

OCT. 30

I arrived in Louisville, Ka. about 3:00 this afternoon and went out to the Braden's. I spent the afternoon talking to Ann and working on my story for the Southern Patriot. Carl was out of town. That night I called some people in town that Ann had told me about. These were people at the University of Louisville and at the Prespeterian Sim. Jim Williams at the University of Louisville said he would get together a group the next morning for me to meet. Dick Moon at the Prespeterian Sim. agreed to do the same thing there. Ann told me a lot about the students at both places and wanted me to stay in Louisville and work with them until about Monday. She was planning to go down to B'ham at that time and wanted me to go with her. I agreed to this plan.

Oct. 31

This morning I went out to the University of Louisville about 11:00 and went to the Sub, a snack bar. I met with the students Jim had got together and ate dinner with them. We sat around and talked until about 3:00 and then we decided to go out to the Sim. and talk to some professor out there. So we all left and went out there. When we got there I met Dick Moon and some of the other good people. We stayed around at the Sim. for about an hour and then left. While we were out there someone had told us of a new negro student at the U of L who was very interested in SNCC so we went to try to look her up. We found her and she turned out to be very militant. That night Jim and some others brought their guitars and we sang freedom songs until about 11:00. then we all went home.

Oct. Nov. 1

I got up about 9:00 this morning and worked on my program to be presented at the Sim. to a group of students that Dick Moon was getting together for a dinner meeting. I went out to the Sim. about 11:30 and met Dick. He had signed up all over the place about the meeting. We got our dinner and went into a conference room for the meeting. I followed pretty much the same program I had followed for the National Council of Churches. The meeting lasted about an hour and a half. Most of this time was given to discussion. After the meeting at the Sim. I had to go over to the university for a meeting with the Students for Peace and Freedom. This meeting was held in one of the professors offices. When I got there they were discussing their new constitution. After all that was over with they turned the program over to me. The meeting lasted about two hours. Afterwards we all went to supper. That night we had a party.

Nov. 2

I slept late today. This afternoon I went out to Jim Williams pad and talked with him awhile and listens to some records and read a bunch of junk he had. Then I went back to the Bradens and stayed there until about 9:00 that night at which time Dale Groniaier came and picked me up for a party the kids were having. When we all got out to the party we sang freedom songs and drank until about 1:00.

Nov. 3

I got up very late today. Carl Braden got back and I saw him. I left at about 5:30 for Nashville.

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While I was at the Bradens Ann talked with me at length about the kids in Tallahassee, Fla. at Florida State University and at Florida A&M University. Someone at FSU had been sending her the newspaper clippings of the arrest there. Ann wanted me to go down and get the story of what was happening there so I said I would. So that is where I was headed when I left Louisville. I was going through Nashville to talk to Bill Corzine, who works with national Methodist Student Movement, about a car that MSM is supposed to give to SNCC. I arrived in Nashville about 10:00 that night and talked with Bill for about an hour and then continued on to Atlanta. I arrived in Atlanta about 6:30 Monday morning.

Nov. 4

When I got to Atlanta I picked up some materials and my mail and continued on my way to Tallahassee, Fla. I arrived in Tallahassee about 5:30 that afternoon dog tired. I tried to contact some of the people whose names I had without any success so I found a cheap rooming house and went to bed. I slept late the next morning.

Nov. 5

I went out to FSU about 11:30 and ate dinner in the student center. While I was eating dinner someone came up to me and asked me if I was a member of SNCC. I ask why and they said that they saw my pin and wondered where they could get one. I told them that SNCC was not a membership organization but that I was on the staff. I talked with this student whose name was Dennis Flood about the movement there in Tallahassee. He said he was a member of CO CORE and that they had been picketing the off campus restrants for quite some time. I found out that there had been over 400 people arrested there since Sept. 14. He told me where to find the rest of the group so I went over to the Soda Shop to find them.

