

February 21, 1965

INDIANOLA: About 100 people in prayer vigil outside city jail, protesting 53 arrests yesterday and day before. Police car tries to run down some people on way home from vigil. Complaint made to PRT, but agent says they'll have to file it at the police station.

MOSS POINT: Trustee throws water on 5 people in jail here.

RULEVILLE: Delta Theater integrated. No trouble getting tickets, but price has gone up 50¢ since yesterday. White kids standing at back throw trash and call them names.

February 22, 1965 - incomplete

INDIANOLA: Thirty-five adults still in jail. \$3,600 bond needed. Boycott which began Friday continues. One estimate: 1200 from Carver elementary have stayed home. Some also away from high school.

February 23, 1965

HATTIESBURG: COFO and MSU in joint effort with NAACP test 14 restaurants. Police much in evidence but no arrests, no serious incidents. About 50 people involved in testing. Editorial in local paper yesterday called for no violence, no interference with testing.

CLEVELAND: Lee Bankhead reports a restaurant tested. No incidents. They are having a non-violent workshop.

MARKS: Freedom Day today. About 30 people go down to the courthouse. Some students picket the courthouse with signs.

HATTIESBURG: Group tried to enter Rebel Theater. They are turned away, told to return at 5 when manager would be there. They are turned away again at 5 and told to return at 7.

February 24, 1965

INDIANOLA: McKinley Mack reports all 18 on county farm and 19 in county jail are out on bond. School boycott continues for 4th day. Freedom School classes still on. Three local people taken in by police for questioning, then released. Police are after information about the meetings and boycott.

VALLEY VIEW: School boycott begins. About 500 students stayed home this morning. Normal roll at Velma Jackson High School is 700-800. Students are protesting inferior school conditions and the firing of a school bus driver.

MCCOMB: Students from 3 high schools, about 100 in all, plus a few adults, picket Pike County courthouse at Magnolia morning and afternoon. About 2 hours of picket altogether despite heavy rain and cold. Group sings freedom songs and tries to enter courthouse to see registrar Glen Fortenberry. Stopped by Sheriff R.R. Warren at front door; may enter only in small groups. They refused to be divided. Students are protesting voter registration practices and intend to continue thru Saturday.

BATESVILLE: Twenty students and Claire O'Connor and Joe Jackson arrested at 2 P.M. outside J.P. office. They were protesting arrest and fining of Roland Nelson, who used his car to give them transportation downtown this morning when 2 cafes were tested. Nelson was fined \$43. on a bogus speeding charge. The 22 are charged with obstructing the sidewalk and disturbing the peace.

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY: Len Dodd is in jail in Sumner. He went to basketball game at the North Tallahatchie High School last night and was arrested for trespassing. Len was expelled from the school about 3 weeks ago for wearing a SNCC button.

MOSS POINT: School boycott today. 150 Students out as parents and students picket both high and elementary schools. Parents are trying to put pressure on the school board to sign the compliance pledge.



COFO NEWS  
1017 LYNCH STREET  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

INCIDENT SUMMARY

February 25, 1965

**MARKS:** Greg Kaslo and Charles H. announce they will continue public accommodations testing on Monday. Since library was tested last week, students have taken out books.

**INDIANOLA:** Six kids reported suspended for violating school attendance law. Georgia thinks this is intimidation since to her knowledge there is no school attendance law for elementary schools. Freedom School now has more than 30 students.

**MERIDIAN:** Request for state-wide demonstration here to protest Judge Cox's decision to drop felony charge against 17 men indicted by federal grand jury in rights slaying.

**VALLEY VIEW:** Boycott continues. There are as many as 1,000 students not out. They are raising money to finance trip to Columbus where state-wide MSU meeting is planned.

**McCOMB:** About 60 picketers sing at courthouse in Magnolia today. Sheriff refuses to let them see registrar as a full group. Wants them three at a time. They refuse.

**RULEVILLE:** A Ruleville man, who has been down to register, is threatened with having his furniture taken from him by a white company. Already he has lost his car, although it was paid for. Due for trial Monday. He describes Delta as "living hell now."

**HOLLY SPRINGS:** St. Joseph's church 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Byhalia, Marshall County, was burned to the ground. Voter registration classes have been held there regularly. Last class was Feb. 17th. Church was valued at five to ten thousand dollars.

**MOSS POINT:** Nancy Sours and Mary Larson out of jail. Mrs. Edna Gladney reports that 144 students are still boycotting elementary and high schools. Picket lines continue at schools. Principal refuses to make any statement on the situation.

February 26, 1965

**CANTON:** Five women test drug store, find all chairs removed and behind counter. Waitress said she was not going to serve them, pointed to a "closed" sign. Women left.

**SANDHILL, RANKIN COUNTY:** Cafe belonging to Mrs. Flossie Lindsay nearly burned. Gasoline poured in front and lit. Mrs. Lindsay is active in movement. COFO workers eat in the cafe. Ineptness of arsonists prevented damage.

**CANTON:** Goshen man murdered. William Henry Lee, 24, who works in Jackson, was found dead on railway tracks near Goshen last night. Father discovered the body. Inquest was held, but Lee's father was not told cause of death. William Lee attended a few COFO meetings in Rankin Co. Since Washington trip on January 4, Negroes have received threats and Highway Patrolmen have been stopping cars leaving meetings. Group of eight test library: closed; Wardell's restaurant: Wardell, owner, says he cannot serve them, not because of color or creed but to protect his business; Salty Sandwich Shop: waitress refused service. Police came in and told them to go to colored section of the restaurant. Group left.

**MERIDIAN:** A group of 12, led by Mrs. Cheney, picketed courthouse this morning. No incidents. Many police around.

**MOSS POINT:** Remaining three people out of jail: Tommy Reeves, James Bass, and Everett McKeller out on property bond.

**INDIANOLA:** Eight arrested for contributing to the delinquency of minors. Felt to be reprisal against demonstrations and school boycott, particularly boycott. Four are local people. Police made some arrests without a warrant and entered three local homes without warrants. They are looking for Bob Newell, but he left yesterday for California. John Harris is in jail again, also James Dann, Charlie Scattergood, and Herschel Kaminsky. Bond is \$100. // Charles Williams, 17, says he was kicked and hit with billy clubs in the city jail last night. Eddie Collins, who may be an auxiliary cop, a man with a record of brutality, suggested "they kill him" and when Charles said anything, told him, "Shut up, nigger." Charles was picked up by police car, questioned about recent meetings, and when he told them nothing, was taken to the jailhouse. He was released after being beaten on face and body.