

To: Jim Forman

From: Joyce Barrett

Re: Reprot on Court Situation. March 10, 1964

In the last month, approximately 45 people (originally 29, but more have been added) have been in court before Judge Pye. Although only one person has come to trial, people have had to report to court every 2 or 3 days. 6 or 7 people have been charged with bond forfeiture because they have been ten or twenty minutes late to court. Their bonds were raised to a minimum of 2500 dollars, and sometimes more. Rev. Boone was taken into custody when he was late to court, put up bond, and was released. 5:00 the next morning, the police came to his house and re-arrested him. It was almost a week before he was gotten out. (Check with him to make sure the details are accurate.) Also jailed on bond forfeiture, were, Rasephael Bentham, Morehouse student; Dexter Morton, loafer at large; Bob Huber of Georgia Tech; and Marden Walker - who was late to the afternoon session and had not been told that her case was being called. She had been on the 2nd floor of the court house, eating. Yesterday, Dr. Clinton Warner was arrested for being $\frac{1}{2}$ hour late. He was taken to the county jail - in chains!! Bail was put up around 5:00 P.M. Also arrested was Willie LaMar Alford of Morehouse. As far as we can determine, he is still in.

On Friday, Debbie ~~Xxxxx~~ Amis was called up for trial. Her bond was declared worthless, because there was a mortgage on the property (Jessie Hill was the bond), so the Judge raised her bond to \$7000. On Monday, Prothia had her bond raised as a result of the same kind of situation. Hers is \$4,500. She told me today, that she was talking to two women ~~xxxx~~ prisoners. One had killed a man, the other had wounded a man badly - both had bonds of \$1000 or less (\$1000 & ~~2200~~ \$800.).

There have been many incidents in which Judge Pye has denied Hollowell and Moore their rights in the court, or has been quite insolent. You can see him just aching to call one of them, boy. A few weeks back, he accused Hollowell of playing fast and loose with the courts, when he tried to get some cases removed to federal courts. Yesterday, when Hollowell was trying to make a point, the judge said something to the bailiff, and the bailiff went over and put his hands on Hollowell and made him sit down. Pye refused to let him say anything more, and refused to answer his point. Today, at one point, some people laughed (Roulston was testifying - and kept saying Nigger). The judge ordered the bailiff to take into custody those who were laughing, and drag them out by their hair, the scruff of their necks or their britches as they deserved.

The bailiff was carrying a paper published by the Klan or the Citizens Council. It had some big headlines about SNCC (this was a few weeks ago). The other day, when someone white came into court and asked if there were any seats, he said "Yesh, if you want to sit next to some jiggs".

Court Situation, Coht.

Pye has ordered the solicitor to go over all the bonds in these 45 cases. (I may be wrong on the number - check with Howard - I might be a couple off.) Any property put up with any incumbrances on it, may be declared worthless, and people taken into custody until new bond, which we fully expect to be much higher, is put & up. We expect 26 people to be affected by this - and most of them will probably go to jail tomorrow. The solicitor was trying to be neutral by buttering up the judge, and still saying he though bonds were the sheriff's responsibility. Finally, Pye said he though the court had a responsibility and that he would go into this matter more tomorrow.

An interesting development on the Heart of Atlanta cases, is that the Heart of Atlanta Corp. does not own or operate the restaurant. They lease it to Interstate Hose Restaurants Inc. of California. Howard thinks it would be a good idea if we tried to put pressure on them by finding out whereelse they have restaurants, esp. in the North, and getting pickets, etc. The other is to buy some stock, and protest through shareholders meetings, etc. Rouldston says on the stand that they would ~~xxx~~ break the lease before they would integrate, and he may be sick enough to mean it.

There have been reports of the kids being elbowed, slapped and spit on, in the hallways and elevators. However, I think their attitude has been belligerent, and they may be hitting back, so I'm not sure how far we could go with a protest.

If a fact sheet is prepared, as I have been suggesting for the past 10 days, I think good basis would be the material from the N.Y. Times article, 2½ weeks ago. In addition, listing all the times and names of people who have taking bond down for Ashton Jones would add to the picture, such as the fact that Pye refused \$5000 cash!