

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS IN SUNFLOWER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:

- June 23, 1964--Ruleville: LOOK and TPE reporters covering voter rally at Williams Chapel were chased out of town by a car driven at speeds up to 85 MPH. Early next morning, nine Negro homes, and cars were hit by bottles thrown from a similar car.
- June 24--Drew: 30 volunteers and staff workers engaged in voter registration met open hostility from whites. Weapons shown.
- June 25--Ruleville: Williams Chapel Firebombed. Damage was slight, but eight plastic bags filled with gasoline were found outside the building.
- June 27--Doddsville: Highway Patrollman killed a 34-year-old Negro with a history of mental illness. The killing was ruled "justifiable homicide" in 17 hours.
- June 28--Ruleville: Mayor tells a visiting white Methodist chaplain he cannot attend white Methodist services: "You came here to live with Negroes, so you can go to church with them, too." He did, with three volunteers.
- June 30--Ruleville: Man loses job for housing white volunteers.
- July 5th--Ruleville: Local segregationist visits COFO office and had a friendly argument with civil rights workers. Police ask him to leave and he refuses. He was charged with disorderly conduct and fined.
- July 14th--Drew: Police pick up James Darn for distributing literature without a permit. Later, seven people were arrested for distributing literature without a permit and blocking the sidewalk. Their bond was set for \$100--\$200.
- July 15th--Drew: 25 people were arrested for willfully and unlawfully using the sidewalks and the streets during voter registration rally.
- July 16th--Indianola: Of those arrested in Drew on July 15th, ten women are being held at the county jail and 15 men at the county farm near here. Superintendent of the farm tells COFO lawyer he can't guarantee the safety of those at the farm. FBI advised.
- July 20th--Ruleville: Two workers ordered out of a cafe. Doors were locked with people inside.
- July 24th--Ruleville: A Negro woman was ordered off the bus and handled roughly by the driver when she sat down next to a white man. All but two passengers got off.
- Ruleville: Rabbi and summer volunteer are "forcibly ejected" from the office of Drew City Attorney where they had gone to attend a meeting of parents of children detained and then released on July 15th.
- July 25th--Ruleville: Rock smashed windshield of car owned by local Negro housing civil rights workers.
- July 29th--Ruleville: A plantation worker fired for being a freedom registrant and attending two voter registration rallies. Plantation renter told the Negro: "Get off the place and don't come back. You're messed up in the voter registration, and I don't want to have anything to do with you." (This type of incident occurs often; it is seldom reported in detail.)
- July 30th--Drew: Negro SNCC volunteer and Ruleville Negro volunteer arrested in Drew for distributing leaflet for FDP on public property without permit. Total bond for the two was \$600.
- Aug. 11th--Ruleville: Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, candidate for Congress, who suffered a brutal beating in the Montgomery County Jail for her voter registration activities, is again being threatened. One of the men involved in her earlier beating has been passing by her home today in a pick-up truck, pointing her out to a series of companions.

