

WATS REPORT:unofficial.

June 24, 1964

Mackson: 1:45pm Casey Hayden
in Meridian a search party of 28 local people went out at about noon,
accompanied by Gregory, John Lewis and James Farmer.

Enfield: J.V. Henry
Gov. Sanford has come out with a strong statement against the Ku Klux Klan
in North Carolina (see earlier report re increasing meetings of Klan, etc.).
J.V. says that North Carolina has strong laws ~~which~~ which could be used ~~by~~
against the Klan, but they have not been used yet.

The Mayor of Elm City (where the Presbyterian Student group was run out of
town by Klan) has condemned the Klan, but he has also requested that the
church send no more white students in to the city--he says they have enough
of a labor force there already (the students had been painting a Negro church).

Meridian: 2:15/ John Stevenson
Rita Schwerner arrived this morning. She did not have a formal press conference
in the office, but she did see a Justice Department person.
The Meridian office received a bomb threat this morning at 9:30-10:00am
from a man who said "you god damn people are going to get bombed." Otherwise,
Meridian quiet.

Ruleville: Charles MacLaurin (report from yesterday)

When the students from the North came into Ruleville ~~the~~ the Attack group
(Memphis State students) took Len Edwards (Congressman's son) and the other
white students to ~~the~~ see the mayor and then to the dairy bar in Ruleville.
They gave them Attack literature and tried to convince them they'd be better
off in the North. They discussed the possibilities of a debate but MacLaurin
felt they shouldn't unless there ~~are~~ some Negroes on the panel. The Attack
people said they would be back for they hadn't come to any agreement.

Group went to the Dem. county meeting in Indianola. They got there late and
were told ~~the~~ where the meeting was. One of those elected as alternate at precinct
meeting went and nominated one Negro but lost. They believe they might've gotten
Negroes elected if they had taken more people and arrived on time, because the
whites were so confused by their presence.

Organized a student movement of 25-30 kids Tues. night- drawing up constit.

~~Henry Bailey: FAIRBANKS CALIFORNIA~~

The building which was burned: building was set fire at about 1am and caretaker
next door put out the fire. Not too much damage, mostly boards burnt on siding.
Caretaker did not see person who started fire. It was set with kerosene.
Re rumor about poisoned candy: when the parents were contacted by Glenn the
parents disclaimed the rumor and said their children weren't poisoned.

Re two Negro boys jailed for whistling at white woman; one is a relative of
Lemar Turnipseed. They are in jail as far Bailey knows. Turnipseed: 475-9258
(Moss Point).

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Oxford: Dotty Zellner

Rita's statement in Meridian: press met Rita at the airport and she gave following statement.

I have returned to Meridian today to try to find my husband and the two other young men who have been missing since June 21. I intend to do all that is necessary to find them. At the present time this is my only concern and will be the only factor taken into account. I attempted to contact President Johnson Monday to ask him what he was doing to find the three men and what he intended to do. I was told that everyone in a responsible position had retired for the night. After I insisted I was allowed to speak with Mr. Burt DeFreesse of the secret service who said he would give my message to the president. Mr. Johnson never contacted me.

It is tragic that white northerners must be caught in the machinery of southern injustice before the American people register concern. If Mr. Cheney had been alone I suspect this case would have gone unnoticed.

Bob Zellner reported to Oxford that 36 went in the search party to Philadelphia and they went under protection of officials there (didn't specify here).

New York: Elizabeth Sutherland to Mary King

There is a picket around the federal building from 11am-6pm. At noon there were about 700 people. The picket is to be followed by a vigil, possibly all night. They hope to see someone from the Justice Department in the fed'l building. A SNCC-CORE demonstration.

Chicago: Babbi Yancey

About 15 -20 will be going into U.S. Attorney's office led by Marion Barry. Outside the fed'l building the picket has begun and there are TV, radio and newspapermen. The line began with 50 but it has been growing.

Among those inside are Marion Barry, Bernard Lafayette, and Chuck McDew.

Curtis Hayes will be the spokesman for the group outside.

The group at the U.S. attorney's office might remain in a vigil thru the night.

Demand: Federal Protection for the rest of the project participants.

Excerpt from press statement: "According to a SNCC spokesman the Justice Department has been asked for protection for the past three years with little effect. Today's demonstration protests the administrations decision to take action only after an act of violence has already occurred."

The statement says that members of the group will sit in at Justice Department offices indefinitely. (address is 219 S. Clark, Chicago; WE 9- 8832.