

WATS report: June 24, 1964

unofficial report

Meridian: John Lewis

John Lewis went into Philadelphia with James Farmer, Dick Gregory, George Raymond and thirty others. They talked with the deputy sheriff who had arrested the three boys on Sunday and escorted them out of Philadelphia after releasing them. They also met with a Mr. Snodgrass from the state highway department and with the city attorney. John mentioned that their discussion of the arrests etc. included many conflicting stories. Re the arrest one man said they were going 65 in a 35mph zone, and the other said 75mph.

The whole group wanted to go to see the car and the site of the burned church but since they would not let the whole group go, none went.

John described Philadelphia as being like an armed camp. There are 235 state patrolmen and about 50 FBI agents as well as a number of people who have been deputized. John mentioned that people are standing around the streets, particularly around the courthouse with rifles and guns.

~~Washed the car and the car was washed~~

Lee White, the President's appointment secretary, called Mrs. Cheney on behalf of the President today.

There has been discussion amongst John, Farmer, Art Thomas, George Raymond, and Bob Gore concerning plans for the Philadelphia area. There was some ~~discussion~~ discussion of intensifying the voter registration drive in the area. There was also discussion of demanding federal marshalls for all 82 counties.

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Chicago: Bobbi Yancey 10:25pm

Att. Chuck Markel who has just come back from Miss. called down to the jail and was told that Marion could not see a lawyer without a federal marshall being there. Since there was not a marshall around, Marion could not see him or another lawyer. Marion is due in the fed'l marshall's office at 9am tomorrow and Markel will go down then.

There is to be a hearing tomorrow before commissioner Bentley Pike. At that time people who were locked in and who were witnesses to the beating of Marion will also go down.

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