

Ocean Springs

The situation on Ocean Springs has been worsening in the last couple of days. First, there have been some white people driving in the Negro areas, attempting to scare Negroes. On August 12, Calvin Galloway, 22 years old, 915 State St., a city employee, was working at his job of mowing lawns for the city near Washington and Calhoun Streets at about 2:00. As he looked up, he saw a car driving by with three white youths in it, with a pistol stuck out the window. Just at that instant, the person fired the gun, aimed in the general direction of Galloway. He was not hit. He reported the incident to the police; they took interest in the incident, and told him to tell the police if he again sees that vehicle.

Another person reported that a 1949 International truck, with a yellow cab and red bottom, with a short wooden bed, being driven around by two white men, were shooting a gun in the Negro neighborhood on Wednesday. The ~~man~~ person thought that the gun had blanks in it. This was not reported to the police. We later found the truck parked in front of a house; license number ~~8~~ P/5 13899, name of Schriber.

Vera Muse, a Negro woman who works at Tony's Spaghetti, just got off work at 11:00 and was walking home on W. Railroad. A pickup truck with an orange bed and cream ~~at~~ colored cab drove at her with such speed and so close that she had to jump off of the road to avoid being hit. Three women were in the car; one of them turned around and laughed as they drove off. It was a 1957 Chevrolet truck, and the license number was later found to be F 40943.

Pressure is also being applied on the Negro's jobs. Charles Burns, 20 years old, 1201 DeSota Avenue, is an employee of the city water department. On August 12, he was approached at work by Joseph Weeder, who is the boss, and questioned about his knowledge of and activity in COFO. Weeder told him not to trust the COFO people because they would just take his money and go back north. He also said that Alderman Duncan said that city employees who belong to COFO may loose their jobs. Burns told Weeder that he was going to continue with COFO anyway. Weeder also asked Calvin Galloway if he had gone to the COFO mass meeting.

Henry B. Seymour, father of Roger Seymour, one of the most active Ocean Springs people working with COFO, works at Bradford O'Keefe Funeral Home in Ocean Springs. Chief Brock of Ocean Springs has called at least once and most likely more than that to tell O'Keefe that Roger works with COFO and ~~that~~ his father should, therefore, be fired. There was some mention of people boycotting his business. I ~~have~~ received this report from Roger.

There is also an thus-far unconfirmed report that Robert Mayfield, 875-4138, got picked up by the police for next to nothing except having a COFO button on.