The Parish Seat of Bienville Parish is Arcadia, Louisiana. Other towns are
Rinelli, Gibsland and Mt. Lebanon. The main problem of concern is voter regis-
tration. Only six hundred (600) out of a potential three thousand one hun-
dred seventy-seven (3,177) are registered. Although the parish as usual is
totally segregated, people are concerned about the ballot. The Klan is active.
In Ward 5, near Castor, Louisiana, KKK signs have been posted. Cross burnings,
past beatings and police intimidation have served their purpose in instilling
deep rooted fear in the Negro community.

CONTACTS:
- Rev. A.M. Cathcart - pastor of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, president of the
  Bienville Parish Voters League
  Gibsland, Louisiana

Rev. Cathcart is very active in local voter registration efforts. His large
and new brick home is located on Highway 154 South. From Gibsland, take above
highway fourteen (14) miles south. Be careful that you don't take Highway 517
out of Mt. Lebanon. Stay on Highway 154 South. When you see a large brick
home that appears to be owned by white folks - on a hill - you are at the home
of Rev. Cathcart. He was born in Bienville Parish, but until recently he lived
in California. He is not afraid. However, doubts as to whether the people
will back him or not all the way.

There is some validity to his doubt. He has some followers, but fear governs
the masses, at least for the present.

- Mr. John Blankenship - Vice-president of BWJ, lives in Ward 5 near the Shady
  Grove High School in Frienship, Louisiana

Indications are that others are interested in working. Jonesboro has greatly
motivated their interest. Rev. Cathcart is interested in running for a school
board position. He is also considering seeking ASCS committee membership. The
Negro cotton, corn, potato and soy growers could control an ASCS election if
they would participate as they should. A rural organization might help foster
the latter.

Fear cannot be overemphasized. The burning of the Jonesboro churches didn't
help rally conservatives of the parish. People may not want CORE because they
fear KKK reactions.

The voters league meets the first Tuesday after the first Sunday of each month.
Rev. Cathcart will attempt to arrange a meeting of community leaders on Tuesday,
April 13, 1965, at 7:00 p.m., at a local church. You should call Rev. Cathcart
at 5671, Gibsland, Louisiana, for final plans relative to the meeting.

For more contacts on Bienville, Jackson and Lincoln Parishes, you should con-
tact:

Rev. F.T. Eldines, president of the Triparish Baptist Ministers' Conference
which covers the above three (3) parishes. He lives in Frienship, Louisiana.

Ronnie M. Moore
March 19, 1965