

COUNTY REPORTS, January 9--Jan. 21, 1966

FIRST DISTRICT: ATTALA CO. (KOSCIUSKO)--On Jan. 2, they had the fourth meeting held since Gunter has been working there. 320 people attended, 85% of them adults. A petition with 8 demands had been signed by 160 people and presented to the Mayor; he said they should give it to the City Attorney. Both the Mayor and the Attorney were invited to the meeting, but neither of them came. School kids are also circulating a petition to improve the school, with 13 points.

Clay Co. (From the Clay Co. Newsletter)--The Ivy Memorial Hospital in West Point has practiced discrimination racially for many years. Now it is being broken down. The Clay Co. FDP has filed complaints with Washington DC. Washington responded by sending a man to investigate. The investigator called at the FDP office and asked that I recommend someone to speak to the hospital Administrator, Mr. Catledge. Mr. Catledge spoke with Mr. John Carr, principal of the Negro H.S., who is an "Uncle Tom." He went to the hospital and found everything to be satisfactory and made no complaints about the segregated facilities at the hospital. The Clay Co. Executive Committee acted swiftly, immediately sending off complaints to the Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare. During Christmas vacation, the FDP visited and questioned me and Mrs. Dora Adams about segregated facilities at the hospital. I have learned that the entrance to the hospital is now through the front door for all patients and the back door is locked. The curtains that divide the Negro and white employees in the dining room has been removed and dining facilities are now integrated. We plan to have further discussion with Mr. Catledge about integration of wards. We are not sure what the results of this meeting will be, but we will inform the community of any further developments in the next newsletter.

MCNURIE CO. (Aberdeen)--There have several incidents connected with integration of the white H.S., On Jan. 10, a carfull of teenagers threw rocks and bricks at worker Eddie Richmond and tried to run him down. On Jan. 19, a white student attacked a Negro student with brass knuckles as he was walking home from school. This is the fifth time the white guy has attacked a Negro student, and no action has yet been taken against him. The FDP is also supporting a boycott of the Mattex Seed Mill, which recently fired a Negro employee whose kid attend the integrated school.

OKTIBBEHA CO. (Starkville)--The FDP office here was broken into and ransacked sometime between Jan. 8;--Jan.11.

WINSTON CO. (Letter from Mr. Roosevelt Young)--I would like to report the organizing of my Citizenship Class. The class had a program Friday night to help introduce the Citizenship School to the community and the adjacent communities. The students recited 7 topics from their workbooks, with Freedom Songs in between, and the guest speaker spoke on the duties of a citizen. The program was very educational and everyone seemed to have enjoyed it. I wrote this that some other class may use this same tact in getting the purpose of the citizenship school to the community. I would also like to report that the health and welfare committee met for the second time with the manager of the County Welfare Office and discussed the food distribution program (Project HELP). We explained to him that since Negroes would be hired on the program, we intend for it not to happen as it did the ASCS elections, and that was the hiring of Negroes just because they were Negroes and Uncle Toms, and instead we wanted qualified people able to represent themselves, their county, their state and their nation. He told us that he was sure the Board would approve the program, and asked us to present the names that we thought were qualified, and promised that the people hired, would be taken from our list.

Note: When your group goes to the Welfare Office to ask about HELP, It is important that you try to get the people of your choice both on the county advisory board, as well as being hired for the jobs with the program. For more information, contact the FDP State Office.)

SECOND DISTRICT--BENTON CO.--(Report by Rebecca Dorse)--As far as education is concerned I like Ashland Attendance Center (The formerly all-white H. S.) very much. I've learned more at Ashland Hi than I usually learned at my former school. Our teachers are very nice to us and they don't treat the Negroes and different from the whites. So far everything is going along smoothly. I think everything is going to work out after all. It feels good to really know that you are learning something that you need to know and that you want to know. It hard work, but its rewarding.

BOLIVAR CO.--The boycott in Rosedale is continuing. The FDP and the Citizen Boycotting Committee are now concentrating on getting merchants to hire Negroes. Last Friday, the FDP and the Boycoll Committee met with the Mayor of Rosedale, the City Attorney, and the Chief of Police. The delegation was promised action on three demands; Paving of streets in the Negro community, additional street lighting, and the hiring of one negro policeman. Merchants have so far held out against hiring negroes. Since the boycott began, there Negroes who all work at one store, and several whites have been layed off. Merchants say they can't hire anyone else because of lack of business. (OVER)

Bolivar Co., cont.

Pickets have been harassed by police and local whites. One man told Frank Davis "I'll put you in front of the firing squad and murder the whole lot of you." The Deputy Sheriff on one occasion encouraged city police to get rough with the pickets. Pickets are parading with signs such as "We want jobs now."

In Shelby, the Negro school has drawn up proposals for using federal money under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The plan was made up by the Superintendent and it includes 1. remedial reading, 2. hiring 16 additional teachers, 3. 8 mobile classrooms, 4. in-service sessions for staff, 5. Providing shoes and clothing for students.

The community also would like free lunches and free text books, and will take this matter up with the Superintendent.

