

## WATS REPORT

#174

Saturday October 2, 1965

SIDON, MISSISSIPPI Liz Fusco/jeanne

A storm blew over the tent in Sidon that was being used by the Mississippi Freedom Labor Union for people who had been put off plantations. When the people took the tent down to be fixed, it was discovered that the tent was rotten. They had only had the tent for a couple of months. The people decided that they would take the tent back to the place where they bought it. They did this but the owner of the place was not there. Later, Liz Fusco called the place and talked with the owner's wife. She told Liz that they didn't exchange, and that all of the tents were alike. Liz asked if this meant that all of the tents were rotten, the lady answered, no. The wife then said that if Liz was from Tribbett, Miss., they didn't exchange. Tribbett was one of the first MFLU chapters that purchased tents from this place.

It is the feeling of the people in the MFLU that as soon as cotton picking season is over lots of people are going to be fired from their plantations.

VICKSBURG, MISS.

All outside civil rights workers have left the city and the local FDP is in the process of reorganizing activities. They are also developing a library.

NATCHEZ Bert Watkins, Bill Ware, Mark Lunden/Jeanne, Muriel, Judy This morning approximately 700 people were arrested as they attempted a march from the Beulah Baptist Church to downtown Natchez. The march came after a mass meeting at the church. At first when the people tried to march they were turned around. They tried again and were all arrested within a block of the church. They were all tried with breaking a city injunction. The injunction was issued yesterday against 20 people, including Charles Evers, Richard Sampson, SCLC worker, Bill Ware, Dorie Ladner and Posey Lombard, injoining them from participating or encouraging others to participate in demonstrations, etc. At the time of the arrests, Evers and Sampson said that they would stay in jail and fast.

The people were put into buses, fire wagons, and police cars and taken to the city auditorium. Three of the people, Louis Easten, Clarence Bridgewater and Eddie Williams (all local FDP volunteers) were separated from the others and taken to the city jail. There they were roughed up by the city police. The three were singled out from a crowd by the police and arrested.

Also arrested were Posey Lombard, James Gibson, SCLC, and Charlie Horowitz and Phil Lapansky, who arrested as he stood on the steps of the church.

All of the minors were released. 116 adults were taken to either parchman or Jackson jail. Charles Evers was also released.

On yesterday 17 people, mostly minors, were arrested for breaking the injunction as they picketed the downtown stores. The Negro community in Natchez has been boycotting the downtown merchants for about three weeks. The boycott is almost 100% effective by both whites and Negroes.

This afternoon, 16 more people were arrested for picketing. Bond was set for \$200 for all of the picketers and the marchers.

There were reports from Negro women who worked in downtown Natchez that they saw white men on top of two stores with guns. Police said they would investigate.