

Meeting

July 12, 1964

Introduction of Jim Guinan from Detroit who will be working with us for two or three weeks.

Housing Project - report by Margie and Bruce.

- successful dialogue with only two people.

Mr. Lyons had given ~~Bruce~~ a list of apartment numbers in the housing project of potential listeners.

- most people wouldn't let them in.

One young couplet from Keesler, Mr. and Mrs. Finkbinder

- the project is to discuss with people the possibility of having discussion groups in their homes - the idea of 'adult education' per se intimidates of insults.....

- the discussion groups would conceivably be on employment, housing, national and state politics.

The strategy is to let the local people as the housing authorities for the use of the auditorium after the program develops - this saves going before the board

As many people as possible should help - it would take only two days .

- Charlie suggested that we organize community improvement projects but it was felt that this was something that could grow out of ~~leal~~ prebl the discussions

- our over-all purpose is to educate people re- local problems in the state in the hope that they will join the Freedom Democrats.

- the west end project - probably sympathetic but intimidated.
- about one third Keesler people

- opportunity for children's theater?

Volunteers: Bruce, Margie, Bob, Judy, Doug, Gene, John, Jim, Bob, Mike, Charlie, Doug, Nelson, Diane, Liz, Jeff.

- 1 out of three doors okay

Discussion of possibility of Nelson teaching art classes at the Freedom School

Churches - Soren, Margie and Ed .

- Soren is to be the head of this group.

- before the end of the summer we should talk to all the clergy in town - this will give us a cross section of reactions to us.

Margie reported on the pasture of the 1st Presbyterian Church

Doug Salvation Army - opportunity of welfare work

Gene Interview with Leo Crapo - dismal

Business - Gene is to be the head of this group.

Ed agreed to try to see the mayor tomorrow

Bob and Judy reported on Levine from Levineville

Doug - Delchamps - grocery chain - integrated employment but policy reversed.

Doug to check with manager

Schools - Bob and Judy - a long range plan

Jeff, Charlie, Mike, John

- Judy is to be head of the group.

- report on interview with Mr. George, assistant principal

- plan to have discussion with leaders and bring them together with negro leaders.

- information to be obtained from Connie Currie.

- Margie is to contact P.T.A.

Labour - Charlie

Ramsey - try to see negro locals not assisted by the state body.

e.g. Wilson Evans

Ed Morris - negro workers - college, cannery - very interested in union, lots of friends - an opportunity!

- went around with Miss Brissel to see poor neighbourhoods

- approach may be through improvement associations.

- negro carpenter enthused, perhaps electricians and carpenters could help in some community improvement project. e.g. playground.

(Charlie, Nelson, Gran, Sam, Gene.)

Survey - Gran and Gene

- survey of depressed housing areas to find out attitudes, more than facts

- publish a report to submit to the city and to the federal government

- this is something that can be completed by the end of the summer.

information ~~has to be~~ received re* federal programs

- the housing code

- it has been found that there are only five major landlords in this area - rent is paid weekly.

Research - Bob, Judy, John

- ordinance

- statistics on voting, etc.

Spreading Out-

Howard Romane expressed a need for people to work with whites in community centres throughout the state. Danny Lyons suggested that we send one person to each major project.

Sam - need to redefine the project

- not enough base to keep 18 people together to get results in two months

- concept of splitting up - sending people around the state wherever there is a COFO program going on to act as a liaison between COFO and the whites.

- people are sincerely interested and curious and those working on the other projects do not have the time or concern to interpret what they are doing.

- value of talking to the Atac group

- keep about eight people here and get those out of the hotel and into homes
Consensus was reached on the need to send the rest out into other parts of the state.

Reports by Lon and Howard

Discussion of hootenany

program for the unitarian church Sunday