

THE VOICE OF RULEVILLE

"THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"

VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSE UP:

By: Jesse Harris

Our work would be much easier if we could enlist the support of professional people such as minister and teachers; for they are the ones usually looked to for leadership in a community like Ruleville. I was talking to some professional people, they reacted to me that we were trying to do was fine, pretty much as all teachers in Mississippi do. But that they could not get involved and suggested that we go out into the community and work on our project.

This attitude, indicating a wish to be apart from the Negro community, is fairly common among Negroes of the professional class. They are not inclined to risk it if it means dying for what they know to be right.

So Mr. and Mrs. don't let this happen to you. Be a first class citizens. Register and VOTE.

TO THE PEOPLES OF RULEVILLE

By: Jesse Harris

In order to be a first class citizens you must Register and Vote Now. The federal government need your support through the BALLOT Now.

It is time you to know your duties and obligations of citizenship while living under a constitutional form of government. One of your main duties is to Register and Vote, so that you may be known and heard by everyone and respected. We are asking you to Register and become a well known citizens of Ruleville Miss. The only way that things can be done to help us is through the BALLOT, and we must have enough people to cast the Ballot in order to WIN.

So by and tell your friends to get ready and register and tell them to tell all their friends the same. Remember, we need your support at ones, will you please help us as well as help yourself and your CHILDREN,

MEMORANDUM FROM: Janes Jones and Charles Ray

Preliminary Survey On the Condition Of the Negro Farmers In Ruleville, Mississippi, At the close of the cotton season

The cotton picking season in the Mississippi Delta lasts from the middle of August until the middle of December. At the end of the season, all of the debts that the Negro sharecropper has incurred during the year are totaled up by the plantation owner and deducted from the money that the sharecropper has made during the cotton picking season. The sharecropper plays no part in the totaling up of debts, which includes cost of raising the cotton crop, rent, food, and miscellaneous bills such as doctors bills, cost of buying a car, etc.

(Continued Next Week)

The FREEDOM SINGERS WILL BE HERE IN RULEVILLE MISSISSIPPI ON THE 18 of December, so come out to herd them at Williams church, time 7:30 P/M

and if you don't have any children someone that you know do.

Remember, President John F. Kennedy dy, said that it is your constitutional right. REGISTER AND VOTE.

The Ruleville Christian Citizens Have There Weekly Meeting Every Tuesday Night at 909 Reden Street at 7:30 P/M, so come out to the meeting and we will be looking for you.

"NOTICE"

We Will be Taking people Down To Register Every Tuesday and Thursday, so get ready and tell your friends.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

November 19, 1962

MEMORANDUM FROM: Charles Cobb and
Charles Ray McLaurin

RE: Preliminary Survey On The Condition Of The Negro Farmers In
Ruleville, Mississippi, At The Close Of The Cotton Season

(Note: This report is based on a few hours spent talking with
people in Ruleville.)

Settlement

The cotton picking season in the Mississippi Delta lasts from the middle of August until the middle of December. At the end of the season, all of the debts that the Negro sharecropper has incurred during the year are totaled up by the plantation owner and deducted from the money that the sharecropper has made during the cotton picking season. The sharecropper plays no part in the totaling up of debts, which includes cost of raising the cotton crop, rent, food, and miscellaneous bills such as doctors bills, cost of buying a car, etc.

The agreement between sharecropper and plantation owner is that the sharecropper will raise a crop of cotton and split it 50-50 with the plantation owner. But the cost of raising the cotton crop is paid entirely by the sharecropper. All of the cotton is sold by the plantation owner, who in turn tells the sharecropper how much the cotton was sold for. The fact that all finance is handled by the plantation owner makes the sharecropper subject to all sorts of financial chicanery from the plantation owner. In fact, several sharecroppers and dayworkers have reported that they have had to pay out social security even though they have no social security number. Mrs. Irene Johnson of Ruleville, who is active in the voter registration drive there, reports that even her ten year old son has had social security taken from him. Mrs. Willie Mae Robinson, who sharecrops on a plantation near Ruleville, picked twenty (20) bales of cotton this season; yet she only cleared three dollars (\$3) for the entire year. (There are approximately 550 lbs. in a bale of cotton, and the current selling price per pound of picked cotton is \$.34. Simple arithmetic shows that before deductions, Mrs. Robinson should have made \$3,740.) It is true that she had to split her gross with the plantation owner and to pay for her yearly expenses, but as one man told me in reference to the plight of this lady, "I know she hasn't eaten what would have come out of ten bales."

I cannot report in much detail on settlements, because most won't be made until after Christmas.

The average amount of money made by sharecroppers for the year is between \$300 and \$400. The average amount of money made by day laborers for the year is between \$150 and \$160.