

[1965]

Citizens of Madison County
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Miss.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen,
City of Canton
Canton, Mississippi

Dear Sirs:

We the members of the Canton Movement feel the present racial situation which now confronts Canton is very disturbing to everyone. Our concern is for both white and black citizens and the progress of the City of Canton.

The present situation is one to be concerned about. There is a total disregard of the rights of Negroes. Two-thirds of the total population of Canton is Negro, yet Negroes have no voice in city government, nor do they represent any part of the law enforcement body. We are now willing to discuss any matters you feel necessary and also something which we feel involves the entire community.

To prevent any other action by either side we strongly suggest immediate consideration of the following:

1. The registering of Negroes in Madison County and the policy of the registrar when registering Negroes.
2. Police brutality in and around Canton.
3. School zone for the protection of Negro children.
4. Public sidewalks.
5. Hiring of Negroes in city government on a non-discriminatory basis.
6. Removal of all segregation signs from public places.
7. Desegregation of all public facilities.
8. Proposals to improve housing conditions.
9. The hiring of Negroes on the Canton police force, to be selected in consultation with the Madison County Movement.
10. A biracial committee to discuss improving race relations.
11. Integrate the Chamber of Commerce so that it can represent all the people and not just one small segment.
12. Prosecution of police involved in police brutality.

You gentlemen are responsible for the growth and welfare of our city; therefore we look to you for solutions to these problems. As citizens of Madison County, we are more than willing to assist in any way we can.

We will expect to hear from you within the next nine days.

Respectfully yours,
Citizens of Madison County

see other side for more signatures