

WATS REPORT

Tuesday, February 23, 1965

MARKS Robert Smith/Jeanne Breaker FREEDOM DAY

At 9:45 am, 17 people went to the courthouse. They were accompanied by about 22 high school students. Chief of Police Clint Turner was at the courthouse, along with 2 highway patrolmen and three city policemen. Turner asked Rev. Allen, one of the men on line, why he had brought all those people there. Robert Smith, Marks Project Director, said that the people had come to register. Turner said that only two people could go in at a time. When people threatened to demonstrate, he said they could all go in together. 31 people were able to go through the registration process. Six people asked for the oral test because they couldn't see well enough to take the written test, but the registrar refused. At 5:30, all the people who had gone to the courthouse had been tested.

Wednesday, February 24, 1965

BATESVILLE PennynPatch/Jeanne 3:30 pm Twenty-two high school students sat in at Brown's Cafe today. They were bodily thrown out. They picketed in front of the cafe for a while, then went to the Elizabeth Cafe. The cafe closed rather than serve the students. Mr. Nelson, one of the men who took the kids to town, was given a speeding ticket on the way back. (SEE CONTINUATION)

McCOMB Joe Martin/Jeanne MAGNOLIA PICKETING WITHOUT INCIDENTS
150 high school students picketed today in front of the Pike County Courthouse in Magnolia for about 3½ hours. They were demanding that the literacy test be removed from the voter registration test. They carried signs saying "Literacy test must go," and "Fortenberry must go," Fortenberry is the county registrar. Several highway patrolmen and the county sheriff observed the students as they picketed, but did not bother any of the students. The students demanded to see the registrar, but the sheriff told them only two people could go in at one time. There was a heavy downpour during this time.

BATESVILLE cont. After finishing their p.a. testing, the students picketed the county courthouse. At 2pm, 20 students plus COFO workers Clare O'Connor and Joe Jackson were arrested. (They were protesting the arrest of Mr. Nelson on a traffic charge.) The students were arrested by Sheriff Hubert. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Five minors were later released, leaving 12 still in jail. They are charged with disturbing the peace, obstructing the sidewalk, carrying signs and singing. Trial is scheduled for Thursday,

INDIANOLA via Jackson All of the people arrested at the library on Friday and Saturday are now out. A school boycott is continuing.

VALLEY VIEW via Jackson 500 students boycotted the Velma Jackson HS here. They were protesting the arrest of school bus driver Albert Katchings on a false charge of reckless driving and illegal right of way. Also they are protesting poor conditions in the school.

MAYERSVILLE, ISSAQUENA CO. There will be a meeting to discuss school boycotts throughout the state. Teachers at the Issaquena Co. Freedom School (conducted for boycotting pupils) will attend, as well as representatives of other counties. The Issaquena Co. boycott has been going on for 16 days. Boycotts have begun within the past few days in Indianola, Valley View, Moss Point, and McComb.