

February 20, 1964

Pige Bluff: Iris

Last night a total of 39 people were arrested demonstrating at Ray's Barbeque. Three groups were arrested, 15 in the first, 17 in the second and 7 in the final group. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Jim Jones, SNCC field secretary, ~~XXXXXX~~ who was arrested in the first group, was hit by a state trooper (in yesterday's report it said he was hit by a bystander- that was inaccurate). State troopers drew guns on the demonstrators during the evening. Those participating were mainly high school students, thought there were a few college students and some ~~XXXXXX~~ local businessmen.

One Arkansas A, M & N student who had driven some of the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ college students to the demonstration but had not participated himself, received a call from the President of the college in Chicago advising him not to participate. That student had been expelled from AM&N last year for demonstrating but was readmitted when he signed a statement.

There was a crowd of about 30-40 whites at the demonstrations. With each new group of demonstrators they tried to charge them, but the troopers held them back. The demonstrators were charged with refusing to leave the premises upon request of management or any authorized person (they had never been able to enter the restaurant).

Elk County Sheriff Norton has said "there's ~~hh~~ room for many more." Picketing will probably resume some time late this afternoon. People are beginning to come into Pige Bluff from neighboring areas to join the picketing.

A Negro night club across from Ray's named Grice's was partially burned early this morning--the whites seem to feel that Grice's is being used as headquarters for the demonstrations. Phone calls have been made from there. In fact, Mr. Grice has made it quite ~~XXXXXX~~ plain that he doesn't want any of the demonstrators around.

The people in jail are singing and making noise and the firemen next door are complaining that they can't hear the fire bell. The kids can be heard for three blocks.

Report: 2:00pm

The Student body at Arkansas AM&N has voted to demonstrate (there are 2600 students). The President of the college is not in town and is expected back this afternoon. There is some question ~~XXXXXX~~ of whether ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ he will dissuade them (he is known for that sort of thing), but they expect ~~XXXXXX~~ at least 200 students even if that happens.

Dick Gregory and Bill Hansen have been moved upstairs away from the boys who were arrested yesterday. 5 have been bonded out (\$500 each Iris thinks)--2 businessmen, 3 highschool students.

Hattiesburg: Sandy Leigh

Yesterday and the day before they went to Pascagoula, Gulfport and Biloxi for meetings with NAACP people there.