- Aug 12th--Ruleville: Mrs. Hamer threatened with murder in a telephone call to her home tonight.
- Aug. 13th--Ruleville: 19-year-old white volunteer Joseph Smith arrested this evening on charges of "conduct tending to incite a breach of peace" while passing high school campus.
- Aug. 14th--Ruleville: Local attorney has informed voter registration workers here that any white volunteer staying overnight in the Negro section of Drew, a small town near here, would be arrested.
- Indianola: Volunteers and newsman threatened by white men with rifle at the Freedom School.
- Aug. 17th--Ruleville: Three local Negro youths picked up by police here and held for half an hour for distributing announcements of tonight's production of "In White America."
- Indianola: Approximately 25 white citizens attended this evening's performance of "In White America." Eight to Ten helmeted police arrived in two cars.
- Aug. 25th--Drew: Law student Len Edwards was arrested for reckless driving after being followed by local police chief. He made a U-turn at the speed of 5 MPH.
- Sept. 29th--Ruleville: 10 people arrested in Morehead. They were charged with "failing to move on." They were threatened while in jail.
- Oct. 1--Ruleville: Mrs. Annie Mae Strong was fired today from her job as cook in a high school here. Her son Ron was one of ten persons arrested on the 29th.
- Oct. 3--Drew: Louis Hayes, local Negro youth, was grabbed by a clerk while trying to buy a carton of cigarettes. The clerk charged him with stealing them. Later he was chased and shot at by police.
- Oct 4th--Ruleville: Five person who tried to integrate a cafe here last night were not served. On their way home from a meeting held later in the evening, shots were fired over their heads from a passing car.
- Indianola: Police arrested 13 civil rights workers following a test of Weber's Restaurant. The Restaurant manager told the group he couldn't serve them. While they were returning to their cars, the police came and arrested them for trespassing and unlawful assembly.
- Oct 28th--Ruleville: James Dann, volunteer, was threatened and beaten and kicked by a white man while getting his clothes out of a car.
- October 25th--Indianola--A low flying plane made a pass at the Freedom School, dropped a parachute flare, then made a second pass and dropped a bomb which exploded in mid air. At the time there were 250 people attending a mass meeting inside.
- October 20th--Indianola: Clifford Vaughn, 28-year-old Negro COFO photographer from Santa Monica, Calif., was beaten in a Pure Oil station here. Vaughn said the attendant motioned and spoke to another white man at the station when he arrived. The second white man cursed at Vaughn and demanded: "Are you one of them (civil rights workers) or are you a nigger?" A Highway Patrolman at the scene drove away just as Vaughn's interrogator began punching him in the face. The FBI was notified.
- Oct. 26th--Indianola: Bob Newell, 19, from California Polytechnical Institute was beaten by whites as he helped local Negroes to register.
- Oct. 27th--Indianola: A former Baptist school now used by COFO as a Freedom School was burned. Firemen watched the blaze. All equipment was destroyed, and firemen would not allow COFO workers to examine the area.

Oct 27th--Ruleville: A Negro restaurant owner who put LBJ-Humphrey campaign posters in his cafe window was harassed by police and local whites. A police car and paddy wagon pulled up in front of his cafe last night and a white man got out and took pictures of the posters. Two nights ago a rock was thrown through his window.

Oct 29th--Indianola: Club swinging police broke up an FDP rally at the site of the fire damaged Freedom School. Prior to attacking the crowd of some 230 people, police arrested Fred Winn and George Winter, both of California, for failing to extinguish a coal oil lantern used to illuminate the outdoor meeting. Mrs. Lovia Brown, local Negro lady, whose legs are amputated to the knees, was clubbed to the ground when she failed to disperse "in a hurry" as ordered. Mary Williams, 42, of Indianola, was clubbed across the forehead and then arrested for assault and battery. Mrs. Oscar Giles, local FDP delegate and a speaker at the rally, reported that police attacked the crowd without giving any previous order to disperse. Upon the attack the crowd proceeded to disperse in an orderly manner. A total of 13 people were arrested, including 11 local Negroes.

Oct 31st--Sunflower: A cross was burned on the farm of Mr. R. Giles early this morning. Mr. Giles, one of the few registered Negroes in Sunflower, is very active in the Freedom Vote campaign.

Nov. 16--Indianola: Mrs. Lela Mae Burks was fired from her job as maid for a white woman which paid \$3 a day. She was told that Deputy Sheriff J.S. Parker had complained to her employer that she attended the Freedom School.

Nov. 21--Indianola: Two Negro children, ages 8 and 9, were arrested by Indianola policeman, W.T. Walker, while passing out leaflets door to door. Walker made them get into his car, cursed and threatened them, and took them to the police station. They were released shortly.

Indianola: Authorities finally granted workmen a permit to repair the burned out Freedom School. The school building had been set afire on Oct 27. Damage was confined only to the office. Indianola authorities cut off the electricity and gas, and refused to allow SNCC to hold meetings or classes in their building.

Robert McGranary, local FDP leader, was arrested for not paying his water bill and shooting a gun within city limits. He had fired after nightriders shot into a church where a Mass Meeting was being held.

