New Orleans, La. Nov. 29, 1964

BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY TO NEWSMEN ON THIS

Joe Morse, Sandy Watts arrested for burglary

On Friday night Nov. 27th eight COFO workers (at least 5 are CORE workers I believe) were taken to the Meridian police station for investigation; six were released but Joseph M. Morse, 21, white, from Duluth, Minn. was charged with having a stolen record player in his possession, bond set at $1,500. Sandra Watts, 22, white of Lakeview, Oregon was charged with burglary, bond $2,500.

Police were waiting at the community center for some workers to return there on Fri night, not late, around 8 pm I believe, flashed something that was probably a search warrant for the new office, located at 25th Ave. (though Eric Weinberger doesn't believe there was an address on the warrant) and asked for the new office to be opened so they could search it. Eric looked for but couldn't find a key (Joe Morse had it and wasn't there at the time) so the police broke in and as I understand it found the allegedly stolen record player and took it. Exactly when the eight were taken to the police station and the six released I don't know.

In addition to the two arrested the others were: Eric Weinberger, Gail Falk, Luke Cabbott (not sure of spelling), Frank Wright, Judy Wright, Louise Samlio (not sure of spelling). All are white with the possible exception of Cabbott whom I have never seen. Joe and Sandy were held in the city jail the first night but were then moved to the county jail (Lauderdale) because it is a state charge. Gail Falk also happens to be in jail at this time serving out a $12 harassment traffic ticket; she is serving it in the police station jail (different from the city jail).

Henry Aaronson is working on the case and it was he who had the preliminary hearing postponed to later this coming week. He is working on bail but is not very hopeful; Marv Rich also knows about it and assumedly is also working on bail.

The third "worker" identified in the news article, Vincent Cummuskey, is not a civil rights worker but is a young man whom Eric Weinberger knows, is or was, at least, stationed at the naval base near Meridian and had visited the community center several times - as hundreds of other people have. When I talked with Eric on the phone tonight he said there are a number of peculiar details about the case which he didn't want to go into over the phone.

Ed Hollander