March 24, 1964

Greenwood: Dick Frey

Yesterday afternoon four people were picked up by the police kkkkk for handing out leaflets for the Freedom Day. The four were Rev. Robert Beech of Illinois; Willie Peacock, 26, Charleston, and head of Greenwood project; Dorothy Higgen, 17, Greenwood; and Flora George, 16, Greenwood. Peacock was packed up first after he had given a leaflet (a copy of the Independent, their newspaper) to a person on the street. Kkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk Rev. Beech and Dorothy Higgens had only taken leaflets to houses. Flora George had kkkkkkk not been leafleting at all--she had just come from the store and had groceries with her. She was taken with the other two- the police told her that they wouldn't let her take her ora nges and apples into their car--she had to give them to a little boy to bring home). The four were brought to the police station and told that they couldn't leaflet on the street, and then released.

There was a Mass meeting last night at Elks Hall: between 4 and 500 attended. ∅.At the meeting about 300 people pledged to go down to the courthouse tomorrow. There are ten ministers from NCC down from Washington, D.C., Penn., Iow a, Maryland, and Illinois. More are expected today. Some will go down to the courthouse with those trying to register.

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Hattiesburg: Sandy Leigh

Yesterday the trials of the three people a rrested on Saturday were postponed until April 27. Attorney Conyer is in from Detroit to defend the three. Kkkkkkkkkkkkkkk The courtroom wa s pa cked for the trial/ the 'white side ' was filled with people who had other business with the court. The 'Negro side' was filled with spectators to the case from Saturday. There were also some whites on the Negro side, including one man from New Jersey who refused to move when requested to do so. The baliff said to the man, "are you a nigger or a white man." Attorney Conyers objected to his statement saying that he knew that things like that went on down there, but he wondered if it was necessary or just in a courtroom. Judge Mildred Morris kk answered that it was just a colloquialism. He said , 'It was an insulting colloquialism at that." The Judge ordered the court re-segregated and then ordered all spectators out of the room. Conyer signalled the SNCC people to comply which they did. Many of the people wanted to demonstrate outside the court room as a reaction but they decided not to on the grounds that their behavior should not be just a response to that of the whites, but rather on the basis of prior plans and decisions.

kkkk The District Attorney challenged Att. Conyer's credentials and right to practice in Mississippi, during the discussion of the segregation of the courtroom. He brought up the issue again and Conyer asked to have the trial postponed on the grounds that he wished to qualify to represent the three. He will pa y the necess ary $50 and check on the other requirements in Miss. law.

Kkkkkkkk Property bond was posted immediately after the postponements ($100 for Guyot, $200 for Billy MacDonald and Willie Mae Smith).

March 24, 1964 cont'd
Hattiesburg: cont'd

The kick off rally for Rev. Cameron's campaign will be at noon on Thursday in front of the ministers' office on the corner of 6th and Mobile. It will be the first time a Negro has run for office in that district, and the first time they have held a daytime rally. They would like to get TV coverage and wide newspaper coverage.

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Hattiesburg con'td: from Att.y George Crockett in Detroit

Att. Conyer is trying to get the Pete Stoner case from early Feb. transfered to federal court. Stoner is still in jail (his bond is $1100 and we have not been able to raise it) since his arrest. Conyer is bringing up several constitutional issues: a) that Stoner was denied the right to council, b)he was denied a public trial (trial was held in a back room behind the jail, which was locked), c)it was not a bona fide prosecution (reason not stated), and others . Conyer is also trying to get the bond reduced on Stoner.

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Jackson: Mendy
There were a series of arrests in Jackson yesterday afternoon and evening-- In the afternoon, Emanuel Schreiber, 24, Elmira, N.Y., a friend of Mendy's was arrested for making a U turn and fined $17 which he paid. Schreiber is in Jackson en route from San Antonio to Fort Dix where he is a psychologist in the army. He was driving with Gwyn Gillom a t the time he was arrested.

Later in the evening, Dave Walker, (in his 20's, Jackson) was arrested for speeding. When Mendy called and asked the charges he was told that they were speeding and another they refused to give. Mendy was told that the fine was $22 but when he got to the jail he found it was $29. With Walker was Tyrone Bryant, $18, of Philadelphia.(He had come down from Philadelphia CORE with a shipment of food and clothing for Canton. The police questioned Bryant and asked where he was from. They then charged him with assault and drunkenness. His fine and bond are $65. He is a leader of a Negro gang in Philadelphia, and becoming interested in civil rights. He is in turn trying to interest other gang members in civil rights activities.

The two were on their way to Greenwood from from Jackson and were driving the car of Tony Grenselen, 21, Philadelphia. Mendy, Grenselen, and Shreiber (arrested earlier) went to the jail to bail the people out. Mendy went to get a receipt for the fine for Walker and the other two were to verify the ownership of the car. When Mendy returned he found the two had been run out of the station. One of the detectives had asked Shreiber "if he was married to a nigger" (this question because he was with Gwyn Gillom when arrested earlier). He answered that it was none of their business. The detective sla pped him across the face and two policemen threw him out of the office. When Mendy returned for the keys Cpt. Lowrey told him "he'd get him" and said something about "he thinks he's smart"/ Bryant still in jail- they're working