

Jailed Freedom Riders Refuse Food in Jackson

JACKSON, Miss., June 1 (AP)—Newly jailed "Freedom Riders" turned away from their meal trays today in a hunger strike protesting segregation in Southern train and bus depots.

The Riders—both white and Negro—told their jailers they would fast to get recognition of their fight against Southern segregation.

The strike, the jailers said, was not a reflection on the treatment accorded the Riders in jail in Mississippi's capital city.

There was no actual count of those striking, but jailers said indications were that 42 were taking part in the fast.

These were the remnants of 52 Freedom Riders arrested when they arrived in Jackson by bus and train and tried to use white facilities at the depots.

All 52 at first refused to post appeal bonds or pay the \$200 fines levied against each for a breach of the peace. However, 10 later posted bond and were released. Those in jail are working out their sentences at \$3 a day.

White and Negro prisoners are segregated, and the strike

apparently began by accident, at least with regard to the time. Seven white riders refused their breakfasts and the Negro prisoners joined suit at noon. The white prisoners are in the city jail and Negroes in the county jail.

Acting Mississippi Gov. Paul Johnson said all the Freedom Riders want is publicity and "when publicity is absent, their entire mission has failed."

Advised that more Freedom Riders were on their way to Jackson, Johnson urged Mississippians to let the law take its course.

Authorities in Hinds (Jackson) County today promised a probe of reports of beatings of Negro Freedom Riders while they were held at the county prison farm. They were later transferred to the county jail in downtown Jackson.

The latest complaint came from Jean Thompson, 19-year-old New Orleans Negro who went to jail with the first wave of Freedom Riders to arrive last week from Montgomery, Ala.

She claimed county prison farm Supt. Max Thomas struck her when she refused to address him as "sir."