaking his leg, while escaping. SNCC project director Gwen Robinson said, "He was the only person in town who would rent to us. After this fire, I don't know where we'll go."

VALLEY VIEW via Jackson There will be a voter registration workshop here here Feb. 26-28. Food and housing will be supplied. Contact Andy Green, 601-859-4361.

February 18, 1965

MOULTRIE ROY SHIELDS/Jeanne-- Between 25-30 students were arrested at noon today in front of the city hall in Moultrie. The group was led by Rev. Joe Smith of Moultrie. They were protesting the arrest of about 350 kids earlier as they demonstrated in front of the school in order to protest the bad conditions of the school. The group today, also supported the boycott. The students were sent to the worst jail in SW Georgia, the Baker County Jail. When the students reached the city hall steps, the Chief of Police, Charles Ranew, said that he would give them one minute to leave. After the minute was over, Ranew then said, "You are now under arrest, Take them to the Baker County Jail." Charges are unknown.

Herman Kitchen who was arrested yesterday is under \$1,500 bond.