

WATS REPORTUNOFFICIAL REPORT

JACKSON: THURSDAY PM, JULY 23 (H. Moprey, H. Grogan)

Roger Barnhill, summer volunteer, was arrested in Moss Point. He was charged by the judge with reckless driving and had to pay \$42.50. Roger B. was in an integrated car and not driving recklessly. It was, instead, a white woman who had been doing the reckless driving.

The Secretary of State of Mississippi has denied certification to the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Thus, the FDP now has no legal status in the state.

The front page of the early July 23 edition of the Memphis Commercial Appeal carried an article stating that the traditional Democratic Party of Mississippi is thinking of filing a suit to insure the seating of their delegates at the Atlantic City convention.

Hodding Carter was contacted and stated that he believes the article was planted by Eastland and Stennis.

The relevance of this is the fact that we were going to file suit to seat the FDP delegates. The plan was dropped, however, at the suggestion of Rauh of Washington, D.C. who is acting as an advisor to the FDP. Rauh is the Chairman of the D.C. Democratic Party.

Hunter wants Walter Tillow advised of these developments. Foreman already knows.

(The above message was left for Tillow at D.C. SNCC Office)

INDIANOLA JULY 23 D. Gronomeir via Bill Light/Karen Haberman

During the voter registration rally in Indianola a Negro policeman, Nathaniel Jack, 54, drew a pistol on Rabbi Levine, 32, of Rochester, N.Y., of Temple Emmanuel. The policeman entered the building despite promise by Police Chief Erice Alexander that no police would try to come in. When Jack entered, Charles McLaurin, SNCC director of Ruleville project, who was the rally speaker asked the people if they wanted police in the rally. When they said no, McLaurin asked Jack to leave. Jack drew pistol, pointed at Rabbi Levine and shouted "I'll kill some, I'll kill some!" Jack then calmed down and replaced his gun in holster and left. Some 15 minutes later he returned with 12-15 sheriff and police deputies dressed in riot garb. Two police were stationed inside the building against the wishes of the crowd.

The rally was attended by over 200 people and was the second held recently by the Sunflower SNCC project working out of Ruleville.

Albany: Don Harris

About 1,300 people were registered in Albany and surrounding counties last week. (7/13-17)

Registration efforts are closely connected with work on C.B. King's campaign.

People were registered in the following places:

- 475: Cordale (Crisp County)
- 325: Tifton (Tift County)
- 300+: Thomasville (Thomas County)
- 45-50: Albany
- 40+: Bainbridge (Decatur county)

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## Greenwood: Judy Richardson 4:55pm

Willie Blue, Stu House and Willie Peacock went to the Memphis airport this morn.

Willie Blue was arrested as he and Stu House drove back through Grenada.

He was charged with speeding though he was going 30mph at the time. Stu House called from a phone booth near the police station at about 2pm. ~~Willie~~ Three workers from Greenwood went to Grenada to bond Willie out. Willie was allowed to make a call from the jail and he reported that his bond was \$29.

At 3:40pm the police station told the Greenwood office that Blue had been bonded out a few minutes before.

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## Canton: from Judy Richardson

Joe Lee Watts, ~~21~~ 21, Negro CORE worker from Canton, and Doug Baty, 18, Doznan, Montana, white, were out canvassing in Canton. A white man described as 40 years old, 6ft. tall, wearing glasses, got a cane from his truck ('62 light blue Ford pickup) and struck Watts with it five times. It has been reported to the sheriff and the FBI. Watts says he can identify the man.

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## Durant: from Richardson

Steve Bingham was canvassing with several people over a wide area ~~kkkk~~ today. Two white men approached him and asked him what it would take to get him out of town. He replied that he was not quite ready to leave. They talked about 10 minutes. Then one of the guys started to hit him. After several punches the men left. Steve then went to talk with the mayor of Durant. He said he would try to do something about it. Steve then called sheriff Smith of Holmes county. Sheriff wasn't there but his wife said she would send Smith to Durant to talk with Bingham around 10 o'clock. According to Hollis Watkins who talked with Steve after the incident, some of the local Negroes saw the beating and knew the white guys who work in Durant. Bingham was not badly hurt.

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Hattiesburg: ~~Rick~~ County Prosecutor Dukes: 5:25pm

Charles Glenn is in the Forrest County jail. His arraignment was supposed to have been today but was put off until tomorrow at the request of his attorneys. He is charged with perjury: falsifying a voter registration application which is in the form of an affidavit. Bond will be set at arraignment.

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## Meridian: from Judy Richardson

The hearing on the motion to enjoin The Citizens Council, KKK, Sheriff Rainey, and Dputy Sheriff Prince of Philadelpia from acts of violence was ~~pk~~ continued until next Thursday in Hattiesburg. The suit was initiated by Rita Shhwerner, Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Ed King, Dorrie Ladner, and COFO. The defendants asked for a dismissal of the case on the grounds that: 1) the Citizen's Council, Incorp. was refered to incorrectly as the White Citizens Council; 2) failure to state cause of action (i.e. ~~kkk~~ why the suit was filed); 3) lack of jurisdiction over the case.

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Greenwood: from Mary King

The federal government today arrested Willie Amond Belk, 47, Jimmy Allen Belk, 19, his son; and Sam Allen Shaffer, Jr., 40; all of Greenwood. They were arrested under Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for ~~kkkkkk~~ interfering with the rights of Silas McGee, of Greenwood, who was attempting to enter a movie theatre. They beat McGee after he attempted to enter the theatre. We believe the same group beat him again on July 16, forcing him into a car and beating him with a plank. ~~kkk~~ The second beating took place on Freedom Day when lll were arrested in Greenwood. These were the first arrests under the new civil rights ~~kkkkk~~ act.

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Natchez: Chuck McDew

Yesterday Chuck McDew and George Greene met with Mayor Norssey of Natchez. They discussed ~~kk~~ the program of voter registration and freedom schools in Natchez. Norssey claimed to support both, emphasizing that he did not want demonstrations in Natchez because they are getting new industry there. He said that he recognized the difficulty of the voter registration test for Negroes and whites and thought citizenship schools would be a good thing. He attempted to portray himself as a liberal in the community and mentioned that his two shopping centers are being boycotted by the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race because he has given food and air conditioners to Negroes in Natchez.

When discussing the police in Natchez he admitted that it was intimidation and harrassment when police followed Greene and McDew around Natchez and he said he would talk to the chief of police about ~~kkkkkkk~~ it.

Norssey admitted that they couldn't really be protected, especially in the county but said he'd do all he could in the city of Natchez. He noted a Chicago Daily News article about him where he was portrayed as a liberal and was quoted as saying that if there were trouble it wouldn't be from 'the colored people of Natchez, but from the hothead whites in the county'. He admitted that large numbers of people in the county have guns.

Norssey also mentioned that ~~kkk~~ the Negro vote may have put him into office in his recent election. He won by only 200 in the run off. (1961 Voting: Civil Rights Commission report states that there are 9,340 voting age non-whites in Adams County, and that 11.2% (1,050 people) are registered. ~~kkk~~ The nonwhite population of Adams county is 46.2%). Most likely the greatest percentage of Adams County nonwhite votes are Natchez people, and therefore the Negro vote may have held ~~kk~~ the balance of power there.

Generally Mayor Norssey wanted to portray himself as a 'fair' man and as a 'liberal.' He mentioned that though there had been trouble with the city council in the past that he felt that he would be able to get through some 'good legislation'.