

Itta Bena: 4:30am report (to Jackson)

Yesterday afternoon when the incident in Itta Bena with John Paul and Roy Torkington was reported to the FBI they seemed completely uninterested. Last night at about 3am, however, two FBI men, Prospero and Smith came to the home of Mrs. Rosa Williams where the boys were staying. The FBI men were accompanied by Rev. Roberts, a leader of the movement in Itta Bena. They asked the students to come to their Greenwood office to sign some papers. Evidently the FBI had been called by Burke Marshall during the day and told to move on the case. They ~~know~~ know the license number of one of the trucks that was used by the men who picked up the students: F58-105. They also know the names of two of the men, Harlowe Pittman, who works with the auxiliary police, and Mr. Matcalf, a plantation owner in the area. There was some discussion of the possibility of an arrest resulting from the incident. Evidently town marshal Weber knows the men personally and is being pressed to take action.

Earlier in the day, before the incident, Rev. Bevel, Willie McCee, SNCC staff, and others went to see marshal Weber to tell them of their plans to work in voter registration and pass out leaflets and asked for protection. Weber agreed. After the incident they went to see Weber again and asked him for protection for the mass meeting held last night and he refused. They did see him ~~in the vicinity of the meeting~~ in the vicinity of the meeting after it was over, however, and assumed that he had kept some whites away.

Chicago: Bobi Yancey

A group of about 20 high school students went to the U.S. attorney's office at 4:10pm yesterday and found it locked. They sat outside the office until about 5:45 since the building was open. Marshalls came out of the office and escorted press men out telling them that Judge Campbell had ordered them out of the building and out of the fourth floor. They didn't show any written order, however and the press people appeared quite aggravated. Judge Campbell then came out to the fourth floor in his robes and declared that ~~the~~ court was in session and told the students that if they did not leave he would declare them in contempt of court. They left since they did not want to incur arrests but rather wanted to focus attention on Miss. There were about 100 pickets yesterday. Today there will be more picketing. They also plan to flood the roof with flyers on the Miss. situation. Monday a group of ministers will go to see U.S. attorney Hanrahan to express their concern about Miss., Tuesday a group of parents will go. Wednesday is Marion's trial. Thursday they are planning a 'mobilization' in front of the federal building (we should not put out presson this--they will do it in Chicago, day by day).

Meridian: John Lewis

Pete Schwerner, Bob Zellner, and an attorney from Detroit have gone over to Philadelphia to try and speak with officials and other people in the area. John will go over with another group. They are planning to talk with community people and begin making contacts to work in the area.

Last night Claude Sitton and Karl Fleming were threatened while they were in their hotel. People ~~watched~~ watched them through a hole in the wall and cracks in the door and when they went to the desk to complain they were told that if they didn't leave Philadelphia the hotel people didn't know what would happen. They left last night and spent the night in Meridian. They will most likely return to Philadelphia today. One local Philadelphian ~~rammed~~ rammed his truck into the rented car of a New Orleans ~~cameraman~~ cameraman.

There will be an interracial group among those going to Philadelphia today.
