

**Letters from Mississippi / Document**  
**August 31, 1965: Curt Styles 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.

Although I don't remember it, our project director Curt Styles apparently met with the mayor the day after the trial of those of us arrested for blocking a door during the previous Saturday's picketing. There is a reference here to a payment of \$550, apparently to be wired the next day. Since the trespassing fine had been set at \$50, there must have been 11 people jailed in addition to me, my fine having been wired as bail the day of the arrest to remove the risk of continued beating. It appears Curt had decided our days of hard confrontation were over. Given that all the temporary northerners were heading back north, removing the watchful Northern Eyes, this was clearly a wise move.

Aug 31, 1965

1. 3:00 P.M. 14 Civil Rights workers proceeded to picket "Sunflower"
2. Curt Styles called my office 3:45 P.M. to pay \$550.00 hand money. Western Union to be called Wed. Morning.
3. Curt agreeded to Picket as is in front of Glass only. Will picket four hours per day 2 morn. 2 Sat.
4. Curt agreeded to allow the pickets to be roped in whenever our people gather to greatly. These people stay in fence our people stay out.

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