

Hattiesburg
 July 26, 1964
 T. Shaw

This week everyone concentrated on the Freedom Democratic Party. Voter registration workers carried on intensive and extensive canvassing and held many "tea parties" at the homes of block captains to discuss and plan the precinct meetings.

Mock precinct meetings and county conventions were held in the freedom schools. The students were extremely enthusiastic.

Precinct meetings were publicized by legal ~~mail~~ notices in the Hattiesburg American and a public service announcement on the one radio station which would ~~not~~ accept it. An attempt to get a paid political announcement with Martin L. King on the air fell through at the last minute after the station manager (of ~~another~~ another station) conferred with his attorneys, and they advised him that the party had to be registered with the secretary of state. The next day the secretary of state turned down the FDP's application for registration.

Precinct meetings in four churches were successful and delegates were elected to the county convention to be held today (Sunday) in the community center. Attendance at the four meetings was 35, 53, 85 and 98.

There was an increase in incidents, perhaps because people are beginning to know who the volunteers are and where they are staying.

~~Mississippi~~ Constables Kitchen and Cotton in Palmers Crossing frequently stop cars with volunteers and local workers in them. No arrests this week, however.

Kilmer Estus Keys, 31, of Collins, turned himself in to local police. He was charged with the beating of Rabbi Islyvehl (Assault and batter with a intent to main). His uncle, Clifton Keys, is in a hospital in Jackson and will be arrested upon his release. K. E. Keys is out on \$2,500, and will go before the grand jury Aug. 3.

A handful of volunteers paid traffic fines.

At 2 Monday afternoon a freedom school teacher Peter Werner of Flint Michigan a student at U. of Mich. in Ann Arbor was beaten while walking with two co-workers on Main St. (William Jones and Susan Patterson both of New York City). Both Werner and his assistant, Houston R. Hartfield, were charged with assault and battery. In City Court the same day, Werner received a continuance and testimony was heard in Hartfield's case. On Thursday, Judge pro tempore Frank Mastagus found Hartfield guilty and sentenced him to \$30 (\$20 suspended on good behavior). City prosecutor Harold Patterson said charges against Werner would be dropped. FBI investigated the incident.

A brick was thrown into through the plate glass window of a restaurant owned by a woman who has housed some of the women connected with the National Council of Churches Ministers Project. Two shots were also fired into it. The incident occurred at about 1 Tuesday morning. Local police are supposedly investigating.

There were two incidents concerning the city bus drivers.

On Tuesday a bus driver in Palms Crossing insisted that a young girl move back. When she refused he forced her off the bus and refused to give her back her fare. On Friday morning, a woman sat down next to a white man and the bus driver told her to move back. When she refused he tried to move her off the bus by force and she retaliated. When he refused to return her fare all of the other passengers but two got off the bus in protest. A delegation of women went to the manager of the bus system to protest, and the driver was put on a different route.

Three Long Island volunteers (Max Pat Yorck, Bob Ehrenreich and Jacob Blum) had telephone interview with Ronald Edder Hollander of Newsday. T. Shaw wrote article on Beth Moore to Minneapolis Tribune and article on Gene Cowell and Susan Patterson to Buffalo Courier-Express. Both had been tentatively accepted in advance.

Charles Glenn was arrested in Moss Point and brought to Forrest County jail on a charge of perjury connected with a voter registration application made out in March. He appeared before County Judge Heranson on Thursday, got a continuance until Friday. On Friday he was represented by Irvin Gostin and Robert L. Brock (Guild lawyers) and got a continuance until Aug. 4. He is being held in lieu of \$5,000 property bond.

Twilight Freedom School teachers report that police have been picking up children in that area to interrogate them about what is happening in the school. They also searched one home without a warrant.

There were two small "bombings" On Thursday night a man walked (!) past the home of Doug Smith, assistant project director, and planted some kind of explosive in a Rex bottle. It made a large noise, but did no damage. On Friday night or early Saturday morning someone threw a fire bomb (in a whiskey bottle, apparently) onto the porch of a couple that has been active in voter registration work and that acted as temporary chairman and secretary for their ~~ix~~ precinct meeting. Their door, screen and doorframe were burned (photos have been sent). FBI received complaints on both incidents and, apparently, are investigating. Local police also.

A freedom school teacher and VR worker reported that a young white man in a car tried to run him down in front of the freedom school Friday morning. Local law enforcement officers and FBI were notified.

(Friday)

On the night ~~before~~ before his wife was to appear on television, Tony Gray (husband of Victoria Gray) was arrested for drunkenness and resisting arrest. Constable Cotton apparently singled him out from a roomful of people at a club in Palms Crossing. Hinkley and Brian represented him at a ~~law~~ hearing ~~the~~ before Peace Justice Bradley Saturday morning. His fine will be \$33, but he put off paying it until confering with Mrs. Gray.