

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

KEY MAILING LIST NO. 11

COUNTIES REPORTS MARCH 22, 1966

WEST POINT .(CLAY CO.)

A group of people are getting ready for the select buying campaign. Working feed mill program, school program. Working on board of registration.

LOWNDES CO. (COLUMBUS)

A group of people are working to get every one lined up with their own precinct.

CLARKE CO. (QUITMAN)

Some of the people of Clarke Co. is working on the welfare program, also the voter registration.

MENDENHALL (SIMPSON CO.)

A group of students are working along with Charles Anderson on board of registration, welfare, social security. The negro are filing a suit against the city police.

QUITMAN CO. (MARKS)

A group of people of Marks Mississippi are fighting the CAP board. They are separating the petition saying that the CAP was not selected in a democratic way. They are trying to get Head Start school open on a volunteer basis. The most important thing is that the people are organizing the people against CAP.

SHARKEY CO. (

Mr. Alexander is working with people trying to get them to go down to the court house to registrar to vote. Also he is working to see that anyone who isn't left out on the medical care before March 31. He is working on the health center trying to get them in line, also on welfare. He has been able to get two people on welfare who really needed to be on welfare. The public library is now open for the first time to negro.

WARREN CO. (VICKSBURG).

March 21, 1966 there was a meeting in Warren Co. last night. They discussed several things that they had been asking the city for. The mayor said that he would meet their needs. The mayor promised to get uniforms for the negro cross guard as soon as possible, but so far he has done nothing. They asked for the up rating of the negro policeman, also for the stores to hire negro, up rate the negro that are working there now. They asked for negro to be put on the board of education. The mayor and his alderman said that they will meet with a group of people Friday at 2:00 o'clock. They hope to have about 1000 negro standing around the city hall. There are nine negro on this committee.

March 20, 1966
Route 2, Box 20
Batesville, Miss

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you concerning Operation Help, the federal food program sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and the office of Economic

KEY MAILING LIST NO.11

Letter Cont.

Opportunity. When the list of counties who had applied to received this program was published, I, Robert Miles, noticed that Panola County was not among them. I then called Miss Gandy, the state official who is coordinating the program. Miss Gandy informed me that the county board of supervisors was responsible for accepting the program and urged me to speak with them. In company with Mr. C.J. Williams and Reverend W.J. Middleton, I went to the board of Supervisors meeting on Monday, March 1st. At this meeting we asked the board why they had not signed up for the program. They told us that Operation Help was only scheduled to last for six months, and after that time people would be upset if it were discontinued. Since the county could not afford to continue it alone, they had decided not to have it at all. The Board then told us that there were many people in Panola County who could not even afford to buy the food stamps, they said that this was not true, everyone could afford to buy the food stamps. They told us that they would take care of getting food for the poor people who are old and already on the welfare and the young people "can take care of themselves."

I would appreciate any assistance you could give us to bring Operation Help to Panola County and help the thousands of hungry people who live in this county.

Sincerely yours,

66; Nicholas Flanbery
United States
Department of Justice

Robert H. Miles

QUITMAN COUNTY(MARK MISS)

We are organizing against the CAP board. We have organized our county and committee for CDGM. Acting under instructions from CDGM, we wrote Mr. Roney executive director of Mid-State Opportunity, Inc, and three members of the board asking them to fund the program we have organized. Only Mr. L.V. Craig Supt of Education, replied, saying that he could not have anything to do with Atty Partee Denton (atty for the board of supervisors and law partner of the chmn of the regular Democratic Party). The supervisor from Et. 1, and other members of the black and white power structures, appeared Wednesday at the school, at a meeting of the Quitman Co. Voters League (the "Tom" Negro org.). He outlined his program, and attacked CDGM indirectly. Rev. S.A. Allen (VA chmn of the CDGM Headstart Committee) attacked the program and was loudly applauded despite the fact that at least half the audience was teachers, etc. We decided to draw up a petition saying we don't think Mc Roney's was set up in a democratic way, and that we want the CDGM program. These have been given out and are being circulated. The community is relatively united. Almost every community in the county has a committee organized, the FDP is working with the CDGM, as they are the same people. We are having a usual problems getting around the county. Joe Bateman has returned to Marks. A Justice Dept. attorney said (as near as he can figure out) that the JD has determined that the registrar is not registering illiterates, and is trying to decide what to do about it. Apparently they do not want to send Federal registrars unless absolutely necessary.

3. (Key Mailing #11)

2501-16th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi
March 11, 1966

Mr. Steven Lowens tien
Room 827
Office of Economic Opportunity
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lowenstien:

I work in the Commodity house of the Lauderdale County Welfare Department as a warehouseman. I started working there on February 17, 1966 when the "Operation Help" program began. Since that time I have noticed several ways in which Negroes are being discriminated against in this "Operation Help" program.