When I got to the Soda Shop the first person I found was an old classmate at Gulf Coast Jr. College of mine. We talked for a while then I met the rest of the group. Five of them are on probation at the college for participating in direct action demonstrations. We stayed at the Soda Shop until about 3:00 and talked about the movement there in Tallahassee. Then we left and went over to A&M to meet the rest of the group. We stayed out there until about 5:30 and then left for supper. I went home with Steve Jones and carried my things there. I had supper with him and his wife and little boy. Steve is a graduate student at FSU and is the most radical one around even though he is married and has a child. That Afternoon earlier he had been called before the Disciplinary committee at the university for breaking Probation. He had written them a letter saying that he did not recognize their right to take any kind of action against him for exercising his constitutional right of peaceful protest.

After supper we all went to the CORE meeting in father Brooks Church. I was in charge of the program that night. After the meeting at which about 30 people were present we all went out to have some hit and run sit in demonstrations. It was my understanding that there would be no arrest since they had been doing this every Tus. night and no one had been arrested. But after we had hit two places and then had carried the dorm girls home we were arrested at the Dobb's House. The Manager never ask us to leave. When the police came he went outside to talk to them and in a few sec. the police came

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in and asked us to come outside that they wanted to talk to us. We got up and went outside. When we got out there the police told us we were under arrest for investigation. When they got us down to the jail they questioned us for about 2 hours and then booked us for trespassing with a 100 dollars bond. We called up a local bondsman and got out that night. When I got out I called the SNCC office and talked with Ruby D for quite some time about what had happened. She made a recording of it. Then we went out to Steve's pad and there were a whole bunch of people there waiting to know what happened. We sat up and talked until about 1:30 and then went to bed.

Nov. 6

This morning we got up early and went to pick up the rest of the five who were arrested and went to the bondsman's office to sign the bonds. After that was over with we went out to FAMU for breakfast. After breakfast we called Att. Simon in Miami about our arrest. He agreed to defend us. Then I called Ann Braden to let her know what was happening down here in Tallahassee. I let Ann talk to Julius Hamilton, who is the pres. of CORE here in Tallahassee. Ann also talked to Steve Jones. After we had finished there we went over to a office and started drawing up a fact sheet on the Tallahassee movement. We were in the Citizens Improvement League office. We stayed there until about 3:00 that afternoon making planes and typing up things.

That night we got together about 10 or 12 of the most militant people in Tallahassee and had a meeting to form a new organization. I felt this was needed because the movement there up until this point had not reached the ~~Ad Hoc~~ negro community in Tallahassee. One of the reasons I thought was that there was no local independant group. Out of this meeting grew the Ad Hoc Committee to pull together the Tallahassee Movement. They later called themselves the Student Nonviolent Action Group (SNAG). I think that they will later want to affiliate with SNCC after they get going good.

Nov. 7

I went over to FAMU early this morning and spent most of the morning talking to some of the professors there about the new group. Julius Hamilton was with me as well as some of the others. We did not have a whole lot of success in getting these people interested in the group for several reasons. (1) the people in this new group were the same people in CORE that were doing something and the people there are afraid of us. (2) Some of them felt that this was a SNCC group and that SNCC is too radical. (3) And last, Most of the people we talked to are not as interested in Direct Action as they are Voters Registration. We tried to explain that we would be working in Voters Registration also. However we were able to get together a few professors who are very interested in working with this group. One in particular is very militant.

That night we went out to Pat Dew's place. She had just got into town and would be there only for that night. She was on her way to the meeting of CORE in Las Angalis. We talked to her about our ideas. She was very interested. I got a bunch of information on the movement there that I did not have from Pat. She was going to present a plan to CORE for a march on Tallahassee.

Nov. 8

I left town today for the SCEF board meeting in B'ham.

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I drove up to B'ham this morning in my father's car from DeFuniak Springs Fla. I had spent the night there on my way from Tallahassee to B'ham. My family was glade to see me. They told me about all the hell they have been going through. While I was there I also saw Dan Whitset who is one of the liberal ministers in the Ala. W. Fla. Conference of the Methodist Church.