Nov. 26--At 9:45 PM Policeman Willy Wood, so drunk he could hardly walk, ordered all Negroes to get off the street. Wood, armed with a shotgun, told the Negroes they would be killed if they didn't obey immediately. Wood, accompanied by an equally drunk white man, cursed, shoved, punched and threatened Negroes with his shotgun while he cleared the streets of downtown Sunflower of approximately 200 Negroes.

Dec. 25th--Sunflower: About 12:45 Christmas night, someone poured gasoline around the Freedom House here and set it afire. The people staying in the house soon became aware of the fire and put it out. It was potentially dangerous because the fire was near gas pipes leading into the building.

Jan. 4th--Ruleville: Courthouse closed after the first carload of applicants arrived. 50 tried to register while up to 350 picketed in the first known incidence of picketing in Sunflower County.

Feb. 5th--Indianola: 30 people, including SNCC staffer Fred Winn, were arrested for picketing the segregated white library.

Feb. 15th--Indianola: Fred Winn was arrested again--this time for distributing leaflets on public property without a permit. He was taken to jail and held on \$100 bond.

Feb. 19th--Indianola: Students and SNCC workers were arrested while picketing the white-only library.

Feb. 20th--Indianola: More people were arrested as picketing at the white-only library continued. Over 50 were arrested in the 2 days, and several of them were beaten by police.

Ruleville: A cross was burned in front of the SNCC community center.

Feb. 21st--Ruleville: An integrated group of nine people attended the local movie theater and sat in the white section. Half a dozen white persons threw objects at them while they sat watching the film.

Feb. 26th--Indianola: Police entered the Freedom School and individual homes without warrants, arresting nine persons. They were charged either with contributing to the delinquency of minors or with disturbing the peace.

March 3--Indianola--The formerly white-only library finally integrated. However, all of the tables and chairs were removed.

March 5--Indianola: The Freedom School and SNCC office was burned to the ground. Fire also destroyed a staff car. Eight SNCC workers who tried to enter the area were arrested by police who had cordoned off the area. Police took all the files which included lists of local Negroes who belonged to the FDP.

April 9th--Drew: 7 people from Ruleville went to Drew to talk to people about registering to vote. On their way back to their car, three of them were arrested for vagrancy.

April 10th--FEDERAL COURT ISSUES INJUNCTION AGAINST REGISTRAR.

CRASH VOTER REGISTRATION PROGRAM BEGINS IN SUNFLOWER COUNTY. FDP Chairman Lawrence Guyot announced that because of a recent injunction by the federal court demanding that all people who can read and write and can meet the age and residence requirements be allowed to vote. This order eliminates the interpretation requirement and requires the registrar to give reasons for failure of applicants.

April 23rd--Indianola: 4 people were arrested in Morehead on Wednesday night while trying to attend a theater.

April 24th--THE SUNFLOWER FDP FILED SUIT IN FEDERAL COURT ASKING A DELAY IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. If granted, this would allow more time to register Negroes under the injunction, and would give them a chance to run their own candidates.

April 29th--Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Freedom Democratic Congresswoman from the Second District, and a native of Ruleville, Miss., testified about the number of people in Sunflower County who wanted to register.

April 30--Ruleville: FDP people went to Drew to canvass for voter registration. They were followed by Police officer Curtis Floyd each step of the way. On their way back to Ruleville Floyd arrested the driver of the car for running a stop sign.

May 1--Indianola: Four places were firebombed at 2:45 AM. The Freedom House was hit by two bombs--one of which exploded. The fire was extinguished immediately by SNCC workers who had been sleeping in the house. Second place to be bombed was the home of Mrs. Magrauder, the first Negro woman in Indianola to house civil rights workers. Six people were asleep in the house, but they managed to get out. The house was almost completely destroyed.

Third target was the store of Mr. Oscar Giles, FDP Executive Committee Member; the store was a total loss.

Fourth target was the home of Mr. Dougly Wilder which was completely destroyed.

This afternoon, Ike Johnson, found a molotov cocktail (unexploded) beside his gas meter. Also this afternoon, two local youths were arrested for leafletting without a permit. They were passing out leaflets announcing a meeting to be held on the ruins of the burned out freedom school. They were released to the custody of their parents.

May 1--Morehead: A Molotov cocktail was found near the Freedom House.