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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE INTEGRATION TO DOWNGRADE NEGROES

Integration of all Agricultural Extension Service offices under a Department of Agriculture directive is resulting in the downgrading of all Negro County agents, according to the latest information available to SNCC. The AES is responsible for the dissemination of agricultural information to farmers.

The directive, making integration of all offices by December 31st mandatory, is being carried out by the white state directors, and the procedure has without exception been to remove Negro County agents wherever they exist and appoint them assistant to the white agent. The AES director in each state is appointed by the president of the state white land grant college.

Lloyd Davis, head of the AES program, has ruled that this is a matter for state directors since county agents are state employees. Many members of the AES department, particularly the Title VI Compliance Office, have maintained that the agents are actually federal or quasi-federal officials; the county agents are paid with federal funds.

The Home Demonstration Service, female counterpart of AES, is being "desegregated" in the same manner.

The Georgia AES now requires that applicants for a county agent position who lack an MS degree be enrolled in the MS program at the University of Georgia. The predominantly Negro land grant college is not acceptable.

4-H clubs, also under AES, will be considered integrated if they simply give notice that they will not discriminate. Supervision will rest with the state AES director.