

March 12, 1964

Natchez: George Greene and Archie Curtis

The Sheriff called Archie Curtis in yesterday to discuss his beating several weeks ago. Both the sheriff and the FBI were there. He was asked if he had any clues on the beating and he said no. He was also asked if George Greene had anything to do with the article in the Natchez City Bulletin (Negro paper) concerning the beating. Curtis said no. They then asked him if George was in town the day of the beating. Again he said no. The sheriff has evidently looked into George's "record" and made some comments about him being a professional troublemaker- he made reference to sit-ins, etc. Curtis feels that the sheriff dislikes George and wants to get him out of town but that he can't cause trouble for him now because it's "pilgrimage season" and there are many tourists in Natchez (George reported earlier that tourists were leaving the city because of the Klan incidents). George feels that the sheriff is trying to frighten the local citizens so they won't have anything to do with him since they can't ~~get~~ get George to leave Natchez. Curtis' reaction is that he'll stick by George and McArthur (who's also in Natchez) and watch for possible trouble.

Before Curtis left the sheriff's office he was told that they would do all they could to bring the people who beat him to court if they got enough evidence. He was also told that he'd better be on guard.

Jackson

Yesterday Willie Blue and Jesse Morris had a pre-trial hearing on the strong-arm robbery case from January. Several "deals" had been discussed previously on the case, and yesterday they finally settled for \$250 fines each

Columbus, Miss: Don White

Yesterday Don called Mr. Eleanor D'Car Vallo, the conductor of the / St. Louis Synchrony orchestra, at the request of Jesse Morris. The orchestra had two dates in Columbus, one 14 at Mississippi State College for Women and one at the Columbus Civic Music Association. He had tried to get the orchestra to cancel it's Mississippi tour with no success. D'Car Vallo, a Brazilian, said that he had not understood that Mississippi was segregated and that if he had tried to reach him earlier perhaps he could have done something, but it was too late. Don asked him three times to cancel and finally D'Car Vallo hung up (this was after Don talked of freedom, segregation, good human relations, etc). The conductor did mention that he had received a telegram from John asking him to cancel.

Don then called the sponsor of the concert A.L. Wilbank and said "I'm a Negro and want three guest tickets"-- Wilbank asked him if it was a joke- when Don said, No; it's a fact, Wilbank said I'm busy, goodbye, and hung up. Ek The evening of the concert the sheriff and chief of police were seen in a car together driving around the hall where the concert was given.

NYC: Mendicino

There will be a curriculum conference in New York on March 20-21 to discuss the curriculum for the Freedom Schools this summer. 30-50 have been invited.