

Report from Charles McLaurin from Sunflower County. Taken by RDSR
Monday, February 13
Ruleville

Truck load of clothing to come down (25,00 lbs-) from Mass.
(Wednesday, Feb. 12)

As the truck was