

CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

Friday, January 5, 1962. . . . Arrived in Baltimore shortly after 6:00 p.m. from New York. Juanita Jackson Mitchell was contacted about bail and legal aid. She is the chairman of the Maryland NAACP Legal redress committee and the wife of Clarence Mitchell, chief of the NAACP Washington Bureau. She gave us a list of people on the Eastern Shore that we could contact for help and information. Mrs. Mitchell also pledged all out NAACP support of our program and also committed the state NAACP to provide all the legal help and bail money.

We learned that CIG was planning a demonstration for Saturday, January 6th in the Eastern Shore Community of Easton.

Saturday, January 6, 1962. . . . Attended the pre-demonstration meeting at Grace Presbyterian Church in Baltimore at 11:00 p.m. About 60 students attended. After the usual milling around the students boarded the bus chartered by CIG and headed for Easton. Easton was reached about 4:00. A list of 15 restaurants was provided and the students divided into groups to test the accommodations. CIG had stated before hand that they wanted no arrests. A pouring rain kept the activity of one group and hostile whites from coming into a great amount of conflict. Ten of the restaurants tested refused to serve. Five of them served if only for the day. At one point a pickster was hit once but nothing further happened at that place. A special group of eight males tested facilities at two restaurants that had threatened to use violence if we came. It is certain that only the prompt action of the police kept us from being beaten at these two places, because a very hostile group of about twenty white men followed us to each place threatening us. They had obviously been drinking.

At a very damp and sparsely attended "Mass" meeting later, local people promised continued action by the local people. About 8:30 p.m., the students boarded the bus and went back to Baltimore.

We arranged to stay at the home of Mr. Fred St.Clair, 317 High Street, Cambridge, Maryland - AC8-2040.

Sunday, January 7, 1962. . . . We procured the use of Mr. St. Clair's car and drove to Princess Anne, Maryland, which is about 40 miles south of Cambridge. Princess Anne is the County Seat of Somerset County and the home of Maryland State College. Maryland State has 546 students, seven of which is white.

When we were arrested in Crisfield, Maryland, (Somerset County) on Xmas Eve we were jailed in Princess Anne, and some of the teachers from Maryland State visited us.

Upon arriving at Maryland State we contacted one of the teachers from Maryland State, a Mr. Kiah. He in turn called Mr. James Phipps, president of the Student Council and another student, Jean Meyer. We talked for about two hours outlining our program. Phipps and Meyer said that they would contact other students and student leaders and arranged for us to meet with them for the purpose of organizing a student group. The meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 8th, at 8:00 p.m. on the campus.

We then returned to Cambridge.

Monday, January 8, 1962. . . . We were contacted by CIG and told that it was planning a demonstration for Cambridge on Saturday, January 13th. They asked us to make a list of restaurants and to arrange a place for them to meet in Cambridge.

We contacted Mrs. Mitchell in Baltimore and were given more names of people to contact.

We had an afternoon meeting with Charles Cornish, a Negro who is on the Cambridge City Council. He informed us of the existence of a Cambridge Equal Opportunities Commission. We inquired of Mr. Cornish as to what the E.O.C. was doing. Mr. Cornish is also a member of this commission. As it turned out to be, he did not know what the commission was doing nor did he even know the names of some of the committee members. We informed him that a demonstration was planned for the following Saturday, but that we were in the position to call it off if all of the restaurants voluntarily desegregated.

About three hours later we were notified at Mr. St. Clair's house by Mr. Cornish that the E.O.C. and the Cambridge City Council wanted to meet with us tomorrow night, (January 9th.) at 7:00 p.m. We told Mr. Cornish that we would be there.

At 3:30 p.m. we met with a Mrs. Jolley, principal of a local Negro High School. (Maces' Lane High School) We asked Mrs. Jolley if she could do three things for us.

1. Announce Saturday's demonstration and see if any of the students would like to participate.
2. Announce the fact that we need help in conducting our voter registration drive and get some of her students to help us.
3. See if any of her students wished to transfer to the white High School for the second semester.

Mrs. Jolley, a Negro, stated in reply that the relationship between the whites and Negroes in Cambridge was fine and that she saw no reason for us to disturb it. Everything, according to her, is fine. It seems obvious that she is a "Tom" and also has a vested interest in segregation.

We drove to Princess Anne, Maryland for the 8:00 p.m. meeting with Maryland State students. About fifteen students attended the meeting. These students are the campus leaders most interested in the

Civil Rights Movement. They included, James Phipps, Student Body President, and Lawrence Cundiff, who attended the SNCC conference in Atlanta in 1960. Also in attendance was Dr. Harris, the Maryland State Dean of Men. We were informed of the existence of a campus group known as the Student Appeal for Equality Committee. SAFE, however, has not met or taken any action in over a year. The students seemed very excited about the prospects of the program we outlined and pledged definite support. James Phipps said that he would arrange to have us speak before the entire student body on Wednesday, January 10, 1962, at noon.

Tuesday, January 9, 1962. . . . Mr. Cornish called in the morning with the voting figures for the City of Cambridge and surrounding Dorchester County. They are as follows:

- 19,000 eligible voters in Dorchester County (Negro & White)
- 9,058 eligible Negro voters in Dorchester County
- 3,567 eligible voters in Cambridge (Negro & White)
- 1,040 registered Negro voters in Cambridge
- 2,446 registered White voters in Cambridge

When the total amounts of Negro and White Cambridge voters are added together it comes out to 3,486 which is below the above listed total of 3,567, but these are the figures given us by Mr. Cornish even though they don't check out.

