

WATS report: page 1,

July 16, early am
unofficial report
Nan Grogan

DREW Garman/Grogan

The Negroes are supposed to have been taken to the Morehouse county farm. Whites are supposed to be in Sunflower County Jail. This does not seem to be what has been done

Jackson 12:45 to Greenwood (Garman/Grogan)

Eric Morton, white summer volunteer, Steve Smith, white summer volunteer Robert Ellis and Melvin McDavia, both 15 and local Jackson kids. The four were driving in a rented truck from Jackson to Grenwd carrying Freedom registration forms and pamphlets. As they were leaving Jackson, were stoppe d by Jackson city police. They continued on Highway 61, just past last bridge before Canton where they were stopped by Highway Patrol. Ultimately 4 highway patrol cars arrived. The two Negroes were ordered out of the truck by the H.P. and ordered to walk back to Jackson. They made it clear that they lived in Jackson. McDavia saw Steve Smith lain flat on the seat of a HP car. He was put down flat by the HP and then he d saw a HP hovering over Smith. The next time McDavia saw Smith, he had mussed-u! hair (Smith usually has his hair plastered down) McDavia couldn't see Steve's face. McDavia's impression is that a beating may havetaken place. The 2 Negroes started walking back toward Jackson after they had observed the arrests and hitched a ride to Jackson.

Sherwin Caplin in Jackson office called Madison County jail in Canton and spoke with Mrs. Thompson, the jailer's wife who said that the two were in jail there. The charges are": Morton: interfering with a officer and resisting arrest; Smith: resisting arrest and refusing to show a driver's license. She said no bond had been sat. They will be taken before a justice of the peace tomorrow. She knows nothing about the truck. Truck is missing. The J.P., Leroy Hawkins, was called and he said that they would appear before him around 9 or 10 am. The H.P. was called and claims to know nothing about the arrest. The FBI in Jackson was informed as was the Memphis FBI. The jail phone no. 859-2345.

DREW: Ed Rudd/Nan Grogan ~~XXX~~ 2:45 am, July

Harris called the Sunflower C. jail at 9: 45 and an unidentified jailer stated that two white girls were being detained. Male whites At 11 pm Rudd called Sunflower C. jail and jailer said two FBI agents just left and any information would have to come from the agents. Rudd called Kirby Fudge at Memphis FBI sev. times between 11 and 12. Fudge said agents had been at the jail nad that the agents would call the Greenwood SNCC office as soon as they reported in to the Memphis FBI. Agents have not yet called.

Rudd called and found that there was no written report of what the two men had reported but they had been told to call Rudd, and hadn't Off-hand account of what went on: agents were at the jail interviewing the occupants under Washington directive. They had interviewed two when they called in and were going to interview the other as soon as possible. Aid gave no. of agent from Greenwood: Murphy, staying in Drew.. Rudd called Murphy and he said: "I am sure that the whites are at the County Jail" H. was not the agent who had done the interviewing there.

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It was personal option as to whether the minors stayed or left. 3
stayed and 6 left. Murphy has no word as to how many are in the
county jail. Murphy said that all would be delivered back to Drew in
the morning. As it now stands, Greenwood has talked with noone who
has seen first-hand what is going on at the County jail. The only two
agents who are purported to have been at the county jail are unidentified
and have not contacted Rudd as Kirby Fudge of Memphis office had
instructed them to do.

JACKSON

A call to Jackson revealed the addresses of the white summer volunteers arrested in Canton: Steve Smith, age 19, 3095 12th Avenue, Marion, Iowa, student at State University of Iowa. Eric Morton, 45 West 132nd Street, New York, New York