

[Sept. 28, 1964]

REPORT - week beginning Sept. 21

Monday - Set up Precinct meeting in the 10th Precinct for Sept. 30 at Pleasant Gift Church, 7 pm. Went to Rev. Perry (pastor of Pine Grove Church, lives at Pleasant Gift, active in both communities). He suggested waiting until Sept. 30 for the meeting, to give people advance notice. He also suggested holding the meeting at Pleasant Gift, since it is centrally located, and since the people from Pine Grove would be likely to come over to the Pleasant Gift meeting, since they have been very active. Spoke to Mrs. Day, who will send word to Rising Chapel area via her children in school. Couldn't find Mr. Sutton (chairman of Pine Grove meeting), or Mr. Whitehead (deacon at Pleasant Gift, very active). Went to Pine Grove and spoke to Mr. Van Buren's son - he offered to get the word out about the meeting in the Pine Grove area - he also offered to work with us during the day (he works at night, earning money to return to college at Tougaloo). In the afternoon, I drove Harold Kelvin to Jackson - he lent us his car for the week. I also delivered messages to the Jackson office, picked up supplies, had keys made - assorted errands. At 6:30 pm. attended staff meeting in Canton.

Tuesday -

In the morning, Valley View had a staff meeting - we mapped out the situation of our precinct organization, and planned next steps. Then Judy and I went out to Precinct 11 - to find registered voters for the petition, to canvass for the meeting Friday night, the Farmers Meeting, and the Jackson meeting. Also spoke to Mrs. Moore about housing some of us females. Contacted More and Walter Brown, both on the Exec. Comm., due in Jackson at 11 pm. Spoke at length to Mrs. Liz-ie Baldwin, who is key person in that precinct. She has a car and will take people to Jackson on Sunday. She also plans to go down to the courthouse 4th time, soon, and will take people down. Met Peter Luckett and his family - they said they had gone down to the courthouse at the beginning of the year, but didn't know if they had passed the test or not. However they both have poll tax receipts, so they signed the petition. Met William Branson, 70 yrs. old, obviously in favor of the Movement, and a very intelligent man, but scared. He is a registered voter (probably not anymore), but refused to sign. Gave us some helpful information. Got altogether 4 more signatures on the petition. Then to Jackson for meeting with Dave Dennis.

Wednesday - Brief meeting in the morning. Then Phil and I went to Canton to get flat fixed, gas money, clothes cleaned, etc. Met Robert Luckett - 24 years old, originally from Valley View, has been living in Chicago for 10 years, came back to work with us when his mother wrote him about the Church burning. I ran off leaflets on student union meeting, Milton Grove mass meeting, and blackout. Phil and I went to farmer's meeting at St. John's - passed out leaflets. After the farmer's meeting, we had a staff meeting with Tom Ramsey, discussing the farm program and FDP and ASC elections and organization. Tom suggested "block organization" as being practical for both FDP and ASC. We will attempt to find block captains as soon as the precincts are set up. Wednesday night, Judy and myself and two local kids went to FDP meeting at Pine Grove. Very few people attended - the minutes read were from Sept. 3. There is a voter reg. workshop going on, but the people are trying to obtain a copy of the Mississippi constitution, and are temp. blocked. I explained about the precinct meeting - they volunteered to canvass for it. Someone volunteered to attend the Madison County Movement meetings, and report to the others. Rev. Perry, from Pleasant Gift was present, and spoke.