

April 15, 1964

Hattiesburg (catching up)

On Monday night Rev. John E. Cameron has his office broken into. Papers were ~~thoroughly~~ rifled, but it is not known whether any were taken. Police were called at about midnight but they didn't check the office on Monday night or Tuesday. Also, two ministers had sugar put in their gas tanks- the other ministers had locks on their tanks. (n.b. earlier in the year the same thing happened to a SHOC car when it was impounded).

All of the ministers as well as several juveniles are out of jail now. Att. Smith had the bond lowered to \$500 cash or \$1000 property. The ministers bonded out and the juveniles were released without bond but told that they must appear for trial.

Smith tried to file a motion of removal to federal court, but Judge Cox, who sits in that district refused to hear it on the grounds that the petition did not ~~fully~~ fulfill several rules in the district (a. each petition be filed separately- can't file for the group; b. each petition be paid for separately; c. each case put up \$500 bond). Smith asked Cox to waive these rules but Cox wouldn't. Smith has now applied for a writ of mandamus ~~with~~ with the three judge emergency panel in New Orleans - by Friday the panel should decide whether Cox such show cause why he will not act on the petition of removal.

U.S.

The Justice Department hearings vs. Theron Lynd began yesterday. Yesterday Lynd was on the stand (for the defense). Mrs. Victoria Jackson Gray, candidate for Senate, was subpoenaed to appear as a witness for the prosecution. Mrs. Gray was one of the first Negroes to be registered in Forrest Court in Oct., 1962. She had tried four or five times to register and failed despite the fact that she has been an accredited teacher in Mississippi.

The Hattiesburg American has pointed out that the Justice Department has 200 witnesses for the prosecution and records which would stand 7 feet if placed on end.

The courtroom was jammed with Negroes yesterday though none were allowed to stand.

There is some question as to the number of people who were arrested on Friday and Saturday. Our earlier figures gave 66 as the number, but Att. Smith said he could only count 48 when he was at the jail.

Infield, North Carolina: J.V. Henry

~~*****~~

11 people have filed for the primary May 30 for the offices of State, Senate and Representative, county school board, board of commissioners and coroner. In the two adjoining counties candidates have filed candidates have filed for state Rep., board of education and county commissioner. Freedom Day is May 2.