CARROLL CO.--On Jan. 6, two federal registrars came into Carroll Co. After a few days, one left, so there is now only one, in the Carrollton Post Office. People from far out areas of the county, particularly Vaiden, are afraid to come to Carrollton to get registered, because it has a bad reputation. Also, Carroll Co. needs a car to help with its registration drive. As of now, between 30-47 people have been going down each day.

On Dec. 14, the Carroll Co. MFDP decided to begin building a Freedom House located 2 miles south of Blackhawk, Miss. It is now in operation, which is very small, about a 12 by 12 foot building, but the plans of the members is to build more rooms for young peoples and adult classes, plans for the Headstart program. We ask that every member of the MFDP who lives in the community will help the working get the other rooms built, and let us make our community helpful for both young and old. And most of all let us protect ourselves, our building, and our community. We ask the cooperation and the help of everyone who are citizens of Carroll County that we must learn to work together without racial discrimination and threats.

(NOTE: Last summer, the old Carroll Co. FDP office was burned down.)

HOLMES CO.--By January 10, 2,299 people had been registered by the federal registrar, and 700 by the local registrar. This leaves 6000 Negroes still to be registered. (When everyone is registered, there will be 9000 Negro citizens voting in Holmes Co.) The whites have 4000 registered, and no more to go.

After a temporary committee went to the County Welfare Office, they found out that the Welfare Office will hire at least five Negroes for some good jobs, if the Negro people will apply.

After FDP lawyers complained several times to the Superintendent of Schools about how white children on the school bus were annoying the kids of Mr. Aaron Malone, and the bus driver wouldn't help protect the kids, the Superintendent finally fired the bus driver, and expelled the school boy who was causing the most trouble.

On Jan. 12, the cafe belonging to Mr. Curtis Hoover near Lexington burned down. Mr. Hoover has 4 children in the integrated school, and was an ASCS candidate this year.

ISSAQUENA CO.--On Jan. 17, members of the FDP County Exec Comm met with the County Board of Supervisors to discuss CAP, HELP, and any proposals for improving and building roads in the Negro community and laying down drainage. This was the first time the FDP met with the Board.

LEFLORE CO.--The Greenwood FDP managed to stop approval of a CAP advisory board which had been chosen by the white power structure. They got a man from the OEO office in Atlanta to come to Greenwood to observe a community meeting at which the people were to have chosen their own board. At the meeting the elections were never held, but the FDP got the group there to approve the boycott of the downtown area, which has been going on since the beginning of the year.

Police let FDP picket downtown without harassment, but on Jan. 13, James Moore was arrested for passing a bad check, in a store that he had never been to, and was later bonded out for \$100.

QUIMAN CO.--After the Marks FDP wrote to the Department of Agriculture; called them on the phone, and finally called Congressman Joseph Resnick, The complaint was that people from the plantations were getting commodities, and townspeople weren't. Now it is reported that plantation people have to wait on line along with everyone else, and also people now have a little shed to wait in, although there are no lights in it.

On Jan. 18 there was an MFLU meeting in Darling, where they talked about commodities, the Education Act of 1965, Welfare, and paying Poll Tax.

A letter was sent out to all parents of school children around Jan. 10, telling them that they now had freedom of choice on sending their child to school. All replies have to be returned by January 21.

WASHINGTON CO.--On Jan. 7, Mr. Jake Ayers, a plaintiff in an employment suit against the Greenville Mills, was fired from his job.

THIRD DISTRICT--ADAMS CO.: The KKK recently burned a car of a Negro man who had just been promoted to a higher office at International Paper Mills in Natchez. In the past 5 or 6 months, several other Negro men working at this plant have been harassed. This shows that the Klan is fairly strong at this plant, which is one of the largest in Adams Co. (more)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

By now, you probably have heard about the meeting to be held in Mt. Beulah this Friday, for everyone in Mississippi who makes under \$3000 a year, to talk about food, jobs, money, and land, and how to get it. If by any chance you don't know about it, call immediately to the FDP State Office, or else call collect to Mike Higson in Edwards, Miss., 852-2622.

Since this meeting is so important, and since we hope that as many people as can will be there, So we are asking that you cancel all district meetings that are planned to occur during Jan. 28, 29, or 30, and hold them at Mt. Beulah instead. This includes the Second District FDP Convention, the Third District FDP Convention, and the First District Agriculture Subcommittee meeting, and the Statewide Finance Meeting.

OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Finance Subcommittee: This meeting was supposed to have taken place on Sun., Jan 30. It is being cancelled due to the Mt. Beulah meeting. However, we request that all counties send a report to the FDP State Office, c/o Finance Subcommittee, telling how much money your county can contribute to the State Office each month.

Education Subcommittee: Fourth District meeting, Sat., Feb. 5, at the FDP Office, 513-25th Av nus, Meridian. 11 a.m.

Remember there are ten subcommittees:

- Agriculture--Blackwell, Carr
- Education--Crowell
- Finance--Miles
- Health and Welfare--Devine
- National and Foreign Affairs--King
- Personnel--Connor
- Political Education--Gray
- Poverty Programs--Dilworth
- Voter registration and political programs--Guyot

In each county a committee should be formed, perhaps including one person from each supervisor's beat, so that you have these ten subcommittees in your county. When the subcommittees in each county are formed, please write to the State Office and tell us who is on each subcommittee.