

WATS Report
OFFICE REPORT FROM J. BOND, July 4, 1964, late PM
TAKEN FROM VARIOUS SOURCES: JULY 4, 1964
ATLANTA, GA.

Four SNCC workers, Matthew Jones, Charles Neblett, Wilson Brown, all Negro, and Karen Haberman, white, went to a rally sponsored by the American Patriots at Atlanta's Lakewood Park. Featured speakers were local, small-time racists and Alabama's George Wallace and Mississippi's Ross Barnett. The four entered a large stadium area, took seats (the three Negroes were the only Negroes there) and were met with a barrage of heavy, steel, folding chairs, some welded, others thrown. Miss Haberman was escorted from the scene by a friendly white man, the three Negroes were severely beaten, and treated at a local hospital. Four white men were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Newsmen who witnessed the beating said the charge should have been "assault" at a minimum and "assault with intent to murder" in a normal situation.

NEW YORK CITY 11:45 pm later report from Elizabeth Sutherland MKing
The ten persons arrested were released in their own custody. The hearing was set for August 3rd. They were booked and arraigned; charged with loitering and disorderly conduct. The handbills they had been handing out called for a boycott of the Greenwood, Mississippi Band which was playing at the Mississippi Pavillion. They were handing out the handbills on the platform of the subway stop. Elizabeth said the arraignment made the connection to Mississippi perfectly clear.

LAUREL, MISS. (from different sources, uncorroborated)
The first report was that there was an "impending riot." A large group of Negro youths were reported to be walking toward a larger group of whites. This was apparently touched off by two things: First, the attack of two Negro youths were badly injured and hospitalized as a result of beatings and brick-throwing. The two, Terry Gillum, 16, 415 East 3rd Street, Laurel, and his brother Willie Roy, 17, same address, were accosted as they passed a Burger Chef restaurant on the edge of white neighborhood. The attack apparently came because the white thugs thought the Gillums were going to try to integrate the restaurant. Secondly, it is reported that the large group of Negro youths formed in reaction to police response to Lester McKinnie's phone call. The police apparently disclaimed the matter and hung up on McKinnie. FBI in Jackson and New Orleans notified. Dear suggested the highway patrol be called. That had already been done. Phones in Laurel: 426-6540 and 426-8018. Address: 214 North Cook Street. Gwen Robinson was an eyewitness to the meeting.

Statement of James Forman on events in SELMA today:
"For more than three years members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee have been saying that police brutality is the number one problem in the deep South. We have stated publicly that we feel the greatest hindrance and most massive resistance to the civil rights law will come from southern law enforcement officers. Today in Selma, Alabama we witnessed such action."