

COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS
507 Mobile Street
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

28 January 1964

Theron C. Lynd,
County Clerk
Forrest County Court House
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

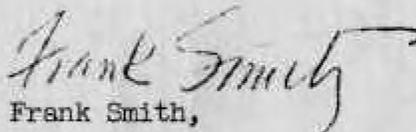
Dear Theron Lynd:

We must advise you of the following respects in which Negro voter registration applicants in Forrest County continue to be discriminated against and intimidated, contrary to the order of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

- 1) Negro applicants have not had errors or omissions on their application forms pointed out to them at the time of taking the test. Rather, they have been instructed that they must wait for a 30-day period before they will be advised of success or failure.
- 2) Although white people are freely permitted to enter the Court House, Negroes are impeded and are required to state their business before entering.
- 3) Negroes wishing to pay poll tax are required to go to the rear entrance of the Court House. White people are freely admitted to the front door of the Court House.
- 4) Negroes wishing to register are required to wait lengthy amounts of time, and are required to wait on the steps of the Court House. They are not permitted to wait inside.
- 5) Negroes wishing to pay delinquent poll tax are permitted to do so, if they pay a penalty of one dollar, but they are instructed that such payments will not be sufficient to vote.
- 6) A barricade has been erected on the sidewalk in front of the Court House. This operates to intimidate Negro citizens from approaching the Court House to register. This further serves to intimidate those persons who are exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully demonstrate.

We hereby demand that discrimination and intimidation against Negro voting applicants be ceased in all respects, including the above, immediately.

Yours in the Struggle,


Frank Smith,

FR:srl

cc: Mr. John Doar, Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice
10th Street, N.W. & Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C., 20505

Via Registered Mail: Return Receipt Requested