

M King

INCIDENT SUMMARY--JULY 24

Holly Springs: A voter registration worker was arrested for "disturbing the public peace" at a Holly Springs Freedom Day today, and is being held on \$500 bond. Elwood Berry, a 20 year old Dayton Ohio student at New York's Colgate University, was charged with "using profanity in front of more than two people" after he repeated over a two-way radio to his office the words of a policeman to him. The police officer's statements were made as Berry led potential Negro registrants to the Courthouse steps. Berry is currently in the Marshall County jail.

Police insisted that the 40-50 potential registrants a) walk to the courthouse steps 1 by 1 eight feet apart, and b) that they have a police escort from the steps to the registrar's office. According to a SNCC spokesman, the officers verbally intimidated the Negro citizens as they accompanied them to the office.

Approximately 55 helmeted Highway patrolmen and 35 helmeted local police were stationed at the courthouse for the Freedom Day. Their presence in such numbers prompted cancellation of planned integrated picketing of the courthouse.

McComb: 1) Amite County's Rose Hill Church, on Route 24, 5 miles away from the last two churches burned in this area, reported burned last night. 2) Owner of a local Negro club, the Macombe Club, was arrested and beaten last night. The club is within 3 blocks of the McComb Freedom House, and is frequented by Project workers. The officer reportedly remarked to the Negro owner, "Now that you've got white folks in here, you're getting uppity."

Ruleville: All but two passengers got off a bus near here today when a Negro woman was ordered off the bus and handled roughly by the driver when she sat down next to a white man.

Ruleville: Rabbi Allen Levine of Temple Emanuel, Rochester, New York, and Summer Project volunteer Jeff Thatcher, a Reed College (Portland, Ore.) student from New York were "forcibly ejected" from the office of the Drew City attorney where they had gone to attend a meeting of the parents of the children arrested (detained) and then released July 15. The two were threatened by Drew City police with arrest. The parents' meeting was called by the mayor for a reason not yet made clear. The children were picked up by police after a July 15 rally was ordered off its site by the owner of the property, reportedly in response to police urging. Twenty-three people were arrested as they were forced into the street.

Jackson, Meridian: Freedom Democratic Party precinct meetings held tonight.

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INCIDENT SUMMARY JULY 25, 1964

Greenwood: A group of 10 to 15 Greenwood project workers handing out Freedom Registration forms on a congested Negro business street prompted at least three incidents. SNCC worker Eli Zeretsky was approached by 3 whites who took his clip board from him and tore up the Freedom Registration forms. Police stood by and refused to act unless Zeretsky knew the assailant's name and filed a complaint against him with a judge. White summer volunteer Adam Kline was jumped from behind and hit on the head; police refused aid. Volunteer William Hodes, white, was threatened by local whites in the presence of police who refused to make an arrest and refused to give the name of the citizen involved so that a complaint could be filed.

2) A shot was fired at the home of Silas McGee, the young man whose beating in a local movie theatre prompted the first arrests under the civil rights act.

Canton: The first Freedom Democratic Party County Convention adopted a resolution of loyalty to the principles of the National Democratic Party and instructed delegates to support those who would work for the election of Lyndon Johnson, as well as calling for a strong and enforceable civil rights plank in the national platform. Approximately 300 people attended the open-air convention, of whom 102 were voting delegates elected at the precinct level. The convention, totally under the direction of Mississippi citizens of that county, was chaired by Mrs. Annie Devine, member of the temporary state executive committee of the Freedom Democratic Party and secretary of the Madison County movement.

Hattiesburg: Home of two Freedom Democratic Party local leaders bombed last night at some time between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. Porch and door of home of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd burned; broken whisky bottle found indicated "molotov cocktail" type of device. Mr. Boyd is temporary chairman of the FDP precinct meetings being held here today, and Mrs. Boyd is the secretary.

Ruleville: Rock smashed portion of windshield of local Negro housing civil rights workers; car was parked in his yard.

Drew: Affidavit received today from parent of one of Negro children arrested after a July 15 rally. Drew mayor and Drew city attorney called a meeting of the parents at which they were told unless the children signed a statement disavowing association with "the communists coming into town," defense would not be provided for them. According to affidavit, city attorney Townsend called Congressman Don Edwards (D-Cal) a communist and said Edwards has been "Castro's secretary." A summer volunteer and a rabbi were forcibly ejected from the room when they tried to attend the meeting yesterday.

Clarksdale: bottle thrown through office window last night.

INCIDENT SUMMARY JULY 26, 1964

McComb: Two bombs were thrown at the home of a local civil rights leader at 1:30 a.m. today. As the first bomb was thrown, Mrs. Charles Bryant fired at the car with a shotgun; the car had passed by the house once before. When Mr. Bryant saw the car's lights approaching a third time he ran outside but was knocked to the ground by the second explosion before he had time to fire a second shot at the car with his wife's shotgun. The car fired into the window Mrs. Bryant's shot had come from, travelled 12-15 feet across the living room, and embedded into a wall. According to SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman, Bryant has worked in the movement for "many years." His brother is the head of the NAACP in McComb. About 50 people attended a voter registration meeting in Bryant's pasture today.

Batesville: A Batesville home in which five civil rights workers are living was tear gas bombed at 1 a.m. Sheriff and deputy arrived approximately 30 minutes after the incident, found the grenade still hot, handled it a good deal so that FBI arriving later found it covered with police fingerprints. The army-type tear gas grenade exploded behind the house of Mr. Robert J. Miles, and the gas blew in the windows forcing the occupants to vacate.

Mileston: Car burned outside the home of Mr. David Howard who houses summer volunteers Robin Greer and Don Hamer; car 2/3 burned, interior gutted; SNCC car. 2) Volunteer John Allen was approached in a store here by two whites who asked where he lived; when he pointed to the Community Center they went to their car, took a pistol each from the trunk, put them in their belts, came back to Allen and told him they would "find out what was going on" when they "came back."

Canton: It was learned that the Church Council of Canton (white Presbyterian Churches) voted in June to keep all summer civil rights workers from attending services. Rev. Harbison of the First Presbyterian took exception and admitted volunteers until today. Today white summer volunteers Peter Praetz and Richard Schwartz were turbed away by three white men who told them they had "caused too much dissention in the church." At the First Methodist Church, white volunteers Bill Monnie, Dorothy Harris, Mike Piore and Bill Carney were refused attendance for the third week in a row. As they left the church today, a group assembled around their car, shoved them into the car forcibly, and slammed the door with such force the window cracked. Their car was followed to destination by pick-up truck carrying a Mr. Steve Rimmer who last week had been close to the scene of the beating of volunteers.

Greenwood: Silas McGee, the young man whose beating innGreenwood's LeFlore theatre led to the first arrests under the civil rights act, and his brother Jake were mobbed by 150-200 whites as they went to leave the theatre after attending tonight. As they walked to the car when Greenwood staff members came to pick them up at the theatre, after receiving a phone call from the brothers, Jake was hit repeatedly by the whites, and both received cuts and abrasions of face and shoulders and glass in eyes when a coke bottle was thrown through the car window. Both were treated at LeFlore County Hospital, but were then trapped at the hospital along with the SNCC staff members until 1 a.m. as cars of armed whites blocked all roads leading out of the hospital. FBI, local police, hiway patrol, and sheriff refused protection out of the hospital, until 1 a.m.--after more than 3 hours of waiting inside the locked doors of the hospital--the sheriff followed the SNCC staff and the McGee car to their destinations.