

# Chief Broom

State of Mississippi  
County of Harrison  
City of Biloxi

## ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

On August 31, 1964, a group of COFO workers and local volunteers from Biloxi went to Ocean Springs, which is about 3-4 miles east of Biloxi, for the purpose of canvassing and setting up a Freedom School. Just after the car entered the city of Ocean Springs, they were stopped by a police car. The cop was rude and demanding information of the occupants - Gibbs Kinderman, George Johnson, and Henry Turner. The cop demanded information about the people, their activities, and their specific purpose in Ocean Springs. He told them that they had better obey all the laws or the cop 'would get them.'

A little later in the day, when the FS was getting organized on a lawn, the cops came around and took pictures of everyone present and the cars that were parked close by.

After lunch, while the school was in progress, the Chief of Police, Mr. Broom, appeared and told the teachers that they had to break up the school and leave. The school was meeting ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ on a lawn which was rented by a Mrs Sanders from a Mrs Keys. Mrs Sanders had given permission for our use of the lawn, with the knowledge of Mrs Keys. In spite of this, or perhaps in ignorance of it, the Chief told us to leave. After doing so, he went up to Mrs Sanders and told her to order us off of her lawn. She was very much afraid and complied with the instructions. We next went over to the other side of the lawn, which was not rented to Mrs Sanders, intending to hold the class there. The cops tried to induce Mrs Keys to throw us off, but without success. Sometime during this period, the Chief also told us that we had better stay off of city property or he would throw us in jail. After being unable to get Mrs Keysto throw us off, Chief said that if we cause any "confusion" he would throw us off.

Later in the day, while school was in session, the cops came around and said if we hold school, we would be arrested when the Chief came back from Pascagula, where he was at that time. They were told that it would be held anyway, and the cops drove off. They did not reappear.

prepared by Alan Werson.