



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

TWENTY WEST FORTIETH STREET • NEW YORK 18, N. Y. • LOnagacre 3-6890

July 6, 1960

MEMORANDUM

TO: PRESIDENTS OF BRANCHES, STATE CONFERENCES AND YOUTH COUNCILS

FROM: ROY WILKINS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF GASOLINE TO NEGRO VOTERS IN FAYETTE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

The freeze on sale of gasoline to Negroes in Fayette County, Tennessee, by local outlets of several national oil companies continues in force. These farmers must still resort to desperate measures in order to obtain small and inadequate quantities of fuel to operate their farm equipment. Their situation will get increasingly difficult as time passes, unless the squeeze is lifted.

This office has vigorously urged the national managements of the companies involved to do something about these acts on the part of their locally franchised agencies. The companies reply that there is nothing they can do, since the local outlets are independent contractors over whom they have no control. We reject this excuse. We are fully convinced that the companies have it in their power in one way or another to see to it that the Negro farmers of Fayette County get the supplies they so badly need. They could truck fuel in for these old customers. Or they could refuse to service the contractors who victimize Negro voters.

The 51st Annual Convention of the NAACP just ended in St. Paul, Minnesota, adopted a resolution regarding the Tennessee situation, which says: "...We are also determined to withhold our money from any national company found to be cooperating in the present scheme which has deprived colored filling station operators of gasoline, which has prevented colored farmers from obtaining needed supplies, and which has revealed a flagrant defiance of law by those who are determined to prevent colored citizens from voting."

In accordance with the spirit of this resolution, we wish to advise our membership that the national companies thus far identified with refusal of local outlets to sell to Negroes in Fayette County are the following: Texaco, Inc. (TEXACO); Gulf Oil Co. (GULF); American Oil Co. (AMOCO); Standard Oil Co. of N.J. (ESSO); and Delta Refining Co. (DELTA), Lion Gas, and Southern Oil Refining Co., which are regional concerns.

Besides the above, you will be glad to know that the National Office and the Memphis Branch are cooperating in a series of relief operations designed to overcome the other difficulties experienced by Fayette County Negroes in connection with the anti-vote economic squeeze.

