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9/66

Dear Kahns.

As usual I will begin by describing my désolation and sorrow over not having answered your letter sooner. And as usual I will plead the usual excuse. So much for ritual/

Things have been going along ~~xx~~ here in Grenada, a curious mixture of good and bad. The good is the movement part sort of the bad is also the movement part also which I suppose makes a lot of sense. What it boils down to is that internal movement proplems hold this movement back more then external forces. --clear as mud, right?--well it's one of thoe thing that is hard to explain especially in a ~~xxx~~ letter. So I'll just describe what been going on here in Grenada. The movement here has been, so far, a movement in 4 acts.

Act one began with the arrival of the Meridith march through missi ppie. When the march arrived in Grenada the power structure bent over backwards in an apparent effort to do whatever was right. They mainly hired Negro voter registrars, and opened the office till late at night. Wn the 2 days of the march in the area over 700 people were registered. As soon as the march was gone however the Negro registrars were fired, the office ~~was~~ closed except for regular hours, and the promises of desegregation were set aside. Most painfull of all it was discovered that all of the people who had gone down to the courthouse ~~xx~~ to register had been tricked. Instead of informing the applicants that they had to go to City Hall to complete registration (an unusual procedure) and that they had to carry a slip of paper with them they did not say anything and they did not give out the slips of paper. So it was discovered that almost all of those registered had to go back downtown (now, no longer ~~xxx~~ an area portected by the march and national publicity and state troopers) to complete registration.

As we had promised, when the power structure violated all of i's aggrements SCLC sent civil rights workers back into town. There were about 4 or 5 workers sent back to Grenada while the march was going on. They concentrated on voter registration mostly. One on t the places that the power structure had aggreed to de-segregate was the theatre. When a dozen or so Negroes tried to go to the movies they were arrested along with one of the civil rights worker. A couple of days later they arrested 45 people ~~xxx~~ who were haveing a protest march to protest the theatre arrests. They also arrested a number of the local people and a number of civil rights workers for disturbing the peace at a 4th of July party they were haveing out in the counrty.

Act two began with the arrival of more staff and the begining of a concentrarted direct action drive. A list of demands were drawn up (a few days after the direct action started) which were

basically the same ~~in~~ things that the power structure had agreed to before with a few additions. What is said was essentially desegregation of everything and night, evening registration with Negro registrars. Anyway we began to send out teams of Negroes to test public accommodations under the civil rights bill. For the next week or so we ate every where we went every thing that we could think of that came under the C.R. bill there were a few incidents of refusal to serve, and a few incident of violence, when every they happened we slapped a suit on them in Federal Court. One night during this time (the integration attempts started on a Sat. this was on a Monday, the next) while 2 workers ~~and~~ were loading a car with food to take to those in jail and talking to a man from the community relations service, this was at Bellflower Church our headquarters, a white man who works across the street drove up and started to shoot at them with a machinegun. The car was all shot up but everyone escaped. The police arrested him and found on his possession a Sub machinegun. He was initially charged with attempted murder, the grand jury changed this to aiming and pointing a weapon, and he was acquitted of this charge. Sunday (July 9 the day after the step up in program) we had a demonstration on the lawn of the county jail. ~~After~~ just as we were breaking up the demonstration about 50 state troopers charged the crowd (mostly bystanders) and beat them with rifle butts. The next day we instituted a boycott of all white merchants. The boycott has been very effective. Over the next 2 weeks we kept up the integration attempts, also marches about 5 times a week, and daily picketing of ~~many~~ white stores. During this time we also had a few night marches. During this time they arrested 2 of our picket line of about 50 people each.

Act three began with our obtaining a Federal Court Injunction which ordered the power structure to protect our demonstrations etc. it also set up ground rules that we had to follow in our demonstration but generally speaking we were not to be hampered. For the week or so before the injunction we had been holding nightly marches to the town square. We got the injunction on Friday July 22, The white community reacted very hostilely to the injunction. On Sat the 23 there were about 1,000 whites in the square waiting for us with every thing from gun to bottles and bats. That night we did not march because the police said that they were caught by surprise and didn't have enough men to protect us. When the whites heard that we were not going to march they began to march on the church where we were having a mass meeting with the intention of attacking us there. The trooper turned them around however. The next night they were back in the square again, ~~at~~ this time we did march but we did not try to hold a rally in the square, we just walked through and then back to the church. Again they tried to attack the church but again they were turned away. The next night (Monday) we circled the square and there were enough trooper to protect us. The following night (Tuesday) they had the square cleared and we were able to hold a rally. Beginning that Monday the power structure had made a very strenuous attempt to keep whites away from our demonstrations. This

was based on their assumption that ~~if~~ if we lost our opposition (so to speak) we would gradually dwindle ~~it~~ away. For the next few weeks our night marches and rallies were on a deserted square in a downtown completely empty of human presence except us and the police. At times it was quite eerie. This tactic of theirs did have an effect on our numbers but not as much as they had hoped. When we first started marching we would run about 100 we then built that up to an average of 200 ~~(with some exceptions)~~. The first night march had 500 the succeeding night marches 300 or so. The first night we went up against the mob (Sunday) we had about 150 willing to try it. On Monday and Tuesday and for the rest of the week we built it up to about 300. Then these numbers gradually dwindled (for a variety of reasons mostly our fault) to around 150-200 for the next couple of weeks until the beginning of phase 2 of act 3. The first phase of act 3 went from the 22 of July (the date we got the injunction) until the 5th of August. After they cleared the downtown area our night marches were played out to an eerie quiet. However at the same ~~at~~ time they began ~~to~~ to make a number of harassment arrests of 1 or 2 or 3 or more people at a time on various charges.

