

MEMO TO SOUTHERN PROJECTS      July 1965

FROM Judi Nusbaum and Dodi Smith - RESEARCH

RE: Title VI Complaints

Please note the following excerpt from a letter to George Wiley from a member of the Washington D.C. chapter of the Medical Committee for Human Rights:

"The office of Asst. Sect. James Quigley, Dept. of Health Education and Welfare, Washington D. C. has a list of all the agencies in the country that have agreed to comply with civil rights law in order to get H.E.W. funds. Another list is of all the agencies that are facing H.E.W. investigation because citizens have complained that they violate civil rights law. This is a very small list.

The medical committee staff in the south, and volunteers all over the country are trying to get more complaints. There seems no reason to complain about schools now, since all the negotiation with those is being done individually by the agency for the fall term. Complaints about hospital welfare and health departments and colleges are very helpful. Our information is that government investigators are not experienced and have little information to use. All complaints should be sent to Mr. Quigley in Washington and each one should be on a separate sheet of paper and (ideally) should come with a cover letter from an organization instead of an individual. Welfare complaints should NEVER come from an individual client.

Complaints can be about segregated bathrooms, hours, waiting rooms. About Negro workers seeing only Negro clients. About emergency rooms in hospitals making Negroes wait until whites have been served. They also can be about individual problems -- HOWEVER -- (this is something that even the professionals on our staff have trouble understanding) the complaint that someone needs welfare and is hungry is NOT a civil rights complaint unless others with the same problem are treated differently or unless a person has been refused welfare (or threatened with it) because of movement activity. Cases like this are rumored all over the south, but none have been reported to the agency."