

May 28, 1964

Jackson: Bob Weill and Bill Light

Rev. Ed King, dean of students and chaplain at Tougaloo College called in to the Jackson office this morning to say that Mr. Rameshwar Lohia, of India was kicked out of Morrison's cafeteria ~~thk~~ last night. Mr. Lohia had vowed to go in again at noon time today. Morrison's is near the bust station on Lamar St. in Jackson.

Mr. Lohia is a member of parliament from India. He is head of the Socialist Party there; head of the opposition to the late Nehru, and was opposition candidate to Nehru in 1962. He has not informed the Indian Embassy as far as Rev. King knows. He is a Gandhian and nonviolent. ~~hghjklmnopqr;stuvwxyz~~ He is demonstrating on an individual level as a human being, not as an international ambassador nor in an attempt to create an international incident.

Rev. King thinks a press blackout is likely. Therefore, some white COFO staff members went to Morrison's at noon when Mr. Lohia returned to the restaurant. Ed Hamlet, Bill Light and Gene Erikson, Tenn., and University of Chicago, were waiting in the lobby of Morrison's when Mr. Lohia arrived at ~~12:15pm~~ 12:15pm with Ruth Stephan, a white woman in her '30's (approximately) who is visiting Tougaloo. They went into the outer lobby and were set at the door by the manager of Morrison's who told them that they couldn't come in. Mr. Lohia politely said that he had no intention of leaving. Mr. Lohia was dressed in traditional Indian dress and sandals. (possibly a dhoti). A policeman and an ~~hghjkl~~ unidentified white man were also in the lobby (the ~~thk~~ latter later followed the COFO people a while). The manager told Mr. Lohia that he was trespassing and turned to the officer who asked Mr. Lohia, "why ~~ghj~~ won't you leave?". Mr. Lohia answered, "Officer, you are doing your duty and I am doing mine. So let us do our duties."

The officer, Lt. C.R. Wilson asked them if they were quite aware of what they were doing. They said yes, so he called a paddy wagon and arrested them. They were both released about five or eight minutes later across from the restaurant. It is not known whether or not they were ever booked, but most likely the two will be in the COFO office later today and more information will be available.