

M King

INCIDENT SUMMARY--JULY 28, 1964

Itta Bena: Voter registration house broken into during night. The front porch supports were broken off and strewn around the porch leaving a badly sagging porch roof. The door was half torn off; all windows were broken in. There were posters on the front porch advertising Martin Luther King and Fannie Lou Hamer, urging citizens to vote for her in the Democratic primary. These were ripped off. Volunteers at the house have received several threatening phone calls about the house and voter registration activities carried on there. The house is located at 153 Love Street.

Holly Springs: Police cars surrounding a Holly Springs school where a Freedom Democratic Party precinct meeting was being held were themselves surrounded by approximately 200 Negro FDP participants singing Freedom songs. The participants gathered around the cars as they left the school late last night. Police recorded the license of every car at the school, and stopped about seventy drivers to check licenses; five were arrested on various traffic charges. According to a Holly Springs SNCC office spokesman, the superintendent of schools there had said he would burn or tear down the school if a meeting were held there.

Vicksburg: Precinct meetings--FDP

Clarksdale: FDP County meeting

INCIDENT SUMMARY--JULY 29, 1964

Hollandale: A Negro SNCC staff member was chased from a traditionally white barber shop by a razor-wielding employee today. Earl Harris, 21, of Rockville Centre, New York entered the shop on Washington Street, on the left side of Highway 61 out of Greenville. As he entered an old man stood up and struck him on the neck. As this happened, the barber approached Harris with a razor and said, "If you don't get out of here, I'll kill you." Harris left.

Ruleville: A 35-year old plantation worker was today fired from his job for being a Freedom registrant and attending two Friday night voter registration rallies. Mr. Willie Smith was told today by the renter of the Marshall plantation in Ruleville, "get off the place and don't come back. You're messed up in the voter registration and I don't want to have anything to do with you." The Marshall plantation is located between Ruleville and Drew. (Note: This type of incident occurs often; it is seldom reported to us in detail.)

Greenville: FDP precinct meetings

Gulfport: County Meeting--FDP

INCIDENT SUMMARY--JULY 30, 1964

Meridian: The Mount Moriah Baptist Church, on route 2 just outside Meridian, was burned last night. The Negro church, located in a completely white neighborhood, was totally destroyed. When Summer Project workers went to investigate the site this afternoon, they found a policeman and a photographer there. At that time the remains were still quite hot, the glass windows completely melted. Although many homes are located quite close to the site, the fire department was not notified until too late to halt the fire. The Meridian CORE office had an unconfirmed report that the white community had been trying to get the property for a building.

Gulfport: A local Negro volunteer, Dan Moody, was forced at gunpoint into a car here last night, blindfolded, and taken into a room at a location he guessed to be Biloxi. Five men were in the room and questioned him at length about COFO and its activities. They offered to pay him well for information about people and organizations who contact and are contacted by COFO. He was not injured or molested beyond the one man with a gun repeatedly poking him. He was asked to meet the men again at 7:00 this morning, but they did not appear at the agreed-upon location. Moody did not recognize any of the men from the glimpses he had of them; he does not believe they are from Gulfport. The FBI is investigating.

Drew: Twenty year old Negro SNCC volunteer Fred Miller of Prichard, Alabama, and Ruleville Negro volunteer Betty Williams were arrested early this evening in Drew for distributin leaflets on public property without a permit. The two were allegedly distributing leaflets to trucks on the street. Bond was set at \$500 for Miller and \$100 for Williams.

The two were distributing from house to house announcements of a Freedom Democratic Party precinct meeting to be held here tomorrow night; on the reverse side was an explanation of the Freedom Democratic Party. The two were arrested after a man in a car had stopped and spoken with them.

Meridian: County meeting

Laurel: Precinct and County meetings