

200 Rust Avenue
Holly Springs, Mississippi
January 19, 1966

REPORT ON ASCS ELECTIONS IN MARSHELL & DESOTO COUNTIES

In Marshall County Negroes ran for ASCS positions last year, and won a second alternate. There were many irregularities in last years elections and the ASCS office in Washington sent the district director to investigate. He reported that nothing went wrong. We feel that this happened because he wanted to remain friends with the county office and local whites.

This year Negroes ran in the ASCS election and won in two communities. There were many irregularities, some of which we are including in this brief report. Many local Negroes understand why these irregularities happened and they want to tolerate the government's misuse of its authority in not keeping the elections legal and right.

Many Negroes are being put out of their homes, with no money for this years crop, no food for their children to eat, nothing whatsoever to live for in this Blackman's "hell!"

We all understand and realize that it is next to impossible for you to contest the election, and we want you to know that we will have little control over our actions.

Listed are some of the main reasons we want the elections contested in Marshall County and the State of Mississippi.

1. White women were on the mailing list and Negro women had to carry all sorts of proof to the ASCS office in order to get ballots. This is an act of intimidation because Negroes understand that local whites don't want them voting. So many wouldn't go to the office and ask for their ballots.
2. In communities where Negroes were petitioned to the ballot over two hundred (200) people in these communities, but in communities where Negroes weren't petitioned there were no more than eighty (80) ballots cast.
3. In communities where Negroes were petitioned to the ballots, the ASCS Committee put many Negroes on the ballot and a few whites. This was done to split our votes. In one community three (3) Negroes were petitioned and the ASCS placed nine (9) other Negroes on the ballot and five whites. This practice was followed in communities where Negroes were petitioned.
4. In community B we feel that we should be granted the elections because three Negroes names were left off the ballot for no reason. These Negroes are recognized as Negro leaders. Last year some of these names were left off for no reason. That same practice was followed again this year.
5. In community A ballots were challenged because they were not signed correctly. People signed the envelopes as directed on the outside. To cover this mistake the

State ASCS office said that people who signed ballots wrong could come to the ASCS office and certify that they voted. Very few Negroes went to the office to have their votes counted. Very few Negroes went to the office to certify that they voted.

We ask that the government make an investigation to check the results of the election. We would also like to have a copy of that investigation.

Sincerely yours,

Rita Walker (Holly Springs Project)

Listen Kathy ;

I have wrote you a letter and I haven't ~~wrote~~ sent it off yet but I am sending it now and I am so glad to here about your baby and do take care of it untel you get to me.

I know that pat will have Ken baby sitting and she will be out looking for something to do like mens don't tell her what I said she would ~~kill~~ kill me. Cynthia got married on Cleve and that pretty little girl in D.C. got marrisd to so he is left out in the weather.

I have some more names for you but its so much ice on the ground untel we cant get out to do any thing but go around the city, its getting a little better now.

I am going to D.C. to Mareen house for a few days I am sick my period want go off and the Dr. said if i didn't get some fest I would get well and I have low blood and nerviest stomitch? I can't even sleep at nite its seems like some body are comming to the house to burn it down all the time, and My mother came ofer to ~~xxx~~ stay with me for a while and she say I talked in my sleep all the time. And try to get out the bed saying something is going to get me but i feel a little better now but the Dr. still say that I need rest so I am going to try to get up their for a while.

I hope Atlanta will send me the money to go.

Take care of the baby and John and I will be looking for you all this summer.

I have some more names and I will send them to you Mrs. Modena is working with us now and she comes early and atayx all day and part of the night and she reall help us

Love y_all for ever and take care of the baby.

Freedom some day Rita Walker

Rita Walker