

WATS Report; July 8, 9:30 pm

Hattiesburg, July 7, 7:30 pm (from Greenwood; Rudd/Grogan)

Rev. Robert Beach, National Council of Churches, was arrested in Hattiesburg this afternoon at 4:30 pm, and is now being held on a \$42500 cash bond in Forrest County Jail, on a charge of false pretense. Charge based on a check deposited by Beach and not honored by the First National Bank in Hattiesburg. He had allegedly overdrawn his account by \$70. This amount has been covered by checks which have not yet cleared the bank. Beach is on permanent assignment in Hattiesburg from the Nat'l Council of Churches. He formerly had a parish in Hebron, Illinois. No one as yet has been able to see him. The NCC will provide bail. However, Jackson has not been able to contact them yet.

LAUREL, MISS: From Forman/Greenwood and Atlanta AP M King

McKinnie Located. McKinnie is reported by Forman as having said he was worried because he was kept in the city jail last night and he feels that the county jail is the safest place. He told them today he did not want to work on the workgang and they let him stay inside. Habeas Corpus petition filed today in federal district court by Melvin Zair. The case will be heard next Wed., July 15. The sheriff is reported to have told McKinnie's lawyer, Hal Mitt, that he was aware of his obligation to take proper care of him. The sheriff told the AP man in Jones Co. that he is being held in the county jail but is a city prisoner. "City prisoners are usually remanded to the county," the sheriff said.

Ruby Davis Smith: A group in Miami, Florida wants SNCC to help them. Booker T. McKenzie wants to be called back. (305) RX 1-9826 or NE 4-4465.

To report that evidence led to discovery of a grave in this LAUREL COUNTY - on the bank of a river believed to contain 3 persons bones.

Reported 12:30 --, July 9. Through Garman via Mandy (Grogan)

McComb: 4am Through Garman via Mandy

Within an hour after the bombing there were between one and two hundred people at the Freedom House. The SNCC workers organized the people into a group and they were addressed by Jesse Harris. He said, essentially, this is an attempt to scare us but we're not scared. We will stay. Even if they kill all ten of us, there will be ten more to take our place. Early in the am they found a church in which they could hold a mass meeting and they leafleted the area all day long. At 5pm there was a youth meeting of 30 kids at the Freedom House at which there was talk and singing. At meeting's end, they marched around the bombed site. This occurred before the local police who were there observing. At the mass meeting tonight, there were about 175 people. The church was overflowing. Curtis Hayes spoke and explained that "we will not be turned around." He explained the developing organization of the state. He introduced Rev. McCord from National Council of Churches, who introduced Art Thomas of NCC. Thomas talked about the type of support the NCC would lend to the movement in McComb. Jack Pratt, lawyer for NCC, spoke, followed by Bob Cole, the psychiatrist. Both PRATT AND Cole apologized for their respective professions and pledged their support. Courtland Cox spoke. His speech can be summarized by his quote from Mrs. Hamer: "People in Miss. are sick and tired of being sick and tired." "Now is the time to move." Doris Jones spoke about the convention challenge and freedom registration. Curtis explained the Freedom Schools and the Community Center program. The meeting then ended. Several things should be noted: Mandy feels there was a breakthrough with respect to federal involvement. The FBI dispatched over 15 agents. They're all over the place driving around in their plymouths. At the mass meeting, there were cars all around (FBI cars) in addition to City and County Police cars. There were at least 3 Mississippi police cars (2 County and 1 City car) in addition to the FBI agents, there are two Justice Dept. men who are with the Criminal Division.

After the mass meeting, the staff went to the cafe. Someone came in and reported that there had been a shooting. A car with four white males in it (late model light yellow car) fired on the only Negro police officer in TOWN. town. The same car had circled the Freedom House

WATS REPORT, page 2, MCCOMB via Mendy via Garman/Grogan
several times earlier in the day. Mendy has the license number.

Dennis Sweeney was taken to KKK Jackson for further medical treatment.
He complained of a ringing sound in his ears.

Earlier today Bob Coles said that it might be a slight concussion and
that is being looked into in Jackson.

From Rob McNamara.

David Welsh found local W woman in Phia Miss.
who claims she saw 3 men filling car
w/ tires being moved to van in
front of Washburn car. jail this am.