

Letters from Mississippi / Document August 28, 1965: Pre-Arrest Meeting

This image is a scan (brightness/contrast altered to increase legibility of the text) of one of the many documents in Mayor McLean's files at the Marion County Historical Society's museum that were made available by museum director Chris Watts to Rev. Bill McAtee for research on his book, *Transformed: A White Mississippi Pastor's Journey Into Civil Rights and Beyond*, and which are used with permission.

This set of notes details a meeting we had with the mayor and several others -- about which I'd totally forgotten -- on the morning of our arrests on August 28, to air complaints and demands on both sides. Particularly revealing of how difficult the situation must have been for the mayor is his final comment, "Meeting very distasteful."

Sat August 28, 1965

1. 9:00 AM Pickets at Sunflower
2. Meeting at City Hall:
Attorney, Lester Haddox, Ernest Fuzz,
Jim Draper, Ann Marsh, Shana Shumer,
Richard Atlee, Curt Styles, <Ashley
& Watts> Demands:
A. Repay \$218.00 Fine
B. Apologize for false arrest
C. Hire Negro Employees
3. Request ceasing parading in front of
door at Sunflower. Privilege to
picket not questioned. Only
requested that they confine
parading into a defined area.
4. Meeting failed because to arrest
confirmed by Jim Draper off the
Record.
5. Police complaints -> Vulgar language,
hitting people while hidden.
6. Admitted we arrested wrong persons &
they knew who correct persons
were. They had apologized and
confessed to civil rights violation.

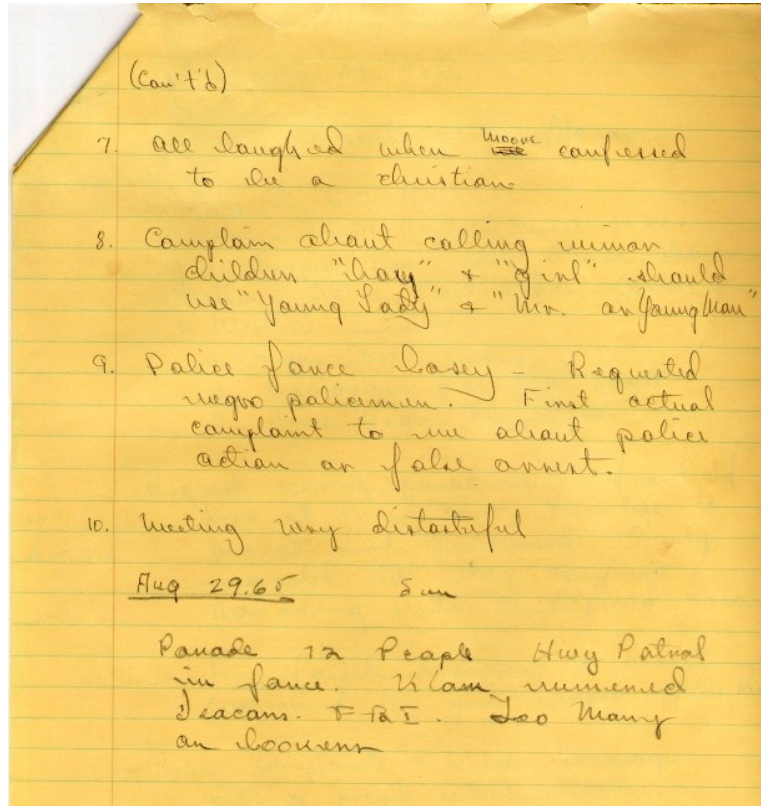
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[For the complete set of my Mississippi 1964-65 letters,
see <http://dickatlee.com/issues/mississippi>]

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August 28, 1965: Pre-Arrest Meeting



(Con't'd)

7. all laughed when ^{Moore} confessed to be a christian
8. Complain about calling minor children "boy" & "girl" should use "Young Lady" & "Mr. or Young Man"
9. Police force Lacey - Requested negro policemen. First actual complaint to me about police action or false arrest.
10. Meeting very distasteful

Aug 29.65 Sun

Parade 12 People Hwy Patrol
in force. Klan numbered
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