At 12:30 p.m. we received a call from Dean Harris at Maryland State saying that due to administrative problems we would not be able to speak to the student body on Wednesday, January 10th. We are now trying to work out a way of contacting the general student body.

At 7:00 p.m., the meeting with the City Council and the E.O.C. commenced. Those attending were:

- Mayor Calvin Mowbray
- Charles Cornish - - - - - Councilman
- Rev. Hemphill - - - - - Chairman E.O.C.
- Rev. Bourne - - - - - Member E.O.C.
- Dr. Wolf - - - - - " "
- Doug Sands - - - - - Executive Secretary, Governor's Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations
- Clarence Logan - - - - - Chairman, Baltimore Civic Interest Group
- Maurice Holmes - - - - - Civic Interest Group
- Cliff Henry - - - - - " " "
- Solomon Baylor - - - - - Co-Chairman, Baltimore CORE
- Dr. August Meier - - - - - Advisor, Civic Interest Group
- Rev. Marion C. Bascom - - - - - " " " "
- Rev. Thomas P. Frazier, III - - - - - " " " "
- Reginald Robinson - - - - - SNCC
- William Hansen - - - - - SNCC

The meeting lasted for 3 1/2 hours, and consisted mainly in their saying that we should call off the demonstration set for Saturday because E.O.C. and the city of Cambridge was making progress and that the demonstration would set back previous good relations between Negroes and whites. We in turn contended that hardly any progress had been made and that we had no other choice but to continue with our plans.

In trying to illustrate how progressive Cambridge was one of the Councilman brought up the fact that Cambridge had Negro policemen before Baltimore. We countered with the fact that the Negro policemen of Cambridge are not allowed to arrest white men. The facts also came out that only five of eighteen public owned recreational facilities are open to Negroes and that one of the members of the E.O.C. has a factory that does not employ Negroes.

Wednesday, January 10, 1962 . . . We contacted Smith Printing Co. in Cambridge to print two sets of throw-aways. One set will be distributed on the Maryland State Campus asking for participation and the other asking for local attendance for the Mass Meeting Saturday, at 7:00 p.m.

Two local people have been sent out to make a house to house collection for funds.

It has been reported to us that the local white politicians go into Negro sections with \$2.00 and a pint of wine at election time in order to buy votes. Would you check with the Justice Department as to the legality of this procedure. It is done quite openly right on the streets.

We drove down to Maryland State at 4:00 p.m. with the circulars asking for Saturday participation. Larry Cundiff of Maryland State made an announcement in the cafeteria and the student lounge. He asked for people to sign up for Saturday. Forty-nine people signed with prospects of an additional group that size signing by Saturday. The response was very good. The circulars were distributed to all the dormitories.

Thursday, January 11, 1962 . . . We drove around Cambridge compiling a list of the city's public accommodations that were closed to Negroes. The list includes 16 restaurants, 1 combination bowling alley and restaurant, and one skating arena.

Friday, January 12, 1962 . . . We made final arrangements on the buses for tomorrow's demonstration and passed out circulars advertising the demonstrations Mass Meeting.

Saturday, January 13, 1962 . . . Bill took the bus to Maryland State to pick up the students. Due to pressure that had been applied to the students during the week by the administration there were only 33 students who came. They were met by the Baltimore group in Cambridge at 3:00 p.m. The Baltimore group included 22 people while approximately 40 local people took part.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., the various groups, about ten people to a group, simultaneously entered restaurants all over Cambridge. A special group with Bill as a group leader was sent to the Cambria Restaurant and to the Choptank Inn. These two places had threatened to repel sit-ins with violence if they came. The streets of Cambridge were lined with a great many jeering whites. Negroes also crowded the streets. The anti-integration feeling among the whites was extremely high. A number of incidents happened all over downtown area. Picketers were shoved and jostled quite frequently. The most serious incident happened at the Choptank Inn. Bill and another demonstrator were the only two who got inside the restaurant. On the outside of the restaurant a crowd of about 150 very hostile whites had gathered. Approximately fifty near hysterical people were on the inside. The other sit-inner who got inside was immediately pushed back out of the door. The mob on the inside converged on Bill and started beating him. He was thrown bodily out of the door. He got up and entered the restaurant again. This time he was knocked down again, and kicked out of the door. When he tried to enter a third time he was again knocked down. At this juncture he was arrested for disorderly conduct, by state policemen who had been standing nearby watching the entire proceedings. A total of twenty people were arrested during the day. Fred St. Clair bailed us out (20) within three hours. Bill was taken to the hospital but X-rays showed nothing and he was released. At 7:00 p.m. a Mass Meeting was held back at the church. It was attended by about 300 people. The people attending were very excited and backed the demonstrations completely. At the meeting it was announced that the demonstrations would continue and that a boycott against all downtown Cambridge businesses would begin. After the Mass Meeting all the people marched downtown for a prayer meeting in front of the City Hall.

Sunday, January 14, 1962. DAY OF REST

Monday, January 15, 1962. The hearings for the twenty people arrested in Saturday's demonstration was set for 2:00 p.m. The twenty people arrested were presented by attorneys Juanita Jackson Mitchell and Archie D. Williams of the Maryland NAACP. Before the meeting, C. Burman Mace, the state's attorney met with us and the attorneys to see if he could talk us out of further demonstrations. At the hearing before Magistrate Allen M. Baird the attorneys asked for a dismissal on the grounds that the arrests violated the provisions of the 14th amendment and thus were unconstitutional. The motion was not granted and so the attorneys preyed a jury trial. We were again released on a \$100 bond. Quite a few people attended the hearing including most of the junior and senior classes from Maces Lane High School, who walked out of their afternoon classes to attend.