

[greenville]

**INCIDENT ON JULY 5TH**

Five of our project workers--Sam Trotman, Lyn Hamilton, Les Turner, Larry Brenton, and Buzz Leekley--were walking to the voter registration office on July 5th after 6:30 P.M. mass at St. Joseph's church. As they walked up Washington Street, approaching North Street, they observed eight white teenagers walking down the opposite side of the street. Our five workers turned down North Street into a Negro section of town; the eight white boys followed. North Street was empty except for three Negro youths who passed the COFO group, walking in the opposite direction. Our people stopped inside a store for a few minutes to see what the white boys would do. They stopped also at a store a few yards away. Our workers then decided to leave the store and as they began to walk down the street, the three Negro youths who had previously passed them, returned and fell in behind them. As the COFO workers walked further, more Negro youths began to surround them, until a group of about 50 was walking with them. Obviously, the white youths disappeared. It seems that the behavior of the white group was also noticed by some of these Negro youths, who decided that they weren't going to let anything happen to our people. When the five reached our office, the protecting group melted away.