

Mike Higson, communications.

COLUMBUS [1964]

August 4th, Tuesday.- To-day some legal niceties per se a Negro employee, unfairly treated though not on the grounds he was freedom registered. The man, Mr. William Edwards, came to Freedom House, and said he had been fired from his job as a filling station attendant, underpaid (to the extent of about 10 dollars) for the two days he worked at Carl Wood's garage, Military and 10th, Columbus; and had been threatened by Wood. According to ~~W~~ Edwards the threat ran along the lines: "I'll take you to the woods and leave you there". That was enough for Edwards. He and his wife were too frightened to sleep at home that night (Monday). Edwards and his wife both freedom registered about a month ago, but Wood probably didn't know this, and didn't mention the F.D.P. when he fired Edwards. There was, too, a further complication: Edwards had only worked two days out of four. Abe Wiseman (COFO attorney) was, in effect, clutching empty straws. He felt that he could only have pursued the case if Wood had made some specific reference to the F.D.P. What we are now going to do is to check with Edwards to see whether Wood has attempted further intimidation.

School: ~~Sumner~~ New mutations. The Freedom School (Col.) began ~~this evening~~ adult classes this evening and drew five people. Dobbins is hoping to draw more.

Columbus....2.

August 5. Wednesday.- We paid 5dollars 10 c. for three one minute spots on Radio W.A.R.C. , Columbus, using the tape containing Martin Luther King's appeal, and tacking on the end, an announcement of the start of adult Freedom classes at West Point. The West Point radio refused to advertise the classes.

While we were in town, Joan Keyhole and I, went into Harrison's, a jewellers and household ware store, just off Main Street and a block from the Courthouse. On a counter at the back of the store, the management kept, or had just bought two boxes of penkit tear gas units. The woman serving Joan noticed we were looking at the boxes and ~~cried~~ ~~urgently~~ to hide ~~them~~ the boxes by standing in front of them.

The Rev. Phillip Kelsey, Minister Councillor arrived.

Adult School began in West Point. About 50 adults and youths turned up; the number contrasts well with that at the ~~school~~ first night.

Columbus....3.

August. 6. Thursday.- One of the two cars taking  
~~delegates~~ delegates to the State Convention  
at Jackson, broke down on Route 12 just east of the  
Natches Trace and about six miles from Kosciusko.  
The ~~delegates~~ delegates waited at a cafe in the  
Negro section of Kosciusko while a car came  
out from Columbus; the police got to know they were  
there and checked with the cafe owner. As a result  
of the break-down the delegates only got to ~~the~~ the  
Covington for the ~~half~~ half hour of the business.

ends.