

Report of Lee H Ball  
Assigned to Miss Headquarters NAACP

Tuesday July 21

Went to airport with group to welcome ML King. Airport has been desegregated a year by fed. govt. No signs over rest rooms or drinking fountains. Police very polite. Manager of the airport provided the Board room for between-planes Conference between Dr King & his staff & the NAACP group. Present, besides Dr King, Charles Evers, James Farmer, Bob Moses, Ed King & others. (Evers said he took 25 to the Hinds County Court House to register, only 1 passed the test.)

NAACP rally in the evening at a Baptist Church. Evers spoke, among others, on "Mississippi's Crime Rate Lowest in Nation" said the many crimes against Negroes were not counted. LHB gave the invocation.

Wednesday July 22

Attended MLK's talk to workers in COFC office: "You are the conscience of America!" Ed King approved my offer to see white Methodist leaders in Jackson.

The newly elected bishop E J Randergrass, comes from Orlando, Fla. & will not be here until Aug 1 I wrote him, in line with Ed King's suggestion: the bishop should announce, in a matter-of-fact, routine way, that he will not preach in any church in his area whose worship services are closed to any person - no bishop of the church could. If the bishop does not make such an announcement the first week, he is lost.



I talked to John W. Leggett, Jr. Supt of the Jackson District of the Methodist Church. He runs the Miss. Conference, but his machine was not strong enough to get him elected bishop at the recent jurisdictional Conference. He said the Galloway Memorial M.C., the largest church in Miss. has cancelled its World Service quota, because the NCC gets a small fraction of this fund, + Miss. churches have cancelled \$100,000 worth of World Service giving for this reason. He said I had a lot of nerve to come from NY to Miss. I should stay home and tend to Harlem. I said I was on picket lines often in NY too. I asked him when the churches in Miss would be integrated. He said they would have been integrated already, if we had stayed home, now they may never be. He said Negroes came only two or three times to these churches that did integrate, showing the whole thing was just a stunt. He said the Southeastern jurisdiction of the M.C. had voted to take in the Conferences of the Central (Negro) Jur., which lie in SE territory. This is not acceptable to the Central Jur., since there would be no integration on the local level. He said the young people came into Miss for a "stunt." And the NCC was party to their sex revocations: he can prove that two white girls are pregnant, and in Canton a white girl was found in a Negro man's bed (or vice versa), the Negro's wife beat the white girl so badly she had to be taken to a hospital. I asked what the churches in Miss were going to say about terror + violence in



Miss. He said there is no terror or violence in Miss. I asked about Philadelphia. He said that was just a "stunt" to get the Federal troops in, nobody can prove the boys are dead for they can't produce the bodies. (The same thing Sen. Eastland said the next day.) He said nobody in Miss believes the boys are dead. When I left he said he would pray for me.

Harry Ashmore, editor of the "Miss Christian Advocate" is a hard-hitting liberal. I went into his office. He was on vacation. I talked to a 63-year-old office worker. She too lives in a state of illusion - no violence in Miss, she got a Chicago paper for two weeks & saw how they distorted Miss news. She also told me the Canton sex story.

Later I saw a Rev Auding, asst editor of Miss Christian Advocate, who also teaches at Millsaps. He said there is no chance to integrate churches in Miss. To integrate the SE jurisdiction would be morally wrong. This man is an unqualified bigot.

Attended MLK rally in Masonic Temple in evening. Heard Evers, Moses, Abernathy, John Lewis, Bayard Rustin, El King, and ML King.

Thursday July 23

Went canvassing with Bob Talbert and young people. 11 am - 2 pm, instructing people in filling out registration forms. Everybody ready to go to Court House + register. due to new CR law, Talbert said. Talbert said he has worked Southwide on voter



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registration 4 years, has been in jail 150 times, often every day, in the early days. The canvassing group disintegrated in the afternoon. Slow to start & early to quit.

Friday July 24

Two trips with Bob, taking young women to Hinds County Court House to register. Took 4 3 passed & registered.

Canvassing group disintegrated again in the afternoon.

Went in the evening to Pearl Street AME Church for a precinct meeting. Mrs Bob Moses & I only ones who showed. Mrs Moses said Democratic Freedom Party goal was 100,000 signatures for Atlantic City. They now have 50,000.

Confidential

NAACP seems to be flaying at voter registration. They seem to be top heavy with brass. Much too much time wasted. A very loose & inefficient operation. Three experts from Boston don't seem to help much.

Lee H Ball