

Heena Kaplan

Depositions taken for the Freedom Democratic Party,
1965- firm of Kunstler and Kunstler.

Thomas Gerstle Abernathy first Congress/District
Samie L. Whitten second Congress. district
Prentiss Walker fourth
John Bell Williams third
William Meyers Colmer fifth

Depositions taken New Haven Conn. Faculty Lounge- Yale University Law.
Wed. February 10, 1965

Louis Geogrey Cowan- Yale Law Student down south June 21- August 7.
Panola County (worked in).
one Negro registered. Court injunction May 28 (fifth Circuit ct.
of Appeals) registrar treat Negroes same as whites for one year.
over 1,100 Negroes registered since that time until
the present.
currently 5,500 whites registered in Panola.

Thinks that economic reprisals greatest fear.

Ike Shenkel - County Registrar (clerk) under \$20,000 bond to
cooperate

George Albert Johnson- Greenwood Yale Law.

Carl Alexander Johnson 1963 summer Attiesburg.
Theron C. Lynd County Registrar July 63 fifth circuit citation
over civil contempt (violation of previous injunction, enjoined
him from discriminating or discouraging Negroes applying to
vote. 48 people involved in suit- ordered to put them on the
rools. They couldn't vote in Democratic primary although they
were put on the books (time requirement)) fear of losing job. teachers.

Jacobb Blum- 1964 Yale Student. Attiesburg. gas bombing-
Mrs. Barnes slated to be temporary chairman of the "althall precinct
Freedom Democratic Party. also Mrs. Taylor- secretary of precinct,
secret. Forrest County F.D.P. secret. of Freedom Unit. Citizens organiz

18 question of registration test calls for copying of the
section of the constitution, 19 calls for interpretation.
Lynd- restricted - limited to using only 14 sections of Mississippi
constitution under the 1963 order.
33 days before notification of passing or failing test.

Harassment from Kitchen Forrest County Constable.
beating Larry Spears,
Dave Owen
Rabbi Lelyveld - rid. in July

after beating went into Negro community-(just so that wouldn't
think CoFO was leaving.) one woman hold of her welfare check being
cut from 42 to 36 dollars a week and also told to keep away from
civil rights workers.
during world war II housing projects built with federal funds.
(two of them). One for whites, one for Negroes (Robertson place)

active
voter reg.

After 20 years city acquired ownership- keep carefull tract of activities of occupants. rent raised beyond means(have to move out.)

I am not so sure in my own mind, ~~xxxx~~ if the voting regist. procedures are amelio ated, that this is going to be the only answer, because people will still be liable for all sorts of intimidation and harassment and possibly murder.

Nicholas Bosanquet- male student. grad. in ;963 and 1964. From England.

first came down in 1963 for the campaign of Aaron Henry for governor. Natchez and Vicksburg. people afraid homes would be bombed. back in 1964- Holmes County.

deposition of Ross Barnett- Jackson Mississippi. Feb 12, 1965 Governor from Jan. 21 1960 to Jan. 21, 1964

Mr. McLendon Council for the representatives. voter registration records maintained in each of the 82 counties. No central compilation office. "registration books" are set up under state law which does not provide for the designation as to the race of the voters."

Official and Statistical registrar 1960 and 1964- governo familiar. difference between Negroes and whites. Barnette vote is not a right but a privilege, Negroes can vote if they meet the requirements.

believes in equal opportunities. uses Niggers and nigras in testimony.

Negroes privil. to vote. outsiders have come in, but Negroes haven't done much about it.

refers to Race and Reasons by Carlton Putman.

finally acknowledges to being a member of the White Citizens Council Challenge

Challenge- election violated Constitution and laws of the U.S. is therefore void, void because of a deliberate and consistent policy of discrimination against Negroes particularly with reference to the right of suffrage.

questioned about membership in the council. Asked about its objectives irrelevant asked about trying to solicit Negroes votes- irrelevant- the governor doesn't have the time nor is it his duty to go out and inform people of their right to vote.

No Negro ever complained to him about discrimination.

He never received any petitions or letters about discrimination- he doesn't believe ~~eyes~~ everything you read in left-wing radical newspapers or magazines (allusion to the New York Times).

There is less crime in Mississippi than in any other state.

(lawyer's comments- there is lowest crime rate, also lowest industrial rate- no remark.)

As governor also chairmen of Board of Election Commissioners- appointed commissioners - they deal with policy and problems and political problems arising on the county level in the voting and registration process.

Does not appoint Negroes to these positions- why- because they haven't asked to be appointed.

State Sovereignty Comm. given money which it gave to the white citizens council- can't seem to remember too much about the commission doesn't remember the amount of funds allocated- etc/

Five point program of the white Citizens Council from an article by Mr. Medford Evans in The Citizen Jan. 1964 Jackson Mississ.

- 1. prevent race mixing
- 2. maintain and restore legal segregation
- 3. avoid violence
- 4. defend states rights.

(u)

5. reverse the Black Monday decision- (Brown vs. the Board of Education- supreme court decision of 1954)

Testimony of Mrs. Elizabeth Allan, Feb. 8, 1965 Magnolia Mississ.
Jan. 31 1965 husband killed- active in Naacp, voter registration
in logging business, no bank loans, couldn't buy logs from
anyone in Amity county had to go to Louisiana. Witness at the
death of Herbert Lee.

E.W. Steptoe local president of Amity NAACP
Roosevelt Lee- worked for Liberty Motor Co-
fired day after he went to the court house to register.

Bob ~~was~~ Paris Moses

Feb. 1965 Magnolia

tells about his work in Amity, Indianola, etc. harassment,
economic reprisals feared by the people.