

CA News, March 4, Folder 3

The staff assigned to Pointe Coupee is working from the north parish line towards the parish seat, New Roads. Thus far we have worked in the upper Lettsworth area, Torras, Lettsworth, the area between Lettsworth and Innis, and in the city of Innis. Canvassing, we have reached approximately 225 Negro citizens; more than 4/5 of them are not registered.

Mr. Seigent Caulfield, Mr. Leon Lafayette, Mr. Robert Britton, and Mr. Hermann Russell, all of Lettsworth, are strong and dependable community leaders. Mr. Caulfield has been working in Baton Rouge, but Mr. Lafayette, Mr. Britton, and Mr. Russell have worked closely with us and made contacts for clinics in several instances. Mr. Russell is enthusiastic about maintaining a clinic with the help of the local youth who have been working with us. Mr. John Griffen of Lettsworth is extremely interested in and misinformed about CORE's activities. He says he wants to help in whatever way possible, but he's a scared Tom. He had originally arranged for us to use the Friendly Cafe (his son's business) as a clinic, but after going to New Roads to discuss it with the sherriff he changed his mind. His sister-in-law, Lillie (Mrs. Steve) Griffen, helped us as much as she could in setting up another clinic.

Thelma Caulfield (S.C.'s 17-year-old daughter) has been invaluable in every aspect of our work. Ed Sturgis (21) has been working with us regularly and is an excellent teacher. Edna Draper (16) is a good worker and very enthusiastic, but she is not able to work with us regularly. Fred Tolliver (19) would probably be a very militant worker if we were involved in direct action. He was responsible for getting several people to the clinics, but isn't too interested in the "work" of WR.

Most of the Negroes in these communities live on plantations and work in the fields. The only other work locally appears to be in logging, and many of the men work in B. R., coming home on week-ends. Most of the people we have talked to are very interested in registration, although some don't want to talk with us--either out of fear from the landowners or apathy. There seems to be no in-between attitude. Because of the work last year and the support of the community leaders, most of the people are aware of the project. We have been well received in most of the homes, particularly because the local youth working with us are well known.

We've had a total clinic attendance of approximately 120, with about 100 planning to go to the registrar's office when the books open July 27. Clinics have been held at the following churches:  
Upper Lettsworth - St. Matthew's - 2 days - good attendance  
Torras - Mt. Carmel - 2 nights - poor attendance  
Lettsworth - Scott's Methodist - 3 days - good attendance  
New Zion - 3 nights - fair attendance  
Innis - Good Faith Baptist - 2 days - very good attendance

There have been only a few incidents of harrassment and intimidation of CORE workers in Pointe Coupee parish, and none reported from the Negro community.

Peggy Ewan  
Catherine Cortez  
Sharon Burger

Pointe Coupee Task Force