

[FIELD REPORT-- LITTLE ROCK SNCC (Howard Himmelbaum-Mitchell Zimmerman; week ending Friday July 22, 1966).

1. Fund-raising: The lack of money had forced us at the beginning of this month to move out of the office on Ninth Street. We are now working out of our apartment. We also eliminated several phones,,and some of the rented typewriters. This all saves considerable money. However we are still on the verge of paying the phone bill that arrived at the beginning of the month. August threatens!

In response to this, among other things, we are sending out an in-Arkansas fund-raising mailing, to lists of potential sympathizers we have obtained surreptitiously from other alleged human relations groups. Enclosed is the letter and some enclosure being sent out with it. Particular emphasis is drawn to a copy of letter from a local Nazi. Also part of the mailing is a copy of a letter of ours printed in the Arkansas Gazette dealing with some attacks on 'Black Power'. We are not finding it especially difficult to explain to white people who have supported us in the state what we mean by black power, and though many of them think the use of the term unfortunate, they are not hostile to us.

2. Contacts for a possible Little Rock Project: At Philander Smith College in Little Rock, there is now going on an OEO sponsored educational program for Pulaski County High School kids called "Upward Bound". They live at the college, and there's a Winter follow up and next summer also, etc. there are about 150 Negro students in it and no whites (whites were invited but none were interested). We got ourselves invited to explain what SNCC is and black power and that stuff to the kids. Five times, we lead discussing of forty-five minute classes of about 25-30 kids each, on SNCC etc. We arranged to meet the next day Wednesday, with some of the kids who were sufficiently interested to want to do something in their own communities, in the difference ghetto neighborhoods in Little Rock and North Little Rock. The two of us and JIM Jones met with about 15 such kids, who spent alot of time talking about the different things wrong with their areas-unpaved roads, no playgrounds, inadequate schools, etc. In a week and a half they are returning home, and we hope to use these contacts to begin organizing here in Little Rock. It is still, of course at a very preliminary stage.

3. Capital punishment: This morning at dawn, two men were suppose to be executed, one for murder (a white) and one for rape-murder a Negro. We spent a considerable portion of yesterday working on a last to get stays for these men from the Governor. We induced one of the gubernatorial candidates, Kenneth Sulcer to try to get Faubus to stay the execution of the Negro, and to make a statement on it, but before much could get in the press about it the courts granted the Negro a 20 day stay. (That's not quite as impressive (Sulcer) as it seems, only controversy over his chances seems to be whether he will be sixth or seventh in the seven man race). Anyway we may also get representatives of Sam Boyce and Brooks Hayes, two other candidates, to make efforts to save their lives--in fact someone in Hayes office even got a NY Times man to call the Governor, at the point when the Negro had been reprieved, to ask if Faubus was going to let the white man die when three Negroes had been reprieved in the last two weeks! We made a public statement for clemency and against capital punishment, but by that time both men had gotten stays from the courts, and nobody published it. It is also enclosed for what it's worth. The white man is scheduled to be executed Monday assuming something doesn't come of his stay, and we may try to have a vigil or a demonstration.

The Negro has twenty days.

4. The Democratic primary: We spent the remainder of yesterday talking to politicians. Because there is not any (or any coherent) alternative at this stage, Negroes will be voting in fairly great numbers in the Democratic Primary here on Tuesday. We were considering working for one of the candidates--people who look to us were interested in our advice-- but finally decided that nobody really offered enough for it to be worth actually endorsing or working for someone. For those who are

going to vote, who are interested, we are advising either Sam Boyce or Brooks Hays. The two men with the best chance are Frank Holt, a machine candidate supported by the leading racists in Eastern Arkansas, and Dale Alford, who defeated Hays in 1958 (in the wake of Little Rock) by accusing Hays ~~xxxx~~ of being a "moderate". The run-off, scheduled for August 8th, may see those two pitted against each other. (We have likened the choice, if it comes to it, to that of Jews deciding between Goerring and Himmler). There is also a Wallace style candidate, Jim Johnson (that name again!). He doesn't have much chance of making the primary, according to local scuttlebutt, but he's drawing votes and is a frightening type. He won't shake hands with Negroes. Hays is making a big pitch for the Negro vote on the basis of being for law and order and stuff in 1957, and the rest of his record. He seems to be genuinely unbigoted and interested in eliminating racism, but his record ain't as impressive as all that. Ted Lamb, a Little Rock ad man who was on the school board in 1957 and still, nine years later, has only two accounts in Little Rock because of his stand against Faubus then, tells us that he is never able to figure out quit what Hays did then. Actually, he didn't really say anything--he just didn't join the prevailing madness. That didn't cost him his seat, but a savior he's not. Sam Boyce is an anti-machine insurgent type, who might actually go a long way toward busting up the machine where they are still strong--which is most places. But the level of living is very high, and there's no telling who's really for what. Sulzer is non-existent, politically. (His central campaign office in Little Rock is staffed by his pregnant wife, his brother, and a friend). The remaining candidacy is of Raymond Rebsamen, a Little Rock businessman who is spending a mint on the campaign. Nobody sees that he has a chance, but he's moving some votes around. Actually the estimates of who's got what chance are all in the dark. According to some probably unreliable polls we've heard of fifth hand, more than half the voters haven't made up their minds, the spread between the first and fifth candidate ~~xxx~~ is only five per cent.

Bob Cableto, in Gould, found himself under pressure for information and advice for the Fourth Congressional District Race. So we ~~xx~~ did some research on all the candidates, and wound up in effect endorsing David Pryor, though we didn't make any public statement. We drew attention to the respects in which none of the candidates were responsive to the needs of poor Negro people. But people were going to vote, and there wasn't any black candidate, so we provided them with the information which enabled them to eliminate four of the five candidates. And spoke about some of the good points of the remaining candidate. Does this excommunicate us? Enclosed are our actual reports.

In Gould: Someone else, we don't know who, was beaten up by Police Chief Harold Pearson, who is currently being sued for a hundred-odd thousand dollars for beating up people. Bob has spent most of the last couple of weeks talking to people about the political races. There's a considerable amount of excitement over it, particularly because having so many people running makes it impossible to figure out what your vote is going to do, and who has what kind of chance, etc. In addition to the reports on Congressional candidates, we ~~sent~~ ^{sent} Bob some signs responding to billboards saying "HONEY PLEASE," a reference to Charles "Chuck" Honey, one of the Congressional candidates. A sign is enclosed.

In Phillips County: Although the county SNCC worker Myrtle Glascoe, has been in D. C. sick for about a month, a visit to the county last weekend revealed that activity is still continuing. In West Helena, the local movement has continued to raise money to support the freedom center. All over the county, the local movement organizations are running their own voter registration campaign. In Turner, in the Marvell School District (which has not filed assurances of compliance), the Turner Action Committee has been having weekly meetings to discuss action. They are going to sue the school board, and plan to run candidates for school board in September. Negro workers are filing a suit against the Mohawk Tire Company in West Helena, and against the union there, for discrimination in promotion practices and hiring practices. (Separate seniority lists, e.g.)

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P. S.---We're also doing some anti-Vietnam stuff here in Little Rock. In a couple of weeks, we expect a full page ad sponsored by Arkansans for Peace in Vietnam. Bob Cableton in Gould says folks there are interested in more information on the war, and minor-league WH expert - M. Zimmerman will make it down there some time soon for anti-administration harangues.