

Notes from a ~~xxxxxx~~ phone conversation with Mrs. F.L. Hamer

This year has been just horrible. Mrs Cochrane ~~xxxxxx~~

(of northern Leflore county) told me that last Saturday night a man came to her house, barefeet, hungry, and crying. He wanted to leave the plantation. He had a big family, no feed, and everybody was barefeeted. He cleared a grand total of \$100 from his crops (this was a bumper crop year) but, of course, that didn't go very far. ~~Ramp~~

Many sharecroppers raised as much as twenty bales but cleared next to nothing after the plantation owner subtracted for "debts"

Johnny Mae Pig from DeOdsville (home of Sen. Eastland) described desparat~~ix~~ conditions. Need for clothes and food. No work.

Anne Pearl Fryer from DeOdsville was fired after she attempted to register. Her sister and nehter came up to Ruleville for feed and clothe~~s~~. ~~Max~~ Has big family--no means of support. County distributes some com~~me~~dit~~ies~~ but not nearly enough ~~xxxxxx~~ to support a family.

Commedities for a family for a month~~s~~ (roughly)

4 lbs. of lard
3 cans of meat
3 boxes of milk
2 sacks of flour
15 lb. of meal

General situation in Sunflower County.

Since the end of the cotten picking season there has been absolutely no work for males. The only Negroes in the county who have jobs at this time are females working either as cooks or maids. There are just no other jobs and ~~at~~ there will be no other work until late March, early April. ~~I~~ To quote Mrs. Hamer, "you can count on your fingers the number of men who are working now." "There are just no jobs for the men." Families are forced to live off earnings of the woman in the family--and in most cases wages are so low they are barely enough to cover bills. Maids and cooks working in the hospital make \$19 a week, for seven days work. One woman is holding down two jobs. She works as a maid seven days a week from 8 to 1 for \$12 a week and works as a cook, also seven days a week, from 4 to 12:30 for \$24 a week.

Last Monday Mrs Hamer and her committee distributed some food and clothing in Ruleville ~~xxxx~~ which has been sent over from Greenwood. Mrs. Hamer estimated that there were as many as 200 people there waiting on line. Many had to go away empty-handed.

shoes is a clothing item which is desperately needed.

I am planning to make a trip into the Delta tomorrow so that by tomorrow night I should be able to put together a more comprehensive report for you than the one enclosed. I will send it out to you immediately, but you may feel you have enough in this letter to act upon immediately.

Yours in Freedom,