First, many white people are allowed to "cut the line". There is usually a long line of at least 100 people waiting to get the food. When a white person comes up to Mr. Donald, the white man in charge, saying that they must get their food right away, he gives it to them, ahead of all the Negro people waiting in line. Also, the white people who work in the commodity house take their friends down to the front of the line, and get their food for them right away, while all the rest of the people have to wait in line.

Second, usually, when a Negro person comes to get the Commodities, the 2 white men that work in the commodity house rush them so much that they get confused and leave half of their food behind, because it was not made clear to them what was theirs. The white men do not rush the white people that come to get food, but help them out as much as they can. Right now, there is a huge stack of food that people have left behind in the warehouse.

Third, when the Negro people first go to be certified, they are not told to bring a statement of their earning (check stub, etc.) When they come for the food the second month, they get in the long line of persons waiting, and at least a half day or longer only to find that when they get to the window, the lady at the window tells them they will have to go back upstairs and be re-certified. When this has been done, the people must again get in line and wait for another half day or more before they finally get their food. This long delay has caused many people to get discouraged and disgusted. They do not have time for all this and it has caused many people to go home without the food. This happens much more often to Negro people than white.

Fourth, myself and the other Negro men working in the warehouse are given more and harder work to do than the white men that are working there. We must always do all of the cleaning up in the morning and afternoon. We are always the ones to bring up all the food from the back of the warehouse to the front where it is given out. As well as bring up the food, from the back, I must help distribute it, while the white men who helps me distribute it does not ever help bring it to the front. We must work a full 8 hours every day, while the white men doing the same work in the warehouse put in 7 1/2 hours every day, I presume that we will all be paid the same. Mr. Donald who is in charge of the commodity house, is constantly trying to rush us. Mr. Donald never pushed the white men that work there. We never start giving out the food on time, in the morning, we are supposed to start distributing the food at 8:00 a.m.. Usually it is at least 8:30 before we start. Likewise, we do not start distributing in the afternoon until about 2:30 p.m., while we should start at 2:00 p.m.. This delay is mainly because there are only 2 of us bring the food to the front, while the 2 white men do not do anything to help. If they are not going to help, we need more men to work in the warehouse.

Fifth, I have not yet been told how much I will get paid for sure.

Letter Cont.

I have asked Mr. Walker, who is in charge of the welfare program here in Lauderdale County, how much I will be making and he told me that he "think" I will be making about \$ 190.00 per month. This is not close to a living wage these days. It is not even minimum wage. I can not begin supporting my wife and 7 children with 190.00. I have also written a letter to Miss Gandy, the Mississippi state office, Welfare commissioner in Jackson, asking about the amount you would be earning. It has been 2 1/2 weeks since I sent that letter off and I still have not received an answer. I still do not know what I will get paid.

Very Truly Yours,

A.C. Henderson

cc/ Mrs. Hazel Palmer
MFDP Office
507 1/2 North Parish St.
Jackson, Mississippi

Mr. William Zierden
Office of Economic Opportunity
101 Marietta Street N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

ACH/jm

POLICE CHIEF OF INDIANOLA HEADS C.A.P. Board in Sunflower Co.

About two weeks ago the Police Chief of Indianola, Mr. Bryce Alexander, was appointed head of the C.A.P. Board in Sunflower Co.

The P.D.P. immediately protested this appointment. We called for an investigation of the O.E.O. programs in Sunflower Co.

Two Congressmen, Representatives Augustus Hawkins, and Joseph Regnick, also condemned the appointment.

They released a press statement in which they said: "We were appalled to learn over the week-end that the Police Chief of Indianola, Bryce Alexander, has been named Director of Sunflower County Progress Inc. This organization is the anti-poverty agency of Sunflower County, Mississippi, and last month received a grant of over \$27,000 from the office of Economic Opportunity for program development.

Chief Alexander took an indefinite leave of absence from the Indianola Police Force, which has headed since October 1, 1963. During this period, Negro citizens of that town have endured a continuing experience of terrorism, beatings, harassment, bombings and interference with their civil rights. The Police Dept. has not only been ineffective in combating these crimes, but has even participated in them.

Police Chief Alexander is the man who will actually set up and operate the poverty program in the county. We charge Sunflower Co with cynicism and bad faith, and of attempting to hoodwink the office of Economic Opportunity.

...It is clear to us that no longer can the O.E.O. continue to allow prejudiced local governments to corrupt and block the implementation of the nations war on poverty."

The Congressman concluded by asking for an immediate investigation by O.E.O. of Chief Alexander's appointment.

STAR PROGRAM in Leake County: Report from Andrew Green, FDP.

Between 9.00 and 10.00 this morning Mrs Stella Wilder and I talked to Mr. Richard Polk of Carthage, who is director of the Star Program in Leake County. Mr Polk told us he didn't have any people from Ofahoma Community going to "Star Program". They have two communities where there are 30 people, each going to school, and one community have two people going. Mr. Polk promised us he would get people from Ofahoma community to go to Star.
