

March 25, 1968
Greenswood: FREEDOM DAY

Last night's reports:

12:15am - ~~Bill~~ Mary Lane to Joyce Barrett

A cross was burned about four doors down from the office at just after midnight. They went down and sang freedom songs when they saw it. They were unable to see who had set it, but whites had been driving through all day and the ~~bill~~ police had stopped alot of people.

3:30am - Dick Frey to Ruby Davis

Dick feels that arrests are definite. There are 17 ministers from MEC in town who will picket with the other people. The city has announced that they knew of massive drive planned for today and that if there is picketing or marching people will be ordered to disperse and will be arrested if they do not obey. There should be at least 300 people attempting to register. All will go up in cars or small groups. People will be sent to jail knowing they will not get out immediately-- Dick doesn't feel large groups will be arrested though. There may be more ministers coming, and therefore there will be continuous attempts at picketing (with local people) throughout the day. The mayor, police commissioner, etc. have made statements concerning the drive-- the Mayor read his statement on TV and it appeared in the Greenwood Commonwealth. The Ministers ~~bill~~ spent yesterday canvassing. The headquarters for Freedom Day are at Elks Hall: 613-9934.

200-300 picketing
mustard gas incident at one point } report from
Dancy

Report today: Dick Frey 11:30am

There are about 60 people picketing the courthouse (ministers, ~~bill~~ local students and adults, and some people from Canton who came over yesterday). There are also about 200 trying to register, and more are coming. There is one TV man from MEC -- there have been no arrests as yet.

So far, Freedom Day is a success.

Pine Bluff: Iris (from yesterday evening)

Earlier in the year the Pine Bluff movement negotiated with 15 downtown businesses concerning their hiring policies. ~~bill~~ 14 of the 15 have complied with the decisions made concerning hiring. The 15th, Cohen's, a clothing store (downtown), has been picketed since last Friday by the Pine Bluff Movement. The picketing has gone on every day, about 50 people in several shifts. Most of the picketers are students. Some are college students. There has been no reaction from Cohen as yet.

Little Rock: Cliff Vaughn

Yesterday about 100 people picketed the Board of Education meeting in Little Rock. Also, Bill Hansen, Ruthie Hansen, and Cliff Vaughn went into the meeting of the State Legislature. When they arrived there were TV cameras and radio men who responded immediately-- there was press, TV and radio coverage. Attorney General Bruce Bennett has ~~bill~~ threatened to enjoin them from having a school boycott and has threatened to arrest Cliff, Bill and Dr. Council (President of the GCA) of the boycott proceeds. The school board has refused to meet with anyone on the matter.

Hattiesburg: Guyot (last night)

The picketing injunction from Freedom Day earlier in the year will be heard on March 27. They would like a lawyer to represent them, possibly to come down on March 26