

Technicality Frees 'Rider'

A technicality in the wording of an affidavit freed a so-called "Freedom Rider" in Hinds county court this morning as the daily series of trials continued.

Daniel Ray Thompson, of Cleveland, Ohio, was released by County Judge Russel Moore shortly after court convened when the discrepancy was revealed. Thompson was appealing a city court conviction for disturbing the peace.

Later in the morning, Jean Tompson, New Orleans Negro girl, went on trial on her appeal from a breach of peace arrest here in May.

Carsle Hall, Jackson Negro attorney, was defending counsel for both cases. Jack Travis, special prosecutor, appeared for the state.

J D 12-28-61

'Rider' Cases At Half-Way Mark Here

Conviction of Raymond B. Randolph, Jr., Negro of New Haven, Conn., in his appeal from a "Freedom Rider" city court sentence, marked the half-way mark of similar docketed cases in Hinds county court.

Randolph received a \$200 fine and 4 months sentence on the county farm. This was appealed, and bond filed by R. Jess Brown, his attorney.

Jack Travis, special prosecutor in the series of appeal cases, said this morning this case halved the list which runs until mid-May.

There have been appeal trials nearly every day in county court since last August, with as many as two and three per day on occasion.

Due to weather and missed plane connections, an afternoon trial was postponed until Thursday.

J D 12-5-61

Rider, 27, Freed On Technicality

A 27-year-old so-called "Freedom rider" was released on a technicality during a jury trial in County Court here Tuesday.

Negro Robert Jenkins of St. Louis, Mo., had been charged with "unlawfully congregating with others" at a bus terminal here last June.

Judge Russel Moore ruled that testimony verified the Negro's claim to entering the bus terminal alone and exclusive of any other group.

Because of the legal technicality, Judge Moore ruled in favor of the defendant and ordered his release.

Jenkins had been convicted in city court June 8, fined \$200 and sentenced to four months in jail. He was released on bond June 19.

Judge Moore said approximately 175 of 300 "riders" cases have been disposed of since May.

C L 11-8-61

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