

NEWS RELEASE
COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS
507 Mobile Street
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEATING FOLLOWS FOURTH INTEGRATION ATTEMPT
AT LEA'S RESTAURANT

Hattiesburg, Miss., January 23... Two demonstrators were beaten in connection with the fourth sit-in five days at Lea's restaurant. Sandy Leigh, fifth district project director for COFO was hit several hours after the sit-in while he was in the downtown area.

The sit-in was staged by approximately 35 local Negroes and four Northern COFO workers in the face of mounting threats of violence. A cross was burned in a local school yard the night of the first sit-in four days ago.

The first beating occurred inside the restaurant. A large man in his early thirties hit teen-age demonstrator, Robert Lee Abrams on the side of the head with enough force to knock Abrams to the floor. As the group was leaving the restaurant an elderly man hit Joseph Schwartz, a COFO worker from Berkeley California, on the head three or four times while Schwartz was lying on the sidewalk in a protective crouch. Schwartz was attacked again as he passed the Post office, half a block from Lea's. A large man in his late forties called him "trash" and kicked Schwartz in the groin. Schwartz will file charges against this man.

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FOUR RIGHTS WORKERS BEATEN AFTER ATTENDING
ASSAULT HEARINGS

Hattiesburg Miss., January 25... Two COFO workers and two visitors from Chicago were beaten immediately outside of the Hattiesburg Municipal Courthouse at 4:30 PM today. Police apprehended M. W. Hamilton and Donald Wheat, and Wm. Lee local residents, for their alleged part in the beating. The victims were part of a group who had just appeared in court to testify against Hamilton on an assault and battery charge filed by Joseph Schwartz. The charge referred to an incident after a sit-in at Lea's Restaurant last Saturday.

Joseph Schwartz, 27, a nuclear physicist from Berkeley Calif., was hit on the back of the head as he left the courthouse. Richard Kelly, 26, a high school teacher from Chicago, was kicked in the buttocks and his in the back of the neck. Both are COFO workers.

The two visitors, Emmanuel LoGalbo and James Kempfer, are both 21 year old students at St. Mary the Lake Seminary in Chicago. This was their first day in Mississippi. LoGalbo was punched in the temple. This resulted in a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch cut above his right eye and a pair of broken eye glasses. Kempfer was punched on the chin and had his shirt torn.

Hamilton's original hearing has been postponed until Thursday so that he can retain an attorney. On Thursday he will have to answer a total of three assault charges. One concerning today's incident, alleged beating of three COFO workers and a United Church of Christ minister after a Citizen's Council meeting last Thursday.