I got into ~~at~~ B'ham about 9:00 that morning and went to the A.G. Gaston motel where I found Carl and Ann Braden as well as the rest of the SCEF people. We ate breakfast there and then went over to the office where we were to have the meeting. There were about a dozen board members there as well as the staff. Fred Suttleworth as Pres. presided the meeting. It began about 10:00 and lasted until about 3:30 that afternoon. They drew up a bunch of resolutions about different things that had happened and discussed what they were going to do about their records being stolen and so forth. After all that was over with they heard reports from the staff on what they had ~~been~~ been doing. I reported on my success and lack of it in my project. After the meeting was over with I went with Ela Baker over ~~to~~ the motel and talked with her. I stayed around and visited with the people until about 6:00 then Ann Braden and Margery Collens and I went out to B'ham Southern College to get together some of the people there to talk to. We were able to find two of the group and talked to them at length about what was happening there at the college. We also tried to get some of them to come to the SNCC conference in Washington. I think that they are planning to come. At about 8:00 we went out to the motel and carried on of the students with us. This is Breaking the police of the school which says that students may not have contact with negros. We stayed around at the motel talking until about 11:00 and then went to bed.

Nov. 10

This morning I got up and ate breakfast with Carl and Ann and Jim Dombrowski and then left with Jim for Montgomery. He was going to catch a plane out of Montgomery for New Orleans. We had called the Durr's and told them we were coming. We got to the Durr's about 10:00 that morning and visited with them until about 2:30 at which time Jim had to catch his plane. I carried him to the airport and then went on to DeFuniak Springs, Fla. I spent the night with my family.

Nov. 11

~~I~~ I got up very late this morning. My Grandparents came about dinner time so I was able to see them. I left for Tallahassee about 3:00. My trial was to be the next day. I got into Tallahassee about 8:00 and went out to Steve Jones's new place. They had run him out of about three places because they think his wife is Negro. She is Spanish. When I got there Steve was out at a meeting so I waited around until about 8:30 or 9:00. Then he came by on his way to pick up our lawyer at the airport, Att. Simon. I went with them to the airport and then on ~~to~~ to the Fla. Council on Human Relations meeting. Our lawyer got a bunch of the people at this meeting to sign an affidavit saying that judge Rudd, the judge to preside over our case, was prejudged. After the meeting he talked with the five of us who had been arrested and then we went home to bed.

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This morning we got up early and went down to the Unitarian Church to meet Simon. When we got there there were a bunch of people that Simon was talking to about the affidavits. We went on down to the court house about 9:00 for our trial. The court room was full but only a part of the people were there on our behalf. Judge Rudd began calling different people before the bench for traffic offences and so forth. Then he came to me. When I went up Simon went up and asked that we all be tried together. When we all got up to the bench we were asked how we pleaded. At this point Simon tried to present his motion for the judge to disqualify himself but each time he opened his mouth the judge interrupted and demanded that we plead. He said that he was not interested in any motion until the trial and that we could not begin the trial without a plea. Simon argued that his motion would take the case out of Judge Rudd's hands under Florida law. Finally the judge said that if we did not plead that he would hold Simon in contempt of court. So Simon entered a plea of not guilty, but this was done under protest. Then the judge asked Simon to see him in his office after he finished. So that was the end of the trial.

Then a group of about 15 of us went to the capital building and sat in at the cafeteria. We were served but only because the lady running the place was blind and did not see that she was serving negroes. A large group of state officials gathered. Someone from the press was there with a moving camera. After we finished there we went up to the governor's office to protest the treatment of the Tallahassee police against civil rights demonstrators. We were not allowed to see the governor but his secretary said she would make an appointment for us and would call us back in a few days. We left there and went down to the press rooms to talk to the press. They had requested that we do so. This was the first time that most of the fifteen in the group had participated in direct action. Most of them were white.

