

WATS REPORT: JULY 6, 1964

unofficial report

David Prince, St. Montgomery Hospital

Jerry DeMuth is doing all right but may have a fractured elbow. They are staying at the hospital until a bone specialist comes in, which should be around 8 AM, Selma time.

Prince stated that the police said they traced Jerry's license number and that they discovered that their address was the SNCC office. Prince also said that he overheard a policeman say that they knew all about the photo project and that "they" knew ~~xxxxxxxx~~ what we were doing". ~~xxxxxxx~~ Prince also stated that he saw the police complete files on SNCC and on the photo project.

Selma: John Love 10am

a ten o'clock curfew was announced last night after the rally. Police and posse went up on people's porches and clubbed them with night sticks if they would not go into the house. They also beat on the doors with their sticks to make people lock them. Chairs were thrown through the windows and screen door of a house next to the hall where the mass meeting ~~kkkk~~ was held. ~~kkkkkkkk~~ Under the curfew people must also turn their lights off at 10pm.

After the ~~kkkkkk~~ people left the rally tear gas was sprayed inside the church building. Apparently it was believed that people were still there. Cans ~~kkkk~~ of tear gas were found this morning which ~~kkk~~ were marked Federal Laboratory from some city in Pennsylvania. They were marked #112, expiration date August 1967/

Selma: 10:40am

At the courthouse possemen are posted at the front. When Negroes walk up they are told they can not come in. If they question the men they are told that if they want to register they ~~kkk~~ must go around to the back where they are given numbers and sent into the alley to wait. There are possemen posted at the entrance to the alley. ~~kkkkkk~~ They will not allow anyone to enter the alley who is not there to register. They would not permit James Austin, a resident of Selma and formerly on SNCC staff, to join the line to attempt to register. It has been estimated that there are about 150 people waiting to register.

Negro trustees from the jail have ~~kkkkkkkk~~ been given civilian clothes and are out on the streets around the courthouse.

There are state troopers in town. Last night Al Lingo personally closed the South Wind cab stand at 10pm in accordance with the curfew. Private clubs such as Elks were also closed.

Attorney Chestnut has not been allowed to see anyone in jail. We do not know how many local citizens may have been arrested since Friday though we do know that seven SNCC people are in jail. Peter Hall has arrived in town and will try to handle the legal matters.

Washington: 11:15am John Doar

Reported the Selma situation to Doar. He said that the JD has a suit concerning discriminatory practices in voter registration pending with Judge Thomas. Thomas previously refused to set a date for a hearing but the date has now been set for the fall.

The misconduct of Selma police is being investigated by JD and they have a suit against all law enforcement authorities in the county which is pending in appeals court.
