

(The following is an excerpt from a letter by Stanford sophomore Dave Harris, who has spent the last week doing voter registration work in Marks, Mississippi. He gives an economic profile of the Negro family in Quitman County with whom he lived.)

What it means to be a Negro in Quitman County, Mississippi.

This is a family study...

OCCUPATION

Father: farm labor (chopping, and picking cotton)
Mother: none (save possibly child bearing)
Children: cotton picking

EDUCATION

Father: 2 years
Mother: ~~none~~ 3 years
Children: in school from time to time

FAMILY INCOME: \$110 per month

PRENATAL AND POSTNATAL CARE:

Number of pregnancies: 8 (5 died)
Number of living children: 3 (plus 3 step children)
Who delivered the children: 3 by doctor; 5 by midwife
Was doctor available: not always
Why: lack of money
Does family have private physician: yes
His Race: White
His Fees: home call -- never comes on home call; office: \$4.00
Does family receive dental care: no
Why: Lack of money
How large are yearly medical expenses: \$150
What medical needs are not being met: cannot afford to see
about mother's fever and pains

NUTRITION:

What did the family eat for breakfast yesterday: biscuits and
and fatback (fatback is a hunk of lard or a hog's spine)
For lunch: nothing
For Dinner: turnip greens

These figures cannot begin to describe the conditions that exist in this society. I cannot cease to be amazed that these people bear up so well under such circumstances.