

New 'Riders' Get Heavier Penalties

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seven more "Freedom Riders" launched an unsuccessful attack on segregated bus terminal facilities in this Mississippi capital city Tuesday. They promptly landed in jail and were quickly convicted on breach of peace charges.

Tuesday's riders drew stiffer penalties in city court.

The group—five whites and two Negroes—swelled the ranks of the integrationist Freedom Riders jailed in the past two weeks to 72.

Judge James Spencer sentenced each to four months in jail, with two months suspended, and fined each \$200. The earlier Freedom Riders got two months, suspended sentences and \$200 fines.

Meanwhile, a stepped up pace of integration efforts was expected with more segregation-defying groups expected here both by bus and airplane.

The latest group came by Trailways bus from New Orleans. When they boarded the bus at New Orleans, Newell Weber, 52, an East Orange, N. J. photographer and the group's spokesman, said they expected to go to jail.

The stiffer jail penalty had been

expected. Authorities promised such Monday.

Spencer said the longer sentence was prompted by reports that some of the earlier defendants "have served time in federal prisons for refusing to bear arms in defense of their country. . . some have atheistic beliefs, and there are those who have beliefs, leanings and ideologies contrary to the principles on which this country was founded."

He said he felt the full penalty—four months in jail and \$200 fines—should be invoked in future cases.

The trial moved swiftly with testimony practically the same as in earlier trials of the Freedom Riders.

Tuesday's group was granted a speedy trial at their own request in order to get credit for all time served in jail. Time spent in jail before the sentence does not count.

Mississippi officials insist that the breach of peace charge is not an anti-integration measure. However, it won approval of the Mississippi Legislature last year along with other bills which sponsors maintained would help curb

C. L. 6-7-61 Continued on page 16

'MEX - RIDERS'

Continued from Page 1
integration demonstrations.

The seven new integrationists said they would join a faltering hunger strike staged by some of the Freedom Riders in protest of segregated transportation facilities in the Deep South. Of the original riders, only four continued to fast.

'FLY-IN' EXPECTED

Meanwhile, the first "Freedom Fly-in" was expected Wednesday. Three St. Louis, Mo. area Negroes said they would fly from St. Louis to Jackson to test segregation barriers in the airport terminal here.

Tuesday's arrests were without incident. They followed the same pattern as earlier arrests of Freedom Riders at bus and train terminal facilities.

Police Capt. J. L. Ray told the

riders to move on and when they refused, they were arrested.

One of those arrested Tuesday—18-year-old Shirley Thompson of New Orleans, a Negro—is a sister of Jean Catherine Thompson, 19, who claimed she was slapped by prison officers following her arrest in the first wave of Freedom Riders. Jean Thompson later posted an appeal bond and was released.

The group also included Terry John Sullivan, 23, of Chicago, editor of the Awareness, a monthly newspaper. He is white.

Others jailed were Abraham Bassford IV, 24, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; James Robert Wahlstrom, 24, of Madison, Wis.; James Thomas McDonough, 22, of Huntington, N. Y., all whites, and Frank Johnny Ashford, 22, of Chicago, a Negro.

*Union Ledger
June 7, 1961*

2-14-61

STATE SOVEREIGNTY COMMISSION
JUN 8 1961
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED