

Sept. 26, 63

FIELD REPORT: SAM SHIRAH

I came into Columbia about 12:30 last night, Sept. 25, and checked into the YMCA. This morning I got up about 9:00 and walked out to the university. When I got here I contacted Mr. Ted Ledson who is now the Ass. Dean of Students, but he's still working for the Y. His wife is doing much more than he is. I talked with him about 30 min. and got much information about the campus and what is happening here in Columbia. At about 10:00 I came over to the Wesley Foundation to meet some of the contacts. I made many new ones. At 10:30 I attended a meeting of all the chaplains on the campus and some of the students. There were about 15 people there. I explained to them that I was here to talk to students and find concerned people about the problems in the South. We discussed the situation here at the campus until about 1:30, long meeting. All of them were very interested in what I am doing but feel a little afraid of me because the situation is so tense here. There are two negro students on the campus for the first time and the students and the faculty are going through an adjustment period.

The administration has its finger in everything to be sure nobody rocks the boat. The S. C. State Investigators (SCLIED) are all over the campus. They're taking down tag nos. I understand that there are many students working with the administration reporting anything strange. I guess I've been reported by now. I am staying off campus as much as possible and doing most of my work off campus.

There are demonstrations going on every day at the downtown theaters and stores. There was a march Sunday on the state capital protesting the Bham bombings. These demonstrations are made of high school kids and even younger. (I don't know how many arrested if any have been made.) I understand the NAACP is giving some leadership to them.

I spent the afternoon talking to students and getting a list of contacts. I did not go on the campus again because I have been advised not to until I see the dean of students. I am going to try to see him tomorrow afternoon. Tonight I spent my time talking to students at the Wesley Foundation. I am staying here at the center.

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