

Tuesday morning we went to Hattiesburg, were there all day. Having returned from Hattiesburg about 6 p.m., the whole group returned to Moss point and went to an NAACP meet at the Masonic Temple. About 30 there. The major topic was the summer program and what we planned to do and what we wanted from the community. It was a very warm and open reception. We went from the meeting to Jackson Park and the five COFO workers had a conference to map plans for the coming days.

Upon leaving this conference, Ridenour went to ~~xxx~~ Gatlin's cafe

~~between three and four p.m.~~

and called Sandy Land (?), the project director there, and told him the COFO groups had returned safely from Hattiesburg. Ridenour also told them about two incidents:

1. Two Negro teen-agers had been picked out of a crowd of ball players and spectators, and taken to jail for allegedly having insulted a white woman. The speculative motivation for this action, in Ridenour's judgment, was the fact that the people at the ball park had been at an earlier ball game (two days earlier) where COFO workers were present.
2. Four people independently had told Ridenour about two young Negro boys had been poisoned by candy. (THIS WAS LATER PROVED ONLY RUMOR)

Sandy said he would call Jackson immediately and relay a message back to Ridenour within an hour. Ridenour then learned from a community person that Kirchenbaum had left the cafe and was in the process of being picked up by the ~~xxxx~~ constable. This was around 11:15 p.m.

Nevas then talked with the sheriff and the county attorney, told them that Kirschenbaum was staying, and asked that he stay there until his father arrived. The local law officials were then very pleasant

(they were getting what they wanted). Ron Hidenour left with the lawyers, who return to the Moss Point cafe together at about 1:15 p/ were they met the remaining three COFO workers assigned to Moss Point (Charles Glenn, Fred Keeley, and Mariam McKay). They advised that the story about the child poisonings simply wasn't so. They Pearlman and one of the COFO workers examined the K.P. Park building, which had only been about six feet underneath...charred...burning was about six feet along side of busanx building.

INSERT ABOVE: Before leaving sheriff's office, Lentz talked with sheriff about the Negro teen-agers. Sheriff told Lentz one was out on bond, the other was getting out. At Moss Point, however, this was not confirmed...both boys apparently were still in jail. At this point, two FBI agents arrived out of the New Orleans office. They said they had come following the reports, with request to teletype answer to Washington on all incidents Wednesday afternoon (6/4). They interviewed Glenn, Hidenour, and heard Pearlman report on what he'd found at building. They said they planned to talk with the sheriff at the court house about the situation (including the Negroes), but had no apparent basis for action beyond this.

The COFO attorneys then decided to return to Pascagoula to see about the Negroes, since the sheriff's report had misinformed them about the Negroes. Pearlman and Nevas went to see the district attorney (Gumbert?) about 3:15, told them sheriff's report not confirmed. ~~They~~ In the presence of the COFO attorneys, the DA was told that a Dr. Morris (Negro) was then in the process of posting bond for one of the teen-agers. The DA then told the COFO attorneys that Dr. Morris could afford to post bond for both

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the Negroes ("he makes more money than I do," was the tenor of the DA's remarks. The lawyers immediately went downstairs, met the mother of one of the boys and Dr. Morris. The names of the Negroes Ron Gladney and James Petan, both 16. Nevas made arrangements for the family to request Dr. Morris to post bond for the second Negro, which was done.

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Nevas asked Morris whether the boys would need legal assistance. Morris said the juvenile judge (a man named Watts) was a nice guy, "a fair judge" and since therefore he did not anticipate problems. Nevas gave him the COFO (LCEC) address and phone he in Jackson and asked him to call at any time if help was needed. The group then returned to Moss Point, picked up Hidenous, and returned to Jackson without incident, arriving about 8:30.

General impressions of Nevas: there was no problem about out-of-state attorneys discussing legal matters with the local law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys. Very polite approach, even though not ~~was~~ completely honest. Lots of small talk. Never any disparaging remarks about COFO or attorneys approach

10 P.M. AP - Mobile advises K still at jail - AP phone follow up story with Hidenous - not work.

General impression of San Bob Lents: Stx County DAs main concern was the safety of the summer workers. DA pointed out the danger of having people work in Negro neighborhood at night...seemed genuine on this part....no apparent objection ~~at~~ to daytime activities...DA felt Jackson County was one of the better counties of Mississippi in its treatment of Negroes, pointing out that Negroes had never had difficulties from a discriminatory standpoint in registering to vote....He added some of his white friends

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were too ignorant to vote. The COFO people confirmed that discrimination in registration was not bad. Personally feel it's a mistake for parents to come down for their youngsters when a responsible person present and can make appropriate arrangements. (Kirschenbaum in jail for 10 hours longer than necessary). Also it gets more publicity for pull-out. Also we need more communication with local COFO offices about getting counsel when they need it.....

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