

[N.D.]

Memo to: Members of the Governing Board of the Mississippi Adult Education Program and interested persons.

Re: Results of first workshops held by the Mississippi Adult Education Program at Mt. Beulah.

From: Bob Moses.

I. Purpose:

1. To impart to the participants an increased knowledge and awareness of the structures and forces that constitute official and unofficial government in Mississippi.
2. To relate this information to the voter registration programs now underway in Mississippi, so that workers in these programs may begin to see an integrated picture of the problems they face.
3. To serve as a recruiting center for additional workers in the voter registration programs in Mississippi.

II. Participants:

Eighteen students and young adults (see attached list) from Jackson, Greenwood, Greenville, Rueville (Sunflower county), Cleveland, Clarksdale, and Port Gibson Mississippi were present for the entire week. Bernice Robinson and myself were on hand as staff.

We were joined on Sunday and Thursday evenings by fifteen students from the Hinds County Voter Education project.

III. Instruction:

Pete Gilbert and Bob Johnson of Harvard Law School, and Ken Kemper of Brandeis Univ. divided the class sessions among them. (See "Class Schedule and Reading Assignments".) We are particularly fortunate in having high quality instruction and having them available throughout the week.

Two of the three instructors came every morning for breakfast and stayed until noon. The classes went very well and the sessions tended to extend themselves, so instead of three one-hour classes, we had two one and a-half hour classes.

We are working on ways of improving the flow of dialogue and discussion in the next workshop. For example, the sessions on the relationship between National, State, and Local Gov't., may be based around legal cases (i.e. the John Hardy vs. the State of Miss. case) in which all these levels of government play an important role.

We also plan to comb the newspapers and magazines for interesting case studies which will lead naturally into discussions of the functions and interrelations of the various government agencies.

IV. Laboratory workshops:

The first three of these were devoted to role playing involving the discussions of the morning. Impromptu scenes involving people in the process of registration, canvassing, resisting "Police State Tactics", etc., were set up and carried through. These provided a chance for the participants to explain the essential facts about registration and voting in Mississippi as well as a chance to participate in small drama and have fun.

The fourth day we had maps of the home counties of the participants. We used these in conjunction with the census report for 1960 to outline the supervisors districts in these counties and the percentage of Negroes and whites in each district, and the breakdown on family income for each county.

Each person worked on their own county and it was an excellent opportunity for them to learn how to deal with statistics and research materials. Motivation was understandably very high and several poured over the statistics and the maps through the entire afternoon.

We hope to have these materials available for the entire workshop next time and work them into the classes and the evening discussions. It will also be an excellent chance to show them how to draw graphs and otherwise give pictorial representation to numerical data. We would plan to have representatives from the various counties present their data to the other workers, and/or mimeograph the various data.

Several participants learned how to run a projector, and a tape recorder and next time we hope to include a mimeograph machine.

V. Recreation:

We are fortunate here: There is a pond for swimming, an outdoor basketball court, a place for softball games, and wooded areas for hiking. Thursday was highlighted by a softball game with high school students from Edwards. Not least, there are numerous huge shade trees.

VI. Evening programs;

The evening programs were by and large turned over to practical discussion of ways of implementing and starting voter registration programs in the home areas of the participants. We were fortunate to have Mr. Amzie Moore and Bernice Robinson on hand since they could draw on the years of experience they have had in the Mississippi Delta and South Carolina, respectively. We mapped plans for voting drives in Greenwood, Rueville, and the mid-Delta rural counties, and discussed projects already underway in Greenville, Cleveland and Clarksdale.

Thursday evening we joined fifteen students from the Hinds County Voter Education Project in a Hay ride into the back country, a picnic supper, folk songs and folk dances.

VII. Financial report:

A. Room and Board:

18 students and 2 staff @ \$10 per person:	\$200.00
15 guests for Sunday dinner:	\$15.00
3 instructors for breakfast during wk.:	\$5.00
15 guests for Thursday picnic:	<u>\$10.00</u>
Total:	\$230.00

B. Instruction and materials:

3 instructors @ \$20 per wk.:	\$60.00
18 maps	\$18.50
35 copies of Mississippi political handbook:	\$35.00
newspapers:	<u>\$13.35</u>
Total:	113.85

C. Transportation:

6 participants from Cleveland Miss.:	\$40.00
two participants from Clarksdale:	\$20.00
3 participants from Greenwood:	\$30.00
1 participant from Greenville:	<u>\$16.00</u>
Total:	\$106.00

Total cost for workshop:	\$449.85
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VIII. Projections:

We are excited about the results and are planning a workshop for 60 to 75 students the week of July 22nd.- 27th.

A voting project will be starting in the Mid-Delta next week under the direction of Amzie Moore. The girls from Rueville and Cleveland will be working with him in their respective home towns. The girls from Clarksdale will be working with the Voter's League there in a project due to start the third week of July. The boys from Greenwood will join Sam Block who is working with SNCC on a voting project in LeFlore county. Two of the boys from Jackson will go to Greenville to work with Arthur Williams, also with SNCC, on voting in Washington county.