

Committee for Lowndes County

With 80 percent of the vote, the Negroes of Lowndes County should be able to install a government that is honest, fair, and trustworthy. But will the rich, white oligarchy permit free elections? They have not in the past, and there is no reason to believe that they will on November 8th. Election Day.

It is with this understanding of the crisis in Lowndes, and with the conviction of the importance of the movement there that the Committee for Lowndes County was formed. Organization in the North is needed to educate people about what the "Black Panther" Party means to them; to counter the vicious, racist, scare propaganda in the Northern Press that is being used against LCFO in particular; and to support the LCFO by raising funds for it so that it can continue to help the people who need it!

So far the Committee has had success in reaching the community. In response to our appeal, people have donated enough money to send down a new, urgently needed mimeograph, and two reconditioned typewriters, as well as office supplies and money. But our work is just beginning. LCFO does not even have an office. LCFO does not even have a telephone (sometimes a matter of life or death in the South), nor enough gasoline to travel from place to place to register and organize voters. But most important of all, LCFO has not enough money to support the local, dedicated, full-time organizers who have the responsibility of bringing people together so that they can meet to work out their problems. Money is desperately needed to maintain these people in the field in order to make sure that their valuable work is not interrupted!

They need YOUR help NOW

The Lowndes County Freedom Organization is an example of self-help and self-determination that offers hope to millions of Americans of all colors. You can insure the success of this vital experiment by:

DONATING money for gasoline for travel publicity, telephones, and all the things it takes to run and coordinate an effective campaign.

PROVIDING a sum of \$20 which will support a full-time organizer and his family for one week, and will insure that the valuable work being done will continue uninterrupted.

PLEDGING a sum of \$25 which will help support one of the many families who live in Tent City because they have been kicked off their land and fired from their jobs -- all because they tried to register to vote.

VOLUNTEERING to help work with the Committee in its efforts to educate, publicize, and raise funds for the struggle for human dignity where ever it might grow.

Make all checks out to:

Committee for Lowndes County

Address all correspondence to:

Committee for Lowndes County
P. O. BOX 781
Berkeley, California 94701

THANK YOU!

Support the

Lowndes

County

Freedom

Organization

Committee for Lowndes County

Where is Lowndes County?

Lowndes County is in the "Heart of Dixie." It is a county in Alabama, and its population is 80% black, while its government is 100% white. Although Negroes do most of the work in Lowndes, they have nothing to show for it. They own but a tiny portion of the land; they attend school in dilapidated, overcrowded, and understaffed schools; and the roads in front of their homes are unpaved. In brief, they live under conditions of poverty, poor housing, over work, under pay, high taxation, with little hope for the future. This life is in striking contrast to the life of the white minority, which owns most of the land, has good jobs, has paved streets, and attends spacious, modern schools.



Lowndes is not a poor county. It has rich plantations, and the \$30 million Dan River Textile Mill. The county government could easily eliminate all remnants of poverty, pave all roads, recondition all schools if it wanted to; but so far it has not seen fit to do so. One reason is that all large land holdings and the Dan River Mill goes untaxed; consequently, there is little money for government, and almost all this goes for the white community.

What is the L.C.F.O.?

For the first time since Reconstruction, the Negro in the South has the vote. But they reason that, "Having the vote without having a say as to who is running is as good as no vote at all." "Negroes in the North have the vote, but they're no better off than we are," they observe. So they have decided to start the Freedom Organization which they control, that they can call their own. For the first time these people have gotten together to form an organization that is truly democratic and responsive to their needs.

The Afro-American community of Lowndes County lives in constant fear. Fear of not having enough to eat. Fear of not having enough to wear. Fear of not having a roof over one's head. Fear of disease. And fear of police suppression if it tries to do anything about its problems.

But the black people have decided that things have to change. They are "sick and tired of being sick and tired." So they have formed the LOWNDES COUNTY FREEDOM ORGANIZATION in order to fight for political power -- the only way to change social conditions.

The L. C. F. O. means the beginnings of a new life for the people who live there. A new hope for a better future: better jobs, better schools, better neighborhoods, better lives! It means an over all feeling of dignity and self-respect.

The L. C. F. O. is a vitally encouraging example to all people, black and white. It is an example of "little people" getting together to solve their problems, to control their government, and hence control their own lives.

What is L.C.F.O. doing?

• **Registering Voters.** Two years ago there were no Negroes registered. Today after SNCC initiated a registration drive, the LCFO has registered over 2600 of the 5000 eligible Negroes. Even though over 130% of the whites are registered (!), Negroes still have the majority!

• **Running Candidates.** Negroes came together democratically to nominate candidates that would honestly represent them. The candidates are for: Sheriff, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, Coroner, and three members of the Board of Education. These candidates are running on a program of tax reform, school reform, and general social-civic reform.

ONE MAN - ONE VOTE



Their symbol is the "Black Panther" which stands for courage, determination, and freedom. It was chosen as an appropriate response to the racist Alabama Democratic Party symbol, the white rooster and its slogan, "White Supremacy/ For the Right."

• **Health Clinics.** Over 90% of the children in the county are undernourished. Most of the adults suffer with high blood pressure. There is a high mortality rate among black people. LCFO is doing things for the people NOW! It is initiating a health campaign, and it is setting up a clinic with doctors and other medical staff.