

Judge Asks Release of 4 Youths

By **BILL SHIPP**

Municipal Judge Luke A. Arnold asked Thursday for the immediate release of four teen-agers whom he sentenced to the city stockade for interfering with Atlanta's school desegregation.

But Mayor William B. Hartsfield declined to approve the judge's request, saying that he wanted to "consider it for a little while. . . . The emergency is not over."

Meanwhile, an Atlanta attorney, James Venable, filed writs of habeas corpus against E. H. Gibson, superintendent of the city stockade, charging that two of the youths were being illegally detained and had been illegally arrested at Murphy High School Wednesday.

The two writs of habeas corpus were filed in DeKalb Superior Court Thursday morning in behalf of Ronald Thomas Farmer, 18, of 1855 Long Dr., Decatur, and George Smith Obear IV, 17, of 3347 Mountain Dr., Avondale.

A hearing on the suits is scheduled for 4 p.m. Friday before DeKalb Superior Judge Frank Guess.

Farmer is under two consecutive 30-day sentences, one for disorderly conduct (disturbing a public school), the other for vio-

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lating the city's knife ordinance by carrying a "hawk-billed" knife.

Obear is under a 60-day sentence for disorderly conduct. Detective Capt. R. E. Little testified that a loaded pistol and claw hammer were found in Obear's car shortly after the youth was arrested in the area of Murphy High School.

In his requests for their release, Judge Arnold said he believed Obear, who was taken to Grady Hospital instead of the prison farm, should be released "because he is a diabetic."

The judge said he felt he could not ask for Obear's release without also requesting freedom for the others.

Besides asking for releases for Obear and Farmer, Judge Arnold also asked the mayor to approve releases for Jerry Quillan Dutton, 18, of 410 E. Howard Ave., Decatur, and Ronnie Edward Mashburn, 17, of 3130 Santa Monica Dr., Decatur, both sentenced to 30 days for disorderly conduct (interfering with a public school.)

NOT REGISTERED

A DeKalb school official said that Obear and Mashburn were students at Avondale High School last year, but hadn't registered at

the school during regularly scheduled registration Tuesday. The official said Dutton graduated from Avondale last June and that Farmer was a student at Southwest DeKalb High School.

The judge said he wrote in the requests for remittals that "I believe these boys have learned a lesson. The emergency is over for them."

Judge Arnold said he handed down the stiff sentences swiftly Wednesday to prevent trouble at the schools.

FORESTALLED TROUBLE

"If I had not acted in that manner," the judge said, "there would have been a riot at 8 o'clock this morning at the schools. Now I believe the emergency is over."

The mayor said, however, that he disagreed that "the emergency is over" and wants "to hold up to study this more carefully." Hartsfield was obviously incensed at one of the writs filed by Venable.

The writ, filed in behalf of Farmer, charged that the "cause of his (Farmer's) illegal detention is to further the cynical political position of Mayor William B. Hartsfield, the NAACP, the Rev. Martin Luther King and his Freedom Riders and Police Chief Herbert Jenkins. . . ."

A. E. Thompson, assistant prison farm superintendent, said the teen-age prisoners and Bill Gene Cody, 24, of Arlington, Va., the "American Nazi," were being treated just like other prisoners "except the boys can use the telephone any time they want to."

Judge Arnold said he did not ask for the release of Cody because he had received information that the American Nazi said he was having "the time of his life" in the stockade.

The judge said Cody has also promised to bring all the "storm troopers" to Atlanta when he is released. Cody, who was arrested at Grady High School, is serving 30 days for disorderly conduct (disturbing a public school).

RECEIVES CALLS

Arnold said he had received numerous phone calls concerning Wednesday's court actions. Some protested the swiftness of the trial, others had congratulations for the action, Judge Arnold said.

One other youth, James Edward Satterfield, 19, of 1038 Oak St. SW, also began a 30-day term at the city farm Thursday. He was convicted by Judge James Webb of failing to heed a police order to move on from a point near Brown High School.