

Miss file

January 27, 1964

Greetings,

This report will cover events for the last two weeks.

On the 11th and 18th, groups went in to the library. Day students are using the library more than they used to. Also during this period, several smaller groups of students went in to the library. On the 11th, two girls were kicked down a flight of stairs. The same thing happened to a guy on Monday. The pattern was the same both times. They were in the stacks on the second floor (the stacks are open, but this is not posted). A lady came up to them and asked if they had permission to be there. They said they didn't know they had to have permission and started to leave. That's when they got kicked. The policeman in the building, who usually follows students everywhere, just didn't happen to be around. Since then it has been more peaceful.

On the 11th, four chaplains from the state school at Iowa City, Iowa, arrived. Two were women (Presbyterian and Christian) and two men (Episcopal and Methodist). During their stay here they were able to talk to quite a few people, including Presbyterian and Episcopal clergy. On Sunday, the priest took two students with him to St. Andrew's Episcopal. They were able to sit where they wanted--the first time in a long time. In the evening he went back to the high school and college aged group (alone) and got a good response. He made a couple of good contacts too. For the 11 o'clock service, two teams went out--two clergymen and one or two students per team. They went to Central Presbyterian and the Christian Church. At the Presbyterian, one student had her hand on the doorknob before they were stopped. The police came right over, so they left pretty quick. On the sidewalk, one man had a long a sympathetic conversation with them. At the Christian Church, the two ministers stayed and talked with the ushers for almost 20 minutes. In the evening, the ministers and some white students went to Capitol Street Methodist. They went to the college group and then to services. Granberry (Rev.) spotted them and glared at them for most of the service. Monday they talked to more people.

Bishop Franklin had a meeting with ministers and lay leaders in Jackson. Nothing much took place there. I haven't heard much on how behind the scenes negotiations are going. Rev. King was up in Memphis this week-end and when I talk with him I'll probably get filled in.

The officials got real cute and decided everyone could come back for trial. Because of our new \$500 filing fee, the men who were arrested just before Christmas didn't file for removal to federal court. Tuesday evening they found out they had to be in court Wednesday at 4 p.m. This was a long (2 hours trial) deal and not too important because it's not a court of record. The next day, a suit against all city officials and a request for injunction was to be heard in the 5th Circuit in New Orleans, so we got amazingly good treatment. Correction, just the injunction was to be heard. Since the city goofed on its testimony, and the arresting officer said no one spoke in a loud voice (the warrants say they were talking in a loud voice so as to disturb worship), we got one charge dropped--disturbing divine

worship. This is because of double jeopardy, the judge (Spenser) said. They were charged with trespass. They were also charged with disturbing divine worship by making loud noises and trespass. He said that since they weren't being loud, they were being charged with trespassing twice. Note: in the injunction he was being accused of mal-practice. Ha! The next day it was agreed to hear the injunction case on its merits and a hearing date was set for mid-February. Also, a stay was issued against all the other cases coming up in city court until after the injunction (which would also stop prosecution) was heard, and settled. Some people had already left to come here, but they called along the way and none made it. Real clever of the judge to decide to hear all these cases which have been removed to federal court on Friday and Monday--when he knows they are coming up in federal court on the Thursday before. The devil incarnate.

The next Saturday, the 18th, we had 4 E.U.B.'s down. Two seminary students, one layman, and one minister. They were from the Chicago area, and so were real up on things and didn't need much filling in of background on the situation here. They had more energy than anyone else. They talked to quite a few people, and made one good contact. (i.e., talked to one man who is with us for the most part and who may come in handy later. He's head of the youth group at Galloway.) Two of them had been active in Youth For Christ, so they went to Youth For Christ here. A white student who had been active in YFC back home also went. After the meeting they talked to several people and got a warm response. A visiting minister was preaching Sunday morning at Galloway and we knew what he was going to say (open they church) so we didn't go there. Instead, we went to St. Luke's and Capitol Street Methodist. St. Luke's they had to leave pretty quick, but they talked to people quite a while at Capitol Street (about 15 minutes). In the afternoon, Wesley Methodist was having its 10th anniversary celebration with Bishop Franklin and District Superintendent Leggett (the man who hopes to be Bishop of a secession church) as speakers. A group (all the Chicago men, Rev. King, and two students) went there. A squad car came roaring up with siren going, but the ushers didn't want any arrest. They talked about 20 minutes and some of the ushers said a closed church was wrong. We didn't get in, though.

