

Lafayette: These are brief reports from Selma students who have just finished doin' a ~~xxxxxxx~~ recruitment to set up clinics in different neighborhoods so it would be closer for the people to come and receive assistance in fillin' out voter registration forms. And also because of the close proximity in the Negro community they will have closer--- more confidence of the people in their community, than they would prehaps people who are estranged to them. We'll listen briefly now to some of the reports and reactions that the students who just finished recruiting received during their recruitment. First we have Mr. Alexander Brown who's a volunteer student from Birmaingham, Ala. who'll be workin' in the central Alabama area this summer.

Alex Brown: I was very lucky. My first stop was at the home of Mrs. Gertie Wilson at 1620 Union Street. She said that any afternoon ~~I~~ after 5 o'clock she'll be very happy to conduct a clinic. On the rest of my rounds the people were very favorable to it. I came to one lady who definitely said that she couldn't for fear that she would lose her job. And there is no help for this particular lady. She's very set in this. But on the mass that the blocks that I covered, the people were very favorable to our clinics.

Alex Brown _____: I was first introduced to the community of Selma about 3 years ago when I came down for our state Baptist convention. And since this time I have had alot of interest in the city of Selma. And during our demonstrations in Birmingham, I was fortunate to meet Mrs. Cola Lafayette who at this time told me that she would be very appreciative if I would come down to the city of Selma and to Dallas and Wilcox County to work. Then we found out that I knew everybody in Wilcox County practically, cause they were all my relatives. So she said since this was so, it would be very -- she felt that I could do a pretty good job here. So I decided that I would come. Well, I left alot of things going on in Birmingham for

just Monday 200 people were taken down to the registrars office to register to vote. We're now in the midst of a mass voter registration campaign in Birmingham and we're using as our slogan: We Went To Jail For You. Now You Register and Vote for Us. Over 2000 Negroes were arrested in the city of Birmingham during our demonstrations. And it was so acute until all of the jails in the city were filled to capacity. Our city government was just about to request permission from the state government to send some of us to Kilby Prison. Many of us were expelled -- just about 1000 students were expelled from school on one day. And the next day the federal judge in Birmingham told us that he would have nothing to do with our case. Two hours later, our case was being appealed in the 5th Circuit Court of appeals in Atlanta under Judge Tuttle who immediately ruled that we were to be placed in school the next morning.

Lafayette: Tell us, Alexander, why are you in this movement?

Alexander Brown: Well, I'm in this movement for the simple reason that I feel that Negroes everywhere are not free. And Negroes everywhere will not be free until all Negroes are free. I'm Alexander Brown, I'm 17 years old, and I'm a student at the Western _____ High School. And my plan for this summer is that I will be here in Dallas County, Wilcox County -- well, in central Alabama workin' with voter registration. For I feel that -- I know that voter registration is not as dramatic as demonstrations which have been carried on in Birmingham, which we have plans to carry on more. I feel that it is equally as important.

Lafayette: And you're workin' with the student nonviolent coordinating committee?

Brown: Yes, I'm working with the SNCC.

Lafayette: This is a report of one of the other students who went out today recruiting people to set up clinics in their homes where people can come for instruction and fill out voter registration forms. Say your name, your age, your school and tell us something about the experience you had today.

Gilbert Boyson: My name is Gilbert Calrence Boyson and I'm 13 years old. And I go to the RB Hudson High School. And today as I went out to get people to get clinics in their neighborhoods for people to vote, to register to vote, the first person I went to, they were in the room and I went in there. And when she first saw me, she looked at me. And I gave her the leaflet and I told her that my _____ were there for her. And she said she would help. And I asked her for her name and address and she wouldn't give it to me. And she said she had helped me and she would call Rev. Lafayette. And as I went around, some people told me that they weren't interested and they were already registered voters. And the others said that they were goin' on vacation. Some of them didn't have any time to do it. And others were helpful.

Lafayette: Gilbert, tell us why you are in this movement.

G. Boyson: The reason that I am in this movement now is because the -- I believe it is time for the Negro to step up and have an important part in the everyday life. We have no places to go. We have nothing. Just play on the street and get put in jail. We don't have any -- you know -- part in the government. Some Negroes have, but not very many.

Shelton: My name is Clarence Shelton. I'm 13 years of age. I go to Hudson High School. Today my partner and I went out to recruit some people to train other people in registering to vote. Most of the people in the block I had to cover were very helpful. A few said that they wanted to help in the movement but that they were goin on vacation. Others said that they were working. And I found only one man in my entire vicinity who said that he would definately like to help and that he would call Rev. Lafayette this afternoon. The reason that I'm in this movement is because I think that it is very helpful to my race and to the other people who are in this movement. And I think that we need every little bit of aid that we can get, from everyone.

