

[1964, July 7]

While returning to North Carolina from the National CORE Convention, I, in the company of twelve other friends, attempted to gain service at the Admiral Beabow Restaurant, a part of the Holiday Inn in Clarksdale, Miss. The manager at the restaurant where we first requested service informed our party (which was accompanied by three CBS newsmen) that the restaurant was closed. He further declined to say when it would reopen. However, as I glanced through the locked entrance I saw white patrons eating and waitresses busily at work or gazing excitedly toward us. Attorney F.B. McKissick, a member of our party, directed two questions to the manager: "Do you know sir, that it is now illegal for you to refuse to serve us?" and "Do you understand that the stated policy of the Holiday Inn management is that all facilities of their establishments will be open to us?" The manager replied, but I do not remember his answers specifically.

We then attempted to register for overnight accommodations at the motel part of the Holiday Inn. We were refused there--we were told that the motel was filled to capacity. Managers at both the restaurant and motel sections of the Holiday Inn implied that they would not comply with the recently signed Civil Rights Bill.

Further down the street we attempted to gain service at the Southern Inn. The desk clerk refused us service and at first refused to refer us to the manager. Later, however, she said that the manager was out of town and could not be reached. As we left the establishment we saw about 12 policemen standing on the outside holding their nightsticks--a large crowd of spectators had also gathered and one of them, a white male of about 30 years wearing a red and white striped sweat shirt was huskily screaming something and pointing at our party. Earlier this same man had entered Southern Inn and tried to intercept us as we attempted to enter.

We left Southern Inn in three cars. The first car was driven by Rev. J.D. F Rayford, the second carried the three men from CBS and the last by attorney F.B. McKissick. The cars proceeded to the airport where Mr. Herb Fisher flew to Jackson Miss.

We then returned to Freedom House, 429 Yazoo Ave. Clarksdale.

Sworn to and signed before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1964.  
Signed: F. B. McKissick

Signed: [Signature]  
Notary Public

I hereby certify that a notary public is not available to me and that the above is true to the best of my recollection, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1964

Signed: Charles E. Henry

My commission expires October 12, 1968

The witnesses: \_\_\_\_\_