

REPORT FROM MARSHALL JONES

Who just returned from Selma, Alabama

Taken by SANDY STCVALL-----July 7, 1964

We arrived in Selma, Alabama, June 6, with directions from Betty Fykes, who is a resident of Selma. We were driving a Black Ford with New York license plates. Upon our arrival in the city, the local citizens advised us not to drive the car because the local law enforcement officers were checking all out of state license plates. Because the SNCC's office was not within walking distance, we were forced to drive there, after which the car was parked.

We, (Raphael Bentham, Emory Harris, Marshall Jones, James Peacock, and Betty Fykes), were spectators to the arrest of John Lewis, John Love, James Austin and Frances Mitchell and the 40 to 50 local residents. When the demonstrators had been pushed behind the courthouse, the policemen began to use excessive brutality. Girls were prodded under their dresses with cattle prods and attempts to run camera men down were made to keep pictures from being taken.

In town, the Negro youngsters were buying knives which were an expression of the outrage and fear that they felt. All the leaders had been jailed.

Upon return to the car and SNCC office. policemen were milling around the car. we suspected they had been getting the license number. Peacock and the rest then went back toward the Negro neighborhood, but since I was the driver of the car, I went to see what was going on. As he approached the policemen then began inspecting the area. Then Betty Fykes, her mother and Marshall got in the car and drove back to her house. The car was then parked for an indefinitely period of time. When they arrived, they were informed by Betty's aunt that white citizens had come by and asked questions pertaining to their presence in the city. But she had replied that nobody was there. After that incident we figured they knew the reason for our being there.

MASS MEETING

Tom Brown and his wife and James Peacock went to check out the meeting and report back. They describe the situation as being very hot. Policemen in buses had helmets, cattle prods and guns. The church was surrounded and there were policemen back in the woods behind the church. They had been told that Abernathy had come and given a 15 minutes speech and left. Reporters and everyone capable of getting information out were turned around. They believed it was a trap since no outsiders or FBI men were present.

We suspected that during the night that tankering with the car would occur, so the next morning, Marshall opened the hood of the car, along with Peacock which discovered that a wire had been disconnected to prevent starting. A coil wire was needed and was gotten from a neighbor of Betty Fykes', who is a mechanic. Peacock adjusted the wire and fixed it. The next 15 minutes we were on our way back to Atlanta.

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