

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM LABOR UNION

REC'D - NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

STATE OFFICE

SEP 24 1965

Dear Friends,

We are sending you a report about the MFLU. We hope to send these reports out fairly often. If you know people who would like to get these reports, please let us know.

The state headquarters of the MFLU is in Shaw, Mississippi. The union began there in April and is now in about 10 Mississippi counties and is also in about 4 in Tennessee. The MFLU wants \$1.25 an hour for all people who work because most farm workers in Mississippi only get \$.30 an hour and this includes many children and some workers, particularly the maids, don't even get this.

We struck in the spring when the people were chopping cotton, and in the summer we had some people to strike at the restaurants and motels. Now we are trying to get more organized at the state headquarters and to get better communications with the locals. And now we are working hard to get more members and more people to strike against the slave wages of Mississippi and other places in the south.

If you want to help the union, you can either help one local or you can send things to the state headquarters. Please don't send things to individuals, even if they ask you to. The union is trying to help all the people on strike and it isn't just welfare.

The address of the state headquarters is: MFLU, Box 547, Shaw, Mississippi, 754-9781. If you want to send things to a local send it to: MFLU, care of the local Chairman (see the list inside). Please let the state headquarters know if you send something to a local. And anyone raising funds is supposed to have a letter from the state chairman.

Also some of our records of money people sent in were destroyed. If you sent any money to the union please write us and tell us how much you sent and when.

If you have any questions call or write the state headquarters. If there are things you think people should know about the union, write to us and we will try to answer them in the next report.

Keep in touch.

George Shelton, Jr.
Chairman

Mississippi Freedom Labor Union

Box 547
Shaw, Mississippi
754-9781

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM LABOR UNION

report from George Shelton, State Chairman

The Spring strike was not a success but it was a gain in the strike because most places in the Delta wages was raised from \$.30 an hour to \$.35 and \$.40 an hour. There were several reasons why the strike was not successful -- one was people were scared they were going to lose a lots because they were not getting support at that time. One other would be that we didn't have enough people from plantations. Most plantations had posted signs on them and we had to slip on and slip off. Then some people were thrown off plantations and had no where to live. We had to buy tents for them, others lights were taken out. Now the strikers are planning for a fall strike. Now we have about 6 county on strike all together, we have about 2 or 300 people on strike and no transportation here to go to other places and see what is going on. We don't have enough money to buy paper to send out news letters so that one place will know what's going on in other places but people are still willing to strike even if it calls for suffering but if we don't have a car in some of these places it will be just as it was before in the spring strike that a lot of the people on the plantations will be missed. We will also have to have a fair amount of food and clothing for that many people. Union people are going to Washington to lobby about the minimum wage bill and to try to get some support from other places such as trying to get an issue of food every month for twelve months a year. There are about 100 union people going up on the 14th of Sept. and for the rest of the Fall some of the people are going to form cooperatives, like sewing coops and leather coops. We are also going to carry people to the employment office from all parts of the state and we will have people working in each office to get news out to other parts of the state and to mail information to the northern contacts that we have. We also have an F.L.U. in Tenn., and Arkansas, North Carolina, Alabama, and Louisiana are interested in the F.L.U., but they are supporting themselves so we don't have to support them. In Tenn. they are planning to strike this fall. They have been trying to start a union in tenn. since June and they have begun trying to get people on strike. Now they call it the T.F.L.U. or the Tenn. Freedom Labor Union. Tribbett are still living in tents and they have 8 families on strike and they don't have enough tents so we are now trying to get the tents from Fayette County, Tenn. and they also have to have food.

Keep Pushing,

George Shelton,

Chairman, MFLU