

DAWSON, GEORGIA:

Things are brightening up a bit. I spoke at three churches today, and the acceptance was very good. Also, at the last meeting, I told about fifteen deacons to individually call each minister in the city concerning next week's meeting, Thursday, 8:00 o'clock, at Zion Hill Baptist Church on Herod Road, Rev. James Reynolds, pastor. He is a strong backer of the movement. This is the fifth meeting in Terrell County and at 7:00 o'clock we will organize the county. We have about twenty students in 10 busses dispatching information every day on each bus. This is not public information, and it is our only means of communication.

We will appoint four key persons in each of Terrell's main communities - Dawson, Sassen, Groves, Parrott, Doner, Herod, and Brownwood. We will also form an executive committee of the grown ups and students. It seems that we are as able to work with the grown-ups as with the students here. However, in many instances, the grown-ups hold students back. One very important point I can observe - we must make our initial thrust in any similar community one of deep religious basis. But we will not get immediate support from the ministers (as a body). There will always be a few. The best background is one of deep religion. Poverty is an asset; it gives the silent supporter a vital issue with which to deal. (we received two large, extra large, cakes today, and one pie; with several general offers to dinner.) Females continually call and ask for us; this is an asset. They will do anything we say, (well, almost anything.)

Even now, we have the "close groups" who want to "sit-in". The solution is to direct this energy. After Wednesday, we will be relatively free to go to Baker County. Cordell is gone home; he is missed, mostly because of his role as a singer of Freedom Songs. This gives the programmer time to improvise, even during a meeting - though we usually take a general outline for a program we often go by ear. I think I sent the names of people who registered with a bit of difficulty and their accounts of same.

As I have said, we will be in Baker in February, come Hell or high water. We have also heard from Lee County as you know, Sumpter and a couple more counties that I can't think of. I will write the Terrell County story shortly, starting this week, since we are expecting a large crowd. We will try to arrange a dramatic "march" to the polls, maybe Saturday - the people are ready for it. I just hope all the people will be ready, you know, ha-ha.

Mrs. Daniels received \$8.00 from the last mass meeting on our behalf. This is along with money we collected for gas and heat for the sponsoring church. It will probably become in itself an incentive for other churches to open their doors to us since the churches don't take in too much money and meet irregularly. This money this may be good or bad. At the next meeting when I talk with the leaders, I'm going to outlaw "begging" after an offering has been taken - I strongly dislike such maneuvering; it is dis-

honest in its application, and bad manners in its interpretation. It misses the vital part. I guess this is enough. I will write more next time. Send me about 100 Georgia Constitutions. Many people who can read feel better when they have practiced reading the whole thing. Maybe it'll be good for us too, in the long run; we know Georgia law.

Young Patterson - Roychester Patterson, son of Carolyn Daniels, our financier here, wants to work in Pheonix, Alabama, for us in voter registration. This is a compromise of a sort. He was suspended and so must leave for Pheonix with hopes of graduating in June. The outline is tactically to put his efforts where they must be at the outset. It follows in detail:

Civil Rights  
Phoenix City, Alabama  
Russell County

Roychester Patterson  
Volunteer Field Worker  
SNCC

The following steps will be taken to set-up the voter registration program in Phoenix City, Alabama.

- I. Excel Scholastically
  - (a) study much harder
  - (b) keep an open mind
  - (c) keep away from the females (don't become personal)
  - (d) associate with males (congenial relationship)
  - (e) become popular with teachers
  - (f) carry interested, but pleasing attitude (not inquisitive)
- II. Survey Community
  - (a) check with Chamber of Commerce
  - (b) secure statistics of population (Negro and white)
  - (c) acquire names, addresses, and telephone numbers of leaders in community, both adult and student
  - (d) cite the race relations presently existing
  - (e) through inquiry into voter registration
    1. statistics on Negro voters, whites
    2. voting history in past 5 years
    3. names of city and county officials; how they were elected
- III. Introduce Program
  - (a) explain presence in community
  - (b) explain SNCC's vote project
  - (c) report regularly to Sherrod
- IV. Organize the leadership
  - (a) hold small meetings with student leaders
  - (b) organize a system of block leaders
- V. First Mass Meeting
  - (a) meet at a popular church
  - (b) inform outstanding people
  - (c) let people participate
  - (d) teach freedom songs