

SUBJECT: Proposal for a Voter Registration Drive in Sunflower County

FROM: Joe Harris, Sunflower Staff

Sunflower County is located in the center of the Mississippi Delta. It has many plantations throughout the county. All the towns with the exception of one, which is the county seat, are plantation towns. The population ratio of Negro to white is 68% Negro to 32% white. The voting ratio is 62% Negro to 38% white. Out of 14,000 eligible Negroes to register to vote only 3,000 are registered. Out of 9,000 whites eligible to register to vote over 8,000 are registered to vote.

It is very important that every Negro in Sunflower County become registered if Negroes are to gain any kind of political power in the city or county government. It is also important that the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party become much stronger on a local and county level. The municipal elections in Sunflower City and the other towns in Sunflower County will be held as soon as the Court sets the date, probably in the Winter.

The facts of the above paragraphs are my purpose for writing this proposal for the total of \$12,600 for a four month (August through November, 1966) voter registration drive, political education classes and building a strong political base in the rural areas and towns of Sunflower County. As people become registered, meetings will be held in rural churches. After a period of time, elections will be held in all five beats in the county to elect an executive committee to deal primarily with the elections.

Contact has been made with people who will be able to work on this project full time. The office in Sunflower already provides financial reports to those groups now providing money for the program.

The following is how the money will be used:

	<u>Per Week</u> <u>per unit</u>	<u>Per Month</u> <u>per Unit</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Units</u>	<u>Total for</u> <u>Four Months</u>
Staff Needs				
salary	\$20		16 staff	\$5,120
Office Needs				
rent		\$ 30	3 offices	360
utilities		5	3 offices	60
phone		25	3 phones	300
supplies				
Typewriter Rental		12	3 typewriters	144
mimeo rental		18	3 mimeos	216
paper, ink, stencils, etc.		185		740
postage		250		1,000
Transportation				
car rental		200	2 cars	1,600
gas	\$15		7 cars	1,680
repairs and servicing		20	7 cars	980
Contingency fund and misc. expenses		100		300
TOTAL				\$12,600

1. call Bill
2. try to get story into
newspapers -
attempt to play down - "Black Power"