

JEFFERSON COUNTY VOTERS LEAGUE  
JEFFERSON COUNTY FLORIDA  
APRIL 24, 1965

NEWS LETTER

TO: Members of The Jefferson County Voters League

The Jefferson County Voters League will meet Wednesday night April 28, 1965, at 8:00 P.M., at Memorial Missionary Baptist Church.

Election of officers and the restatement of objectives will be the primary business to consider.

There have been some misunderstanding concerning the Congress of Racial Equality Task Force Workers in relation to Jefferson County Voters League. Irresponsible and gullible individuals are trying to lead the public to believe that two or three Executive committee members are responsible for CORE Task Force Workers' activities in the county. The following facts will help clarify the issue.

The Jefferson County Voters League is composed of a cross section of the Negroes of Jefferson County. Its primary purpose is to encourage all Negroes that are eligible to register and vote, to exercise that responsibility.

The first CORE Task Force Worker to come to this county met with the Executive Committee of the Jefferson County Voters League. The Executive Committee decided that this worker was not needed to help with the voters registration drive. The Executive committee transported him out of town.

After the members of the Jefferson County Voters League became dissatisfied with some voters registration procedures, they met to discuss the issue. The minutes show that the members of the League voted unanimously to use CORE Task Force workers in the county to assist in the voters registration drive. The members of the Jefferson County Voters League have demanded that the leadership of this organization remain in the county. The Executive Committee is fulfilling its responsibility in seeing that this is done.

In continuing to mislead the public these same gullible and irresponsible individuals have misrepresented the power structure of this county (legal, political, educational). In that they have spreaded malicious gossip about the League. As a result some are so frightened that their civic responsibilities are being neglected.

Some are naive enough to believe that to ask a fellow human being to register and vote would offend the power structure, thereby jeopardizing their jobs. On the contrary, each time elected representatives of the League have had business with the local governmental agencies they have being received with respect and courtesy.

The majority of the people have supported the Jefferson County Voters League. To you, we encourage your continual support. Without your many sacrifices the organization would not have been a success. May you live long to do more good.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Aroused in some the desire to become producers of goods and services and not just consumers.
2. With the assistance of CORE registered more than a thousand persons who were eligible.
3. Made contact and advocated the administering of the Anti-poverty Program. The Executive committee made trips, telephone calls, invited speakers, secured literature, and set in motion the machinery that formed the Jefferson County Improvement Association to administer the Anti-Poverty program. Insufficient support prolonged the association's activities. In the meantime the Rural Development Council was attempting to do the same thing. There can be only one agency in a community administering this program. Therefore the Rural Development council was reorganized and Negroes are well represented on the Executive Board.
4. Requested and received assurance from the city and county that Negro law enforcement officers would be provided.
5. Taught several persons to read and write their names, by setting up workshops in parts of the county. Thanks to several public school teachers who help made this work.

6. The League has encourage the Negroes of the county to avail themselves of the opportunity to help select the individuals who will be in charge of the local governments.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING YEAR:

1. To encourage every Negro in the county who is eligible to register to place his name on the voter registration books.
2. To continue and expand the workshops for the illiterates.
3. To strongly urge all professional people to assume their role of leadership, to help raise the cultural level of the community, to take part in community activities, so that they will not be mere observers and critics of the great struggle for citizenship that is going on in this community!
4. To bring about better race relations. by speeches, letters, and conferences.
5. To expand the league's services, by obtaining an office, telephone services, typewriter and office personnel.
6. To encourage qualified Negroes to become candidates for public office - city, county and state.
7. To aid Negroes in making proper adjustments to social and political changes.
8. To acquaint the communities with the necessity and the importance of being involve in politics. Can you take politics out of the school system? If you do what would happen to school officials local and state? Where would the money to operate the school system come from? Politicians appropriate this money. In other words would we have a school system?
9. To assist the people in learning the names of all of the individuals in charge of the city government and the county government.
10. To publish voters League news papers periodically.

Respectfully submitted  
The Executive Committee

Mr. G.W. Pittman, Chairman  
Mr. E.L. Simpkins  
Rev. R. Junious  
Rev. A. Howard  
Mr. W.m. Tillman, president  
Mrs. G.G. Hardy, Secretary  
Rev. S. Stewart  
Rev. Gafney  
Mr. W. Gallon  
Mr. R.R. Cox