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A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE NORTH
FLORIDA PROJECT.

David S. McVoy, task force, Florida

- I. Voter registration statistics: As of October 3, 1964, when the registration books closed in all of Florida, the following number of Negroes was registered in each of the counties presently worked by the North Florida Project: Gadsden -- 4447; Madison -- 2392; Jefferson -- 1375; and Suwannee -- 1654. See attached sheet for more complete statistics.
- II. Approximate registration potential: In the four counties presently worked by the project, the following number of Negroes are eligible to vote: Gadsden -- 12,273; Madison -- 3,067; Jefferson -- 2600, and Suwannee -- 2159.
- III. Presently organized voter education groups: In Gadsden county, the Civic Interest Group, a group made up mostly of teachers, ministers, and hospital workers, was very actively engaged in conducting citizenship classes. Over a three week period, over 1000 newly registered Negroes attended their classes. They expect to continue the classes after the election. In Jefferson County, the Voters League is somewhat active in voter education. The group is small, and task force workers have reported that the group is reluctant to cooperate with CORE. Before the election the group held classes in several areas of the county, and emphasized teaching illiterates to write their names. Apparently they were somewhat successful, but it seems unlikely that after the election they will continue the operation. In Madison county, the NAACP Youth Council and a local group of citizens working with Rev. Jamison attempted classes, but their success was limited. In Suwannee county, the Voters League fell apart after the task force workers left, and practically no work was done on voter education after Sept. 19.
- IV. Suggested expansion in activities: The most urgent concern in North Florida at the present time is the economic situation. The project should explore methods of opening employment to Negroes, and of organizing existing businesses (Negro) into cooperatives in order to lower prices to compete with white businesses. Since much of North Florida is farming area, a great deal of emphasis should be placed on developing community spirit in rural areas. An attempt should be made to draw teenagers into the movement in North Florida. At present, the teenage group appears headed toward total decadence, since there are absolutely no recreation programs in the counties, and part-time jobs are impossible to find. A community center program with primary emphasis on the teenagers should immediately be initiated, to provide recreational and educational programs for young people. A nursery program should also be initiated, since many Negro children start school with a severe educational and cultural handicap. This program could possibly be run by existing groups, at least in Gadsden County.
- V. Suggested expansion geographically: Two counties in this area have no registered Negro voters--Lafayette and Liberty. Though these are small counties, they are a symbol among Negroes of racial discrimination. If progress could be made in Lafayette and Liberty, many here-to-fore quiet citizens would join in to better conditions in their own counties. If possible, the project should expand into all the counties of the ninth congressional district. The population is such in this district that a moderate or liberal candidate would have an excellent chance if Negro registration was high. These counties are: Jackson, Calhoun, Liberty, Hamilton, Franklin, Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Lafayette, and Gadsden. Leon county could be eliminated, since it is fairly progressive as compared with the rest of North Florida.
- VI. Personnel and Equipment needed in new counties: At least two task force workers are needed in each county, and at least one car. In Gadsden county, four workers and three cars are needed to effectively cover the area. In addition a mimeograph machine is needed in every three counties, and a typewriter in each county.
- VII. Present and expected relationship with white community. In the counties presently worked, an understanding is gradually being reached with the white community. It is expected that in Gadsden and Jefferson counties, which both have Negro voting majorities,

an appeal will be made to Negro voters in the 1966 elections, and that business leaders will begin to take notice of Negro citizens. Already several white moderates have expressed some interest in the voter registration program, and it is hoped that bi-racial committees can be set up in the near future to discuss mutual problems. In new counties, the problem will be more severe. It is to be expected that support or even tolerance from the white community will come only after the task force has established itself and has had considerable success among the Negro community in carrying out the programs.

VIII. Monthly budget:

1. Project working in present counties: Gadsden, Jefferson, Madison, and Suwannee.

a. Task force workers -- salaries	
Jefferson, Madison, Suwannee, 2 each @\$25/wk.	\$600
Gadsden, 4 @25/wk	400
	<u>\$ 1000</u>
b. Field secretary -- salary and expenses	
@ 100/wk	400
c. Task force workers --expenses @\$15/wk	600
	<u>Total \$2000</u>
d. Rented cars	
Madison, Jefferson, Suwannee, 1 each @\$300/mo.	\$ 900
Gadsden, 2 @\$300/mo.	600
	<u>\$1500</u>
e. Office expenses.	
Telephone	\$ 150
Rent, utilities for central office	60
Paper, mimeo supplies, etc.	50
Rental of mimeo machine and typewriter	30
	<u>\$290</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR MONTH, 4 COUNTIES \$3790

note: it is expected that expenses for mimeographing, rent, etc. in individual counties will be paid for by local donations.

2. Project with present counties and expansion into two additional counties; Liberty and Lafayette. Expenses in addition to above.

a. Task force workers 4 @\$25/wk	\$400
b. Task force workers -- expenses @\$15/wk	240
c. Rent, office expenses for counties	100
(it is doubtful that local contributions will cover these expenses at first. Also, additional expenses at the central office will result from the two added counties)	
d. Rented cars -- 2 additional @\$300/mo.	600
	<u>\$1340</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR MONTH, 6 COUNTIES \$5130

3. Project with present counties and expansion into 8 additional counties; Jackson, Calhoun, Liberty, Franklin, Wakulla, Taylor, Hamilton, and Lafayette. Expenses in addition to above.

a. Task force workers @ \$25/wk	
2 each, 8 counties	\$1600
1 additional for Gadsden to serve as assistant to field secretary.	100
b. Task force workers, expenses @\$15/wk	1020
c. Rented cars 1 per county, @ \$300/mo.	2400
1 for assistant to field secretary	300
d. Additional office expenses	
telephone	100
rent, utilities in counties	300
mimeo supplies	100
rental of 4 mimeo machines	60
rental of typewriters	100
	<u>\$6080</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR MONTH, 12 COUNTIES \$9870

IX. Miscellaneous information. It is absolutely necessary that, if the project is to continue either as it is or expanded into new counties, that a full-time lawyer be available. Many arrests could be avoided if local police were kept on their toes by a lawyer. Also, the project will be moving into areas in which task force personnel have no legal knowledge, such as community centers and job opportunities. If we are to continue without becoming ensnarled in legal problems, we must have a lawyer to give us advice before we initiate a project. Leasing cars on a year-round basis should be investigated, as should the purchasing of cars. At present, over half of our expenditures are on cars.

Respectfully submitted

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NORTH FLORIDA CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION PROJECT
 FINAL REGISTRATION STATISTICS
 October 3, 1964

SITUATION	GADSDEN	MADISON	JEFFERSON	SUWANNEE
Negro Pop. at % of total	59%	47%	27%	59%
# of Negroes eligible to Reg.	12,261	3,067	2,600	2,159
Negro Registration July 7	1,425	1,602	638	1,046
% of registration July 7	11.5%	52.2%	24.5%	48.4%
Negro registration Oct. 3	4,755	2,392	1,375	1,654
% of registration Oct. 3	38.9%	77.9%	52.8%	76.6%
Number registered this proj.	3,330	790	737	608
% increase this proj.	27.4%	25.7%	24.3%	28.2%

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Total Registration all counties this project: 5465

These figures are unofficial, based on our count at the registration offices.

* Since there has been no staff member in Suwannee County for the last two weeks, these figures are estimates based on the usual rate of registration.