~~Example~~ One of those arrested was Mary Ingram who was arrested while giving testimony in the trial of ~~another~~ one of the civil rights workers Jim Bulloch. The prosecutor asked her if she had ever been convicted of a crime. The context of the question indicated that he meant in a court of law. She said "No" and was arrested for perjury because she had in the past ~~at~~ been arrested for liquor violations which she just paid a fine to the police and never appeared in court. She was held on bail of \$1,000. These harassment arrests ~~were~~ continued ~~for~~ for some petty some not so petty (like Mary Ingram), eventually they culminated in what was to become the beginning of phase two of act 3.

Phase 2 began with the police throwing tear gas into a bail raising party that we were having on August 5th and then arresting about 50 people on various charges like drunk etc. That was on a Friday. The next Monday was the day that the Federal Registrar was going to move their office into the Negro community and begin neighborhood, night registration. (The feds. had been in to the post office for 3 weeks and had only registered 22 people, because they weren't open at night and people were afraid to go downtown because of the crackers. On Monday the 8th they moved into the Negro neighborhood at the Chat & Chew cafe. People who had been tricked by the registration during the march could get straightened out by the feds. The first day (that Monday) over 350 people ~~were~~ came down to be registered. That night we had planned to hold a voter registration rally at the cafe (in the Negro community) At the height of the rally the police moved in a shot about 20 canisters of tear gas into the crowd and then attacked the fleeing people with rifle butts and clubs. About 6 people were injured seriously enough to warrant medical attention.

The next day (teusday) we had about 300 people register. That night we had another rally at Chat & Chew which was not broken up by the police. However milling around at the intersection pf Union and Hiway # 51 were about 300 whites. We had about 300 or so marchers. We had to march out right through this group of whites. as soon as we started they began to throw cherry bombs, rocks, bricks, bottles, and iron pipes at us. The troopers did little to protect us. As we went by we saw that they were headed for the square. When we got to the square there were about 500 whites on part of the square, we got on the other part of the square but the bombardment was so heavy that we had to retreat, first across the street, and then back to Chat & Chew. There were numbers of state troopers and police present but they did nothing to stop the violence. When we got back to chate & chew we were again harrassed. There were about 10 people seriously hurt that night.

The next night was the same situation ~~ax~~ except that the police and troopers did, finally, make efforst to protect us, they cleared the whites off the square as soon as they threw the first cherry bomb. The whites however werenow using strong sling-shots with steel ball or chain links. When we tried to get on the square they ordered us off. We then left and went back to the Chat & Chew (this was a serious error, as the march-about 250- was mostly made up of men who were determined to stay downtown and have our demonstration, this was significant as it was the first time that men had turned out in large numbers for a demonstration, and we should had stayed downtown aa a show of force and also to fight the fear in th Negro community).

The next day (Thursday the 11th) they passed an ordinance aobt 4:30 P.M. in the afternoon forbiding anyone to assemble on the square. We had a day picket march of about 60 people who got on the square that afternoon but when the night march of about 300 tried they had police at the enterances and they wouldn't let anyone up on the square, onther then that it was relatively quite as the tsoopers claard away the whites after they threw at us.

Friday-We decided to have a few volunteers try to get on the square to test the ordinance. When they did most were shoved off (ths was whole the night march circled the square) about 7 were arrested. Just as wex were leaving a number of state troopers charged us with thr rifles and beat some of us to the ground. The only ~~ome~~ seriously hurt was a 13 year old girl (emma Cunningham) who had had poli~~o~~ and couldn't run very fast. From this time untill now the night marcher just circled the square singing and then we leaft. Before the ordinance we whould hold a rally on the square.

On Sunday the 14th a groupe of Negroes and civil rights worker went to try to integrate the white churces (for the 4th straight we wvek). This time wen they went to the baptist church they were azrested for disturbing devine worship. About 30 were afrested. For the next couple of weeks we continued the night marches and daily pickets with out much of note happening, a few harrasment arrestes a little minor violence, but nothing major except that one of the

civil rights workers p(jim bulloch) personal car was fire bombed while he was in jail for the church arrest. The FBI said that the fire started by a short in the starter engine.

On Wednesday the 26 7 of us were arrested on warrents dating from a march the previous Monday saying that we disturbed the peace (they say that we started to sing to close to houses) over 50 of these warrents were made out but they were only used a couple at a time. After the first 7 they would use the warrents 2 or 3 at a time a couple of days apart. Other harrasment arrests also picked up as did incidental violence. ~~With the xxxxxxxx~~

Act 4- A few day befor school was scheduled to start the Fed. Court came through with a desgregation order for Grenada schools that said that everyone was more or less free to chose what schoold they wanted to go to. On Monday the 29th, which was the first day to pick up transfer forms we marched over 300 students and parents over to the Negro high schoold to pick up transfer forms. On Wednesday and Thurdday (registration days) over 400 Negroes ~~apppixixix~~ registered at the white schools. With this mass registration tension has increased enormously. Violence has increased (a guy jumped out of a truck today a knocked me down and kicked me before I was able to get away) and sohve harrasment arrests. The school officials have put off the opening of school intill Sept. 12. As it stand now we have between 350-450 Negors ready to go to white school, this is more th then any city in the deep south.

Well so much for the happenings in Grenada, someday soon I'll let you know the other side of the coin, the movement problems. I might have to come to L.A. soan as the draft appears to be after me. They re-classified me l-a and I didn't hear about it in time to appeal it. # If you want to do something with my letters go ahead I don't mind. k Well that all I suppose for tis time I'll write you again

Bruce.