

GREENWOOD 2:15 am (Rudd/Grogan) report from Jackson

A church located three miles from Brandon on old Highway #80 out of Jackson, called The Pleasant Grove Baptist Missionary Church, was reported at 12:25 am to be burning. A Mrs. Palmer reported it. (Her grandfather built the church and was the first pastor.) She has recently given speeches relating to the summer project ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ in the church. The pastor is Rev. ~~XXXXX~~ Robison of Yazoo, Miss. It was a wooden frame church.

It is as yet unknown if there had been any recent threats to the church. Jackson office is still investigating.

GREENWOOD/DREW (Judy Richardson/Brenda Travis)

At 5:20 pm on July 30 Fred Miller, a Negro volunteer from Prichard, Alabama and Eddie Williams of Ruleville were arrested for distributing leaflets on public property without a permit. About 10 minutes before the arrest, both men had talked to a Negro man in a car about the leaflets but had not given him any leaflets. They then went into a house and left the leaflets there. As they came out of the house, they were picked up by local police. Two other men, Henry Hardy, and Mr. Otis Foster, were near Fred and Eddie. They too had leaflets, but were not picked up. Neither Foster nor Hardy had talked to anyone in a car. The leaflets advertised the precinct meeting in Drew this Friday at 7 pm. The other side of the leaflet explained SVP. They had been leafleting for 30 minutes before being picked up. At 7:00 pm George Winter called from Ruleville to say that bond for Fred was \$500. Bond for Eddie is \$100. Fred has been arrested on a similar charge before. Two lawyers are there and the FBI has been contacted.

GREENWOOD: 6:15 am; (Rudd/Grogan) REGARDING CHURCH BURNING

Ed Rudd called Ben Jones, a deacon of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Missionary Church. Jones lives a mile from the church. He arrived at the church around midnight and found the church burned to the foundation. Officials at the scene were the Brandon town marshal and 3 or 4 Highway Patrol cars. Jones spoke with the marshal and asked why the fire Dept. had not come to the fire. The marshal said that the fire dept. had come and decided the church was so far gone and wasn't worth saving (i.e. there was nothing they could do about it) and so they left. Jones saw the church from a distance and there were still small flames and embers burning. He did not go closer because there is a butane tank buried behind the church which he feared might explode. Jones said NO speeches have been made in the church pertaining to the summer project or civil rights and there have been no threats. Jackson called MR. Lee at Jackson FBI office at 1:10 am. Jones received a call from a Mr. Lee at the FBI around 4:00 am. Lee said he would come out to interrogate Jones and to investigate the site of the burning.

THIS IS THE THIRTEENTH CHURCH BURNING IN MISSISSIPPI SINCE JUNE 21.

NOTE: Due to the conflicts between the descriptions and details given by Mrs. Palmer and Ben Jones, and considering the fact that Jones was on the scene, Mrs. Palmer's report is discounted.

GREENWOOD: 7:15 am (Rudd/Grogan) CHURCH BOMBING, CONTINUED
 Jackson called Brandon Fire Dept at 6 am and spoke with a man who declined to identify himself. He stated that his truck left the station at around 11:30 pm July 30, and drove the 3 to 5 miles to the church. He remained at the site about 15 or 20 minutes and left after determining that nothing could be saved. He claims that he was unaware of the butane gas tank in the gound and that the police had not mentioned that fact.

Jackson called the Jackson FBI at 5:35 am to relate the report that Greenwood had gotten from Ben Jones. The desk agent thanked them for the information and informed them that an agent was at the scene and would interview Jones.

Stearns

New York: John Lewis

On Wednesday a meeting was held at the NAACP offices with Wilkins, Lewis, Cortland Cox, Rustin, Young, Farmer, Jack Greenberg, King, and Randolph. A statement was issued calling for a) a moratorium on demonstrations until after the November election and b) condemning the violence in Harlem, etc., and the participation of extremist groups and communists in the violence.

The first statement was signed by King, Wilkins, Young, and Randolph. Farmer and Lewis did not sign. The second statement was signed by all but Lewis. Some papers reported this inaccurately, but corrections have been made. John has made statements to several New York papers and to the AP. The following is what he said:

In relation to the condemnation of violence and participation by extremist groups:
 "It is not the policy of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to publicly discuss situations in individual Negro communities in which we are not working."

In relation to the moratorium on demonstrations:

"We are conducting a massive voter registration campaign in Southwest Georgia, Central Alabama, East Arkansas, and throughout the state of Mississippi. In the South and throughout this country in communities like Harlem, Negroes must be allowed to protest, for they are very frustrated, desperate, and restless. There is need for some form of creative expression. In Mississippi we are supporting the seating of the Freedom Democratic Party, a party that represents all of the people, and the ousting of the regular Democratic Party. We are prepared to use every nonviolent means which is necessary to support the seating of the Freedom Democratic Party."

Concerning suggested splits within the Negro leadership:

We have tried to reach a consensus in the past and a consensus on this issue, but it is very difficult when different organizations are operating from different levels."

Greenwood: Richardson and Mitchell

new

At 11:30am three workers were arrested in Greenwood. Two cars with temporary Tennessee tags were stopped by police about two blocks from the office on their way to Memphis. The drivers, Silas McGee, Greenwood, and John Paul, 21, Ossining, New York were arrested for violation of the Mississippi Code 9352-24 ((relating to cars with temporary licenses), Bond for the two is \$50 each. Monroe Sharp, who was operating the citizen's band radio in McGee's car, was reporting the arrests to the office, was arrested for resisting arrest, bond, \$100. (Sharp is from Chic.) Greenwood called the Memphis FBI since Tenn. licenses are involved and because they believe that someone may be jamming our radios. The people in the cars weren't able to hear the office calling them, but the office could hear them. The jamming might be coming from the fire station. If we can prove it we'll contact the FCC.

George Alberts, 29, Jackson Heights, N.Y., was arrested while walking down the street in Greenwood. He was charged with parading without a permit and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Bond \$500. We think Alberts was alone.

WATS REPORT: FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1964

unofficial report
Stearns

Greenwood:

They now have a radio network with Greenwood, Talahatchie and Ruleville. Indianola should be added today, Greenville and Issaquena tomorrow.

McComb: Lee Garrett

Last night ~~two~~ two caucade whites followed a SMOG car back from a precinct meeting in Summit. The car radioed back to the McComb office and they sent out another car to meet them. When the second radio car was seen by the whites they turned off and stopped following them. This is the second time this has happened, so they feel the radios are very successful.

Greenwood: Judy Richardson

This morning a light green and white '58 Ford NP52536 was seen parked at highway 82 and Avenue N, its occupants, whites, were seen around Negro homes. The incident was reported to Officer Locke (GD. police) and at the same time a Buick with whites in it pulled up to the Greenwood office, but drove away).

Greenwood police car #3 and an unmarked car came by to investigate.

Washington, D.C. : John Martin, J.D. 8:45am

This morning John Martin called the Atlanta office to inquire about Helena. We had called him on Wednesday and not reached him; he called this morning to check on the situation there. Reports on Helena from Wednesday were given to him.

Drew: from Mitchell in Greenwood

Bond reduced for the people in jail in Drew. Lawyers in Jackson are trying to have the cases removed to federal court.
