

April 23, 1964

report from Rick Seifert in Jackson to Joyce Barrett last night:

There were demonstrations at Alcorn A & M College, a state Negro school outside of Lumberton, Mississippi on Tuesday night. State highway patrolmen were called by the administration (this was from a student source). The demonstrations began because a dance was ended prematurely by the administration for now apparent reason. This was the final spark in a long list of grievances (no student on discipline committee, the library closes at 8:30 and is supposed to close at 9:30, generally the students feel that they're being treated like teens gors).

On Sunday ~~handbills~~ handbills were put out listing grievances. The administration took them down. The students put up a new bunch urging all students to boycott the student union which they did. Among the grievances were academic freedom, better buildings, better teachers and better food in the cafeteria.

On ~~Monday~~ Tuesday the administration said "All students on scholarship, and those employed by the college must come to the Student Union." They did which angered the rest of the student body. They started campaigning in the dorms to have a mass meeting at the football stadium. The meeting was held at 9:30 Tues. night. 300 of the 1500 student body went. The Dean of Students went to the meeting and asked them to leave and draw up and present to the administration the next morning a list of grievances. The student ~~leaders~~ were afraid that if they broke up the meeting the leaders would be expelled. Some students went and got more students, bringing the total to 500 and they met between 10:30 and 11:00pm. At that ~~time~~ time the executive committee came down to the field and made a statement which they read twice saying that they could change the curfew that was invoked Sat. night, and if the students didn't leave, they would call the highway patrol. The students didn't leave saying they wanted to wait for the president to come which he didn't. There had been no disorder, just singing and speaking. The students decided to stay all night with the idea that at about 6:30am they would go to the dining hall and write down their grievances, but when they tried to leave they found the stadium doors were locked and the highway patrol was moving in on them. They sat down and were held there until buses came (by this ~~time~~ time there were 800 students) and they were loaded on the buses and sent home with none of their possessions. ~~4~~ carloads of patrolmen were involved. ~~800~~ The 800 students were expelled from school (this report is from Wendy and Sam Block)

Ruleville, also taken by Joyce

Some people from Illinois sent clothing to Ruleville which was being stored by Mrs. Earl Johnson. The mayor announced on the radio that ~~clothing~~ clothing was being given out at Mrs. Johnson's and that if they people were given clothing they could take it away. By early afternoon a good sized crowd had gathered outside the house clamoring for the clothing. They had planned to give them out that day anyway, but not in that way. The people were quite disorderly (a mob scene). There were at ~~least~~ least 50 cars parked on the street, about 200 people. Mrs. Hamer was called and asked what the people should do. She called the Jackson office and they told her to go over and try to settle things. She went and made a speech saying that the mayor didn't know what was going on, he couldn't tell Negroes what to do and if they would go down to register they wouldn't have a mayor doing things like that. ~~She~~ She said the clothes would be distributed in an orderly fashion. At one point a carload of whites went by. Mrs. Hamer continued talking saying that the whites had no business in any of this and that the people shouldn't be afraid. ~~All~~ All of the clothes were distributed in the afternoon.

Pine Bluff: Hansen

Bruce Jordan was arrested today at 4:20pm in Lincoln County. He was charged with

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failure to stop on entering the highway and speeding (doing 25 in a 20mph district). John Hanna was with Jordan and he said that Jordan couldn't have been doing more than 19 or 20mph and said that there was no stop sign, but only a yield right of way sign at the highway entry. He said that Bruce had stopped to shift gears because there was a great deal of traffic. He was ticketed by State Trooper Bob Cockman- Cockman had another trooper with him (as a witness). ~~Flkklk~~ Jordan's bond is \$200 cash and his trial is scheduled for Thursday April 30. This is the third time that Jordan has been arrested in Lincoln county in the three weeks that he has been there. The first time he was charged with having no light over his license and improper parking light (the latter was dropped). The second time he was arrested for improper left turn and improper emergency brake. The latter was dropped and substituted with failure to exhibit registration and suspicion of auto theft. When Hansen went down to his Lincoln County to testify that Jordan hadn't stolen the car he was arrested.

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Hattiesburg: Sandy Leigh

This morning ~~four~~ four people picketed the courthouse -- they were not bothered by police -- the same four picketed in the afternoon as well and were not ~~bothered~~ bothered--there will be more picketing tomorrow.