That evening we met with our lawyer and discussed the case. Simon seems to think that the case will never come to trial.

Nov. 13

This afternoon I took off for Gainesville, Fla. to see the students at the University of Fla. I got into Gainesville about 7:30 this evening. When I got here I called Judy Beninger who was the best contact I had in Gainesville and still is. She came and picked me up and carried me to this place to stay. Then we went over to a meeting of the Students Group for Equal Rights. On the way I found out from Judy what was happening there. This group has been picketing the off campus restaurants, especially the University Inn. We were late for the meeting but it was good because they were ready to hear what I had to say. I talked to and with the group for about two hours and then I left and went to bed, very tired.

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NOV. 14

This morning I ~~✓~~ slept very late. When I got up Judy Benninger and myself went down to watch the picketing at the University Inn. It was a pretty bad seán as far as remarks and so forth. I spent the afternoon going around meeting people. That night I went to a negro night club and met the leader of the negro gang in Gainsville. I listened to the jazz jam session until about 2:30 and then caught a buss with John Dus who was coming through town to meet me. We got into Tallahassee about 4:30 in the morning and got a cab over to Steve Jones place.

Nov. 15

I slept ~~✓~~ very late again today. When I got up we went out to Pat and John Dew's. We talked with them about an hour about the movement in north-west Florida. John was ~~shown~~ sworn into the Fla. bar today. That took a large part of my time today.

Nov. 16

Today I left for New Orleans. I did not get here until about 12:30 in the morning. I tried to call Jim Dombrowski but was unable to get him on the phone. I was unable to reach any of my contacts. So I found a cheap hotel and went to bed. I came here because Jim Dombrowski and Margery Collens said I should. They talked to me about the situation here at the SKEF conference in B'ham.

Nov. 17

I got up this morning sick. Today is Sunday and the SCEF office is closed. So I called Jim Dombrowski and told him I was in town. He told me where Margery Collens lived and that I should go and see her. I went over there and found that she was not at home. She came in about ~~4~~ 4:00 and I met her. We talked until about 6:00 and then went out to get something to eat. We then went up to the SCEF office but we could not find the man to let us in. We then went over to Oreathe Castle's place to discuss the movement in New Orleans. I stayed over there until about 10:00 and then went home to bed. I was very sick.

Nov. 18

This morning I was unable to get up. I think I had the flu. I spent the whole day in my room and slept. Tonight I got up and went to get something to eat. When I got back I worked on field reports until about 1:00 or 2:00. Most of this report was done then while I was sick.

Nov. 19

This morning I went down to the SCEF office and talked to Jim Dombrowski about the SCEF raid and so forth. I picked up some materials and then made a bunch of phone calls to different people in New Orleans.

I went back to my room and packed and left New Orleans about 3:30 that afternoon for Tallahassee because I was to have a trail Thursday morning. When I got to DeFuniak Springs Fla. I spent the night with my family.

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I did not get to Tallahassee until about 7:00 tonight. I went over to Steve's place and found out that he was in a meeting of the Student Nonviolent Action Group (SNAG). So I made it over to the meeting. When I got there I talked about the SNCC conference in Washington. There are about five people from Tallahassee who are coming. This is the group I helped to organize there.

Nov. 21

I spent the morning trying to get information on the SNCC conference. This afternoon I went to find Doug Zellner, Bob's brother and finally found him. I talked to him for about an hour and then left. He said that he is not in a position to do any thing right now but that if things get very hot in Tallahassee he will have no choice but to get involved. Tonight I went over to Pat Dew's and talked with her about the voter's registration project she is starting. She has just become a field sect. for CORE and is going to be working in FLA. But she will not be able to work in direct action.

Nov. 22

This morning a group of us came up to Albany Ga. to meet the people and find out about the bus that is going to Washington from there. We talked to Shorred and others and got the necessary information. This is where I heard of the President's murder. It will take weeks for me to get over it I'm sure.