

[1964]  
Jan. 27

I, Melvin Moody, of 234 Academy St., am 21 years old and a citizen of Canton Mississippi. On January 27, 1964, I went to the office of the Madison County Circuit Clerk to register as a voter. The registrar's office was crowded, so I stood outside and waited in a line of about a dozen people. This was near three o' clock. After waiting an hour outside the office, I left and walked back toward Arthurs Shell Service Station, on Liberty St. - my place of employment. On the way there I met Charlie Harris (who also worked at Arthurs) and James McGruder. They told me that a Madison County officer had called to the service station and told Mr. Jim Arthur, the owner-operator of the station, what I was doing. They said that I had been fired on the spot. I then went to the station myself and asked Mr. Arthur if it were true that he had fired me. He replied that it was true. I asked why, and he answered that he knew that I had been down at the Courthouse with 'those freedom riders'. Our accounts were square, so I left the station and returned to the Courthouse. I rejoined the line and stood there until about four-fifteen. Registration procedures were slow, and the registrar's office closed at five o' clock - I saw that I would not get to take the test by then. I left and went to a nearby cafe, where I waited to go to a mass meeting at seven- thirty.

Melvin Moody

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