

504 S. Madison
Albany, Georgia
January 29, 1963

Here is the news:

1. D. B. Thort who ran Prathia, Ralph, Roy and Paul out of Sasser was acquitted.
2. C.B. King testified before the grand jury.
3. The bus has begun to be used in the car pool.
4. Nobody has been arrested in a long time.
5. We will be in New York on the first.
6. Ralph and Prathia will be with us next semester.
7. Some fellow from the Packinghouse Workers wants to do a pamphlet for us to be financed by their union.
8. Forman used up eight pints of somebody's good, red and white corpuscle s say, isn't there such a thing as black corpuscles; I hear they are quite dark under the skin.
9. Albany has been directed to desegregate its schools within ten days or face loss of funds.
10. A group from the counties around and in Albany have banded together forming a financial alliance, as yet unnamed, but with an interest in setting up a bank. In fact, they have just completed research.
11. Slater King has been sued for \$20,000 by two Negroes, on charges of coercing them to join the Albany Movement.
12. We need a good tape recorder, a movie projector, and a mimeograph machine. Now you guys get busy.

Doris Derby sent down some office supplies the other day. She is supposed to come and work with us. Say, anybody seen Donald Harris; vanished? Well! Terrell and Lee and Hunter and Albany are moving, man, it's so wonderful to see the faces of those of us who feel with such an intensive sensitivity. That internalization of observed struggle is the first step to understanding.

We're leaving Wednesday night after the Terrell Meeting.

Dig guys, have some canned food for us to take back.

Well, "Z.T." sends his love. See you Friday, maybe Thursday night.

Love forever

By the way, some kids went down to try to register at Albany High today.

19 kids -- 4 of them from Sasser -- canvassing the streets and roads of Sasser this Sunday! Mr. Short is acquitted and two days later we're ALL OVER his town. I mean we went to every house we could find in Sasser and about a ton houses outside the city limits.

We took 15 Albany kids and Rev. Wells out to Sasser around noon, where Rev. Wells and I were dropped off to go to Mt. Zion Church. The rest went on to Dawson, where they canvassed. The Mt. Olive congregation is attending Mt. Aion while they wait for the church to be rebuilt, and it was good to go to church with the Mallory's, Bruners and Edwards, whom I usually see in the tent. Rev. Swaggert -- pretty swinging -- asked Rev. Wells to preach -- and he did; about furnaces, Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego, lions and Daniel.

Then the whole group began canvassing in Sasser/ Get this -- some of Albany's prettiest and handsomest in their Sunday best going in twos from house to house. A winner. Caroline was with us too. A high school girl from Sasser and I went to the house of a family who had stood on their porch last summer and watched the churches burn. No, they said, they had never been to meetings. They'd heard about them, but they weren't of a mind to go, yet. They might lose jobs. Mr. Frank Smith might put them off the land. Things are changing, have to, but they weren't quite ready to attend meetings.

The man, Mr. Hayes remembered a lunching in Lee County, remembered playing as a child in the cemetery of Shady Grove Church -- now burned to the ground. We spoke about sharecropping -- how mechanized farming has made day labor more usual than sharecropping. \$2.00 a day -- if you get that much. He spoke of Caroline Daniels, whose sister lives down the road, how much trouble Caroline and "her boy have gotten into." He spoke of his little girl, who was sitting by the fire while her mother plaited her hair, didn't want her to live the life he had. Then Mr. Short and the trial -- and then silence.

Faith

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"This may be the last time" in the living room of the SNCC house -- lif t it on up Prathia -- "May be the last time we all pray together, May be the last time I don't know." And it's cold as Southern justice here and by the way Prathia and I are said (under oath yet) to have been shacking up all summer-- cold as Southern justice. "And every night they'd all go back to that boarding house of Carolyn Daniels and we can't tell if they had enough cells there for them--all to sleep with who they wanted" -- on my knees Lord with tears streaming down my face Lord and the currents inside me wrecking havoc as they flow into the turmoil of federal justice. Tears and the white wrath has won again -- till then, "Now isn't it true Raf Alin that you went into that jail because you wanted to be with your girl friend." Wait a minute, who's on trial here? Tears and a little nine year old Albany kid named Elijah told me thi week that the devil is a white man with a red mustache and it could be true because Agnew James is being boycotted Tent City style -- wood, gas, gasoline, etc.

Ralph