

September 12, 1966

Arlie Schardt had two observations:

1. Mayor will be a fool if he doesn't ban all cameras in the area - especially TV -- the news coverage is "egging" the people on and exciting them. He and other reporters (he is sure) would be thankful for being banned - danger involved, etc. However, they feel they must go in and cover the story as long as they have not been banned.
2. Mayor is in increasing danger.

According to the news people, this week is really going to be a bad week. One reason is because Martin Luther King is in town. He is holding a meeting tonight and they feel this could be dangerous simply because of the number of people involved. They feel if the Mayor could offer him some way to save face without demonstrating this would help. He needs an out without being labeled "Uncle Tom".

The "grass rooters" made the following observations:

1. They admire the Mayor for going to the scene.
2. The Mayor's psychology would be much better if he would go there and just listen to the people and let them enumerate their problems. They say he talks to the people like a step father looking down his nose. He doesn't talk to them like they are humans. He was very badly criticized for leaving Foote Street Church yesterday before the people could talk to him. They say he said what he had to say and they would not stay and hear them, saying "he had to go - he was a very busy man and had things to do".
3. Complain of police brutality -- very rude to people -- guns -- etc.