

7/27

Silas and Jake McGhee went to Leflore Theatre tonight. They were inside and called back to SNCC office and said mob was gathering outside. The police were there, they said, and refused to protect them. They wanted a car to come get them, because they couldn't get a cab. SNCC office tried to get cab, all refused. SNCC sent two cars, one belonging to Dr. Cornwall, a local man, and one belonging to Penny Patch's parents, rented, with Florida plates. Cornwall and Willie James Earl were in one car; Judy Richardson and a local youth were in the other. They arrived at theatre, and police escorted Silas and Jake from the lobby. As they were about to get into the car, police jumped back and the whites began surging forward. Silas and Jake got into Cornwall's car and locked the doors. Whites started jumping on the car and a white youth through a coke bottle through a rear right window, at which point the car was able to drive away, taking the youths to the Leflore County Hospital for treatment of glass cuts. Cornwall and Willie James Earl left them at the emergency room and returned to the office because they were not allowed to make a phone call. They asked SNCC to call FBI because they were being followed. (SNCC was in touch with FBI in Greenwood and Memphis, the JD and several congressmen) Another car went to hospital - the Florida car - which was shot at at the intersection of Route # 82 and Main Street. No damage done. At the hospital, Judy Richardson, June Johnson, Willie James Earl, Will Henry Rogers and Ed Henderson, called SNCC and reported the shooting and as well informed SNCC that police Commissioner Biff Hammond had informed them he could offer no protection whatever. Meanwhile, whites were gathering outside the hospital. In the meantime, the McGhee mother and their older brother, in Army uniform, arrived at the hospital. At this point (12:32 Atlanta time) all are still at the hospital. The older brother in determined to leave anyway they can. Judy and others will stay there and risk arrest, if needed, until they believe they can leave with protection. (McGhee's home was shot into a few nights ago. Silas was involved in first arrest under the '64 rights act. FBI is in front of the office, sweeping the glass from the floor of Cornwall's car. As far as they know, there are no agents there.) There are 3 car-loads of whites outside hospital. Two pulled away, and people think they pulled down the street to wait. We have just received word that Schwaum, FBI agent, is at the hospital.

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Now (12:40 Atlanta) hospital doors are locked. SNCCs are inside. There are 3 FBIs at hospital, Murphy, Featherly, and probably Schwaum, and highway patrols are back and forth in front.

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THE ELDER MCGHEE, CLARENCE, AND A FRIEND, WENT OUTSIDE AND WERE LOCKED OUT. THEY SAW THREE CARS OF WHITES (22S AND 38S) FIVE GUNS AN ALL. ALSO, 2 FELLOWS WHO WENT WITH MCGHEE, OTIS AND JAMES BARRY, WENT OUT LATER TO GO HOME. THEY WALKED TOWARD THEIR CAR, TWO WHITES WITH BOTTLES AND STICKS, THREATENED THEM, SAYING, YOU'D BETTER GO BACK INSIDE. NOW (12:24 ATLANTA) THERE ARE FOUR FBIS AND THE SHERIFF. JUDY TOLD AN AGENT THEY WOULD NOT LEAVE UNLESS THEY WERE GUARANTEED PROTECTION. ~~INEXENISZSXXOXZQZBZXZBXX~~ SHE SAID THE SNCC HAD ASKED FOR PROTECTION. FBI SAID GO OUT AROUND THE BACK AND YOU CAN ASK HIM IN PERSON FOR PROTECTION. TO DO THAT, SHE WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE PARKING LOT AND THE WHITES. SHE ASKED THE FBI TO SHOW HIS CREDENTIALS, AND HE REFUSED. JUDY THINKS THEY ARE NERVOUS, AND WOULD GIVE PROTECTION.

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