I forgot one man. On the 13th, a Methodist minister, and his wife and two kids, showed up out of the clear blue. He was from Wisconsin, and we have a mental block against people from Wisconsin down here. Anyway, he showed up at Rev. King's at the wrong moment, when things were a little two hectic for everyone's temper, and we didn't make too good a showing. He was down in the South on his vacation and just thought he'd drop by. He came back to our campus meeting in the evening. Apparently he wasn't too disenchanted with us, because he spoke to a friend in Missouri and yesterday we had a visit from this friend and 4 students traveling about the South on their ~~spring~~ semester break. This on the recommendation of the Wisconsin man.

This period has been somewhat complicated by semester exams and spring break. Exams started the 17th, and classes don't start again for another two days. Maybe a dozen people from campus went down to Hattiesburg at some point in the campaign there. I didn't make it once I heard the SNCC Ex. Com. meeting was off.

Our Culture Committee has been busy. We aren't making much progress in getting the Community Concert Series (or whatever the name is) cancelled, but that is moving along slowly. We skipped going to one event because of exams. The next one is in the last half of February, a pianist named Graufmann (or something like that). He conferred with NAAOP and other groups in New York after he got our letter and they said they didn't see what good canceling his performance would do. But he said he would help in seeing that no one came down here next year. So we're still working on him. We've had more success with other events--we've cancelled them all and are the main topic of conversation in Jackson this week. First was Bonanza--three people from that were performing at a two day trades fair at the Coliseum. The trades fair is to push the merchants on Capitol Street who are still feeling the boycott. The big drawing attraction was Bonanza. First "Hoss" agreed to cancel. (This is after the exchange of several letters and a couple of conversations with NBC in New York) He was replaced by some women from Beverly Hillbillies. The next day the other two from Bonanza and this women cancelled. Headlines that night and lead article in the Jackson Daily News was on the mayor's call for a boycott of the TV show Bonanza and his statements to the effect that we don't want or need people (or industry) down here who don't agree with us. Headline (inch high print): Mayor Urges White Boycott. Sub-headline: Blasts Television's Pro-Mix Cowboys. That night he went on radio. In the past he has always appeared (on his radio and TV appearances) as master of the situation. I didn't hear him but I hear that he became emotional and lost control of himself. He called us by name out here at Tougaloo and put the blame on us. (In that he was correct). This was Thursday. The next big attraction was Al Hurt (jazz trumpeter) at a March of Dimes benefit. We had been unable to get in touch with him before he got to Jackson, so Saturday afternoon we sent him a telegram giving Austin's name and Rev. King's phone number. After he got it, he called the March of Dimes. They told him they had expected it. He asked why they hadn't told him and they said they hadn't thought he needed to know. That was when he got mad and probably was the main thing that made him cancel. Then he called Austin (this was after 5, the show was at 8) who went down to see him--at the Holiday Inn, how to die young. He just asked Austin to tell him the story of what we've been trying to do. Then he told Austin he just had wanted to make sure we were "for real" --it seemed his mind was made up before Austin said anything. Thirty five minutes after the show was to begin, the telegram was read--complete with name and number. A friendly reporter was there and he called us and said people were talking about getting there guns and heading this way. About 10:30 some shots were fired on campus. A lot of strange cars were up during the night. We had a patrol keeping an eye on things all night and the night watchman ran several people off campus. I think some more shots were fired about midnight.

We also got a lot of phone calls at the dorms, including one bomb threat. Unfortunately for peace of mind, three sticks of dynamite had been stolen Friday at Yazoo and the Klan started a "revival" in the McComb area Saturday night with several cross burnings. Yazoo has been ~~a/the scene~~ the scene of a recent feud between the Klan and the Council. Last time they had a "revival" (November) they burned a cross, or tried to burn one, on campus. An instructor from Pakistan had secured three tickets to the white side of the Coliseum and took two African students with him to hear Al Hurt. They caused confusion for about twenty minutes and a policeman manhandled one of the Africans. They're real glad the telegram wasn't read till 15 minutes after they left. The crowd was a rough looking one--about 4000--anyway.

Governor Johnson got inaugurated and made a "moderate" speech which has been widely hailed in the Northern press. Just to test his words, the Ladner sisters got dressed up (honest, hats too) and went down to the reception in the Governor's Mansion which had been widely advertised in the news as open to the public. A paddy wagon drove up and eight police came over in formation to tell them to get out of the line. They did. A friendly reporter has told us that he talked to people there about it. They hadn't thought it was a demonstration because "more people would have come." One lady said, "I know our niggers, that tall one is too nice to be a demonstrator." Dorie or Joyce?

One thing I forgot about Al Hurt, WRBC kept announcing the telegram every half hour on the news. Sometimes they gave instructions to campus. This is "Rebel Radio"--the most avidly segregationist in town and the one that most people would be listening to who might be driving around about half drunk and subject to come out here.

Congratulations if you've managed to read through all this.

Peace,

Joan

P.S. Anne.

Please send this on to
John Salter - I goofed and
didn't make enough carbons.

Thanks