FEDERAL REGISTRARS

The FIP, in the following counties, has filed complaints with the Justice Dept., alleging discrimination, and asking for Federal Registrars:

HOLMES COUNTY: 60 complaints have been gathered, 25 of them sent to the Justice Dept. — sent Wednesday, August 17th.

SUNFLOWER CO: 33 complaints sent to the Justice Dept, approx 10 days ago.

AMITE COUNTY: 20 complaints sent to the Justice Dept, August 17th.

HUMPHREYS CO: 20 complaints sent to the Justice Dept, August 17th.

RANKIN COUNTY: 20 complaints sent to the Justice Dept, August 19th.

WARREN COUNTY: 20 complaints sent to the Justice Dept, August 21st.

In several counties the FIP is in the process of compiling complaints. They include Clarke County (about 15 complaints so far); Forrest County (in co-operation with the NAACP); Bolivar County (at least 18 complaints); Carroll County (14 complaints); Hinds County (about 25 complaints);

Panola County; Leake County (20 complaints — have still to be sent to Washington D.C.); Washington County (20 complaints, which are to be sent within the next few days to DC); Harrison County (2 complaints); Clay County (6 complaints); and Walthall County, and Newton County.

The main basis for complaints were several. The main/ seem to have been that Registrars were, or still are, refusing to register people who cannot read or write. This is stipulated under the new Voting Rights Bill.

Registrars in several counties — eg. Warren, Lauderdale, etc. — have been asking applicants whom they work for. In Amite County Negro applicants were requested to say who their nearest white neighbor was; and in the same county, whites on at least one occasion took photographs of Negroes going into the courthouse.

In Newton County affidavits have been signed to the effect that the Registrar's office has been closed on most days since the passage of the Voting Rights Bill.

Break-down: Six counties have filed complaints with the Justice Dept.

Eleven counties are in the process of getting complaints.
The figures are only an approximation, and not all the counties are included.

**AMITE**

3rd district. About 200 Negroes registered since the passage of the State voting law amendments. 3,560 Negroes are eligible to vote, * 1962 figure.

**LEAKE**

150? Registrar has reported that Negroes are registering at a rate of between 20-40 a day. 3,397 eligible to vote.

**CLARKE**

About 500 over the past 3 weeks. 2,998 eligible to vote.

**Clay**

About 350 the county is just over 50% Negro.

**JASPER**

No figure available, but registration said to be very slow. Justice Dept. suit against Jasper was heard earlier this year. 3,675 eligible to vote.

**KEMPER**

No figure. Registration slow. 3,221 eligible to vote.

**MARION**

Slow, Police have told people its inadvisable to register. Freedom house was firebombed about a month ago. 3,630 eligible to vote.

**JEFFERSON**

No figure.

**JONES**

No figure. Federal Registrars to start registering.

**WASHINGTON**

2,000 plus registered 20,619 eligible to vote.

**ISSAQUENA**

A report that 85-100 people are registering each week. ? Over 50% Negro

**BOLIVAR**

Rosedale: 150 in last 2 weeks Cleveland: 20 in last 2 weeks Shaw: No figure. ? Over 50% Negro

**WARREN**

700 last week 150 on Mon Aug. 15 10,726 eligible to vote

**Claiborne**

Very few registered. 3,969 eligible to vote

**PIKE**

Between 300 and 1,000; both figures have been given. 10,366 eligible to vote (n.b. 5,458 whites are registered to vote)

**MADISON**

3,000 approx. Federal Registrars in Madison 13,657 eligible to vote.

**GREENWOOD**

(LeFlore) 3,000 approx. Federal Registrars in Leflore.
Voter Registration figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Figures</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUMPHREYS</td>
<td>About 200 people registered over the past three weeks. 5,616 Negroes eligible to vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORREST</td>
<td>About 550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARKSD</td>
<td>A report that 60-60 people a day are registering to vote. 6,994 eligible to vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNFLOWER</td>
<td>700 before the passage of the State voting law changes. 13,354 eligible to vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOLMES</td>
<td>60-70 people going down to register a day. This is the Registrar's 8,757 eligible to vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>YAZOO</td>
<td>According to Registrar, he is now registering 30-50 Negroes a day. 8,719 eligible to vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARROLL</td>
<td>180 registered</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRITTEN</td>
<td>About 350</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCOTT</td>
<td>Registrar says he is registering 8-10 a day, and 61 one day. 3,752 eligible to vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEWTON</td>
<td>300 approx.</td>
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<td>HARRISON</td>
<td>65 in two weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADAMS</td>
<td>Approx 1,000 (mostly from Natchez).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hinds</td>
<td>No figure. At a guess 36,138 eligible to vote over 1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOWDES</td>
<td>About 150</td>
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</table>

- More than 50% Negro

- OMITTED Neshoba County: about 150 registered. Good in Stelló, slow in Philadelphia

- 3,752 eligible to vote

- 3,018 eligible to vote

- 8,362 eligible to vote

- 3,018 eligible to vote

- 8,719 eligible to vote

- 8,757 eligible to vote

- 5,616 Negroes eligible to vote

- 4,018 eligible to vote

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The Pattern of Registration

Registrars in every Mississippi county have now received a letter from the Attorney General, Katzenbach. This, in effect, tells them that they should register people who can't read and write.

We know that in the majority of counties, Registrars are not complying with this stipulation. We also have evidence that in at least two counties, Claiborne and Madison, the Registrar has used both the six question test and the old registration form since the state changed certain voting laws.

Of the counties where the Registrar has been registering people who cannot read and write - Warren, Issaquena, Lauderdale, and Washington - registration has been high. So far that is.

The Justice Dept. people have been visiting several counties - going to the project offices and people in the community. They have not been too optimistic over the possibility of many more Federal Registrars coming into Mississippi. We have heard - through the grapevine - that L.B.J. is running out of Federal Registrars.

The Referendum:

In most counties people who had been registered under a month were not allowed to vote.

There were however some exceptions. In Holmes county 25-30 people voted who had only registered recently. In Carroll County everyone who was a registered voter was allowed to vote.

In Issaquena County, or more polling places were not open. In Sunflower County, people were asked to produce three poll tax receipts. In Warren county there separate ballot boxes for White and Negro. In Clarke county poll tax receipts were required.

Affidavits have been gathered. These will be sent to the Washington EDP office to support the Challenge.