

Bogalusa, La. Friday, April 16, 1965 4:30 PM  
Will Ussery to Ed Hollander

SRO

141173  
7/6

25 yrs.

Charles Williams/who was arrested yesterday was gotten out of jail at about 12:30 by A.Z. Young and Charles Simms. They met with the Police chief and I think also the mayor (tho that has been hard to get definite word on) and the chief promised them better police protection. They had stopped the picketing about 2:30 because things were getting so bad - girls being tripped by the white counter pickets and tension being very high. About 3:30 the picketing was resumed with all men on the lines, but there was no improvement in conditions of ~~xxxx~~ harassment.

On getting out Williams reported seeing about half a dozen hooded men in the police station which is behind City Hall. One of the men, wearing a white hood, shoulder length with holes cut for the eyes and a red stripe down the center, came into the booking room and said to Williams "You black son of a bitch pull off the damn cap." Williams took off his cap and that was all the hooded man said to him. The hooded man was wearing a deputy sheriff ~~uniform~~ or state police uniform, Williams couldn't be sure which it was. A door leading off the booking room was marked Private - Officers Only; in a room behind this door (door must have been opened, at least when the one hooded man came into the booking room) Williams saw about 6 more men in hoods, he couldn't see if they had police uniforms on or not. Bogalusa has a full written, signed statement from Williams about the incident. This office has ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ a reasonably accurate copy of his statement, though it is not word for word.

The voters league and Will Ussery are going to hold a press conference Saturday, 11 AM at the union hall. Three main items are ~~to~~ 1) release of the 5 page memorandum to Mayor with grievances and proposing the broad conference, mentioned earlier to the press and mayor, and which the mayor requested to have proposed in writing, 2) statement on police actions, including having Charles Williams there, and 3) to what extent it is possible an announcement of future plans of the BC&VL

Waldman

MASTER  
SRO #16

Bogalusa, La. Friday, April 16, 1965 10:30 PM  
Ussery, Rubenstein, Ellis to Ed Hollander

during the picketing, late in the day a negro teenager, 14-15, was waiting to join the line. He wasn't going to be allowed to join because he was ~~too~~ too young and they were trying to have only men on the line. But while he was waiting, a white picketer hit him once in the back with his picket sign stick, the boy turned around to face him and the white man hit him again, on the wrist, which caused a large swelling and the boy had to be treated by a doctor

Joel says that despite the meeting that was held with the police chief and mayor(?) police harassment was as bad as ever, general curses and intimidations such as 'we'll get you niggers.'

the picket line lasted until 5 PM

despite all the other events, the U of C and LSU students have been voter reg. canvassing, Joel has not had time to go over their reporting forms but estimates they are contacting at least 150-200 families a day, they are being helped in the canvassing by about 40 local people. From the lack of reports of such, it appears they are not having trouble with police or local whites during the canvassing. Joel says that in a three day period last week the KU students, working with the local volunteers, contacted 935 families on vr