

Police Protection

On Tuesday morning, July 7th, 1964, because of the shooting the night before at the mass meeting at KP Park, Tony O'Brien, COFO Freedom School Coordinator called the Sheriff's office and spoke to someone named Berry, who told him to call back after he spoke to a deputy Sheriff. Tony called back and told him they were going ahead with the Freedom School and where and when it would be, and asked for protection in view of what happened last night. He said he would send a car around as soon as possible. Tony did not see a police car but one of the students saw a police car go by this morning.

Harassment

Also on Tuesday morning, July 7th, 1964, Rev. Winham had an encounter with the white driver of a car. The Rev. walking in the company of three Negro boys from here (the office) to a cafe on the highway. At this corner of East and Bowen St., he paused long enough to say to him, "You white son of a bitch, see what's coming to you," which he emphasized by banging his black jack on the side of the car. The car had previously passed two or three times, he banged his black jack each time. The encounter was on the return trip; Rev. Winham was alone at this time.

This was the same car as one that passed some of the COFO workers earlier that morning on their way to work. We were going to the home of one of the girls when at the corner of her street, a white man in a car passed us. We were especially aware of any white people in a Negro area because of last night. We stopped at the house; he went passed us again, so we recorded the license number. A few minutes later he passed us again, this time as he passed he placed his black jack on the dash board. We were ready to leave just then and happened to be going in the same direction, so we were able to get a look at the back of his head as we followed him. We saw a short middle aged man with graying hair. The car was a white, recent Comet with Miss. license number JB2874.

The same car and man were reported again this noon. Some canvassors on Church St. saw the car pass several times. They wrote down the license number, which met the same description as the above as did the man. He drove passed several times, slowly, observing them.