_____: How long have you been in the Movement?

Shelton: Well, I've been in the movement every since I first heard about it. That's a few weeks ago. Passed out leaflets and if possible I would have been in demonstrations. But I'm going on vacation in a few days.

_____: You feel like you have accomplished things in your work?

Shelton: I don't know whether I've accomplished anything with the people that I've talked to but I know that I have accomplished something within myself. I've accomplished more courage by passing out these leaflets. And I talked to other people. I've obtained more courage and zeal to go out and fight more for my race.

Baer: My Name is Larry Tomas Charles Michael Baer. I'm 18 years old. I attend R.B. Hudson High School. I have been in this movement for about 6 months. I've enjoyed it up to the highest. I'm going to try to stay in it even though I've had some difficults with my mother. Once I was put out for something that I believe in. I have been give criticisms, but I haven't stopped yet. And I'm going to try to fight until the end. Briefly, I will try to give you a short history of my life. I wasborn in Sacramento, California. When I was the age of 4, we moved to Detroit, Michigan. After about 2 months there, my father was called to the Army. And my mother decided that she would come home which is Selma, Alabama where she was born and raised. And I've been here ever since. In the movement that I'm in I know that I will go just to try to get better facilities and to get more Negroes in the South to try to become registered voters. And that today we went out recruitin'. The streets that I was workin' on was numbered as 7 and 8. On one of the streets, the first street that I worked on, the first house, I got some very high _____. Some of the houses on the same street there was no one home. Then I moved around the corner to the next street. And again at the same house where the same lady had a cousin who was livin' there, she gave me the same remarks practically. On the same street at 1817 _____, one lady told me to come back. But I couldn't argue the

point with her cause she looked like she was loaded. And at one house on _____ I got some very bad remarks. And on the same street, another lady would take the class but she was going to leave that afternoon. And I tried to argue the point with her to stay but it was no good. Around the corner again I moved ~~xxx~~ which was Church Street. At the first house I got some very bad remarks. And as I moved on, looked like everyone on that street was in a bad mood; all except one lady. And she was ill. And she said come back in a couple of days. And I moved ~~around~~ the next street which was _____. No one was at home at the first house. And as I moved down to 1814, the lady told me to come back also. 1823: come back also. And on my last visit to the last house, no one was there. I would say that I feel that what I tried to do today, I didn't accomplish anything much. Because the Negroes are not interested, most of 'em. Some of them have some very bad remarks. But that won't stop me. I'm going to try and keep tryin' until we have more and more Negroes to go down~~x~~ and try to become registered voters.

_____: About two weeks ago, I can recall while I was over to school one day I had a talk with the principal. He said that he was with the movement up to the highest at one time. But about 4 days later after I talked with him -- I don't know. I guess something had moved him and he had changed his mind. I also taked with some of the teachers. One of my teachhers which was tachin' me English at the time. She also said that she was with the movement 100% and thatshe had already been talkin' to Mr. Bernard Moore and that she wasgoing to try and beocme a registered voter and that she had quite a few other teachers that was interested in it thatshe would alos try. And she also is a member of the Browns Chapel Methodist church which their paxtor is Rev. Minnovie. And he has alos been with the movement for quite some time. I feel that they're doin' somethin' wonderful. I feel they're helpin' us and that we're goin' to try and continue to keep up the good work in Selma, Alabama.

Lowerie: My name is Tyler C. Lowerie. I'm a student at R. B. Hudson High School. I'm 17 years old. And I was one that was in this so-called gettin' people together to help poeple to learn how to reigster to vote. And during this today, I came across a very interesting lady. She was a school teacher. Her name was Mr.s E.R. Reese, 1503 Merrick. And during this time, we got in a conversation about students and this movement. And this lady, she was very interested in this movement that we was participatin' in. And she got down to the subject that she was teachin' her students how to become registered voters. And she was willin' to render her service to whoever one needs it. And since this movement has started, I tried to be with it as far as I can. But due to certain circumstances -- my folks is kinds hive on the host? -- I will do my besgt in every way that I can and therefore today we went down to the library to recieve some cards. To try to recieve books. And while we was down there, we walked into the library. And the lady who was at the desk, she was very calm. But probably deep down inside she was probably sayin' somethin'. But anyway, she was very interest -- at least she wouldn't have resent or anything like that. Anyway, I would like to say that if the people in Selma would get together and quit runnin' their mouths so much and stick together and just try to bail on as long as they can and just stick with it, somethin' will come out of all of this. And in the end some people will say: it was hard, but it's worth it. And in my words, If you can stick toghether, you can never lose. So therefore, all I have to say is that I been in this movement for a good little whicle but I have had a c hance to be in any direct action because of my parents. And that I will try to stick with it as long as I can. And I guess this is all for now.

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