

WATS LINE DIGEST July 19, 1964

Vicksburg: About 175 have gone down to courthouse since start of summer; all took test.

Columbus: Two voter reg. workers detained in jail in Aberdeen for 4 hours after being picked up as suspicious strangers and refusing to be driven out of town and left on a highway by police. 2) 17 people supposed to go to courthouse yesterday didn't show--scared. A Negro maid lost job when informed white employers she had signed Freedom Registration.

Holly Springs: Batesville wing over Holly Springs in first baseball game.

Greenwood: As of yesterday there were to be visiting privileges at jail; now none--78 year old man at County Farm is without his medicing. Allowed in at jail later, but not at farm.

Canton: Two white summer volunteers, Federal Projects workers, beaten after being turned away from white church. Attackers between 50 and 65; dress indicated they were not on way to church.

Oxford: Ol' Miss. student who has had Rust College contacts had seat covers slashed while car parked outside faculty home; threatening note left. Harrasment before, but can't get administration to act.

Clarksdale: Group of 4 workers tried to integrate 4 churches--refused at all.

Biloxi: Voter reg. worker chased, threatened by two men in pick-up truck.

Canton: checking out burning of Christian Union Church.

2) Minister from National Council beaten by local men in Carthage.

Meridian: "Every Member Vote" campaign begun today in Negro churches--minister makes announcements.

Batesville: Town marshzll threatened workers at mass meeting in Crowder. (13 to 15 miles away). Said "lucky I have no gun in here...wish I didn't have my badge on...."

Biloxi: White Project worker arrested for trespass in restaurant (white) where he had worked for one day until owner discover he was cr worker. Owner turned him into police when he went back to restaurant.

July 20

Batesville: Mass meeting tonight--very well advertised.

Greenville: 9 shots fired at car workers went to mass meeting in. Two workers threatened that white mob would form at place where they were staying.

Biloxi: Local Negro leadership wary of COFO.

Laurel: Voter reg. workers being followed by green volks.

Hattiesburg: White volunteer beaten downtown as left bank with two other Freedom school teacher. Assailant hit from behind--no words exchanged.

Ruleville: Two workers thrown out of cafe. Door locked, people inside. Told to come around and get key. (whites given keys). Asked to leave after ordered when SNCC button noticed. Owner doesn't care he's violating cr act.

Hattiesburg(cont.): Volunteer who was attacked from behind and beaten charged with assault along with his assailant. Trial held tonight, carried over until Thursday afternoon.

Greenwood: Both barrels of shotgun fired at worker's car--hit tires.
2) Trial is being held despite referral petitions filed Friday. Workers, remaining mute on basis of violation of legal rights, are being convicted of violation of picket law--30 days, 100 dollar fine--. Was thought that they were all now under Federal custody and jurisdiction. If this was case, trial illegal.

Greenville: 59 people took test today

Ruleville: 30 people took test today.

Clarksdale: Three members (girls) of newly organized Clarksdale Youth Action Group arrested for trespass, outside local Cafe in Negro section. Held on \$51 bond.

McComb: SNCC Field Secretary hit on side of head by whit man as both their cars were stopped for red light at intersection of two state and a federal highway.

Columbus: Volunteer beaten by Negro boy with a hose--boy reportedly mentally retarded, ill--appears that boy put up to it by local white gas station owner. When in cafe reporting incident by phone, chief of police and four officers came in and gave usual "get out of town" speech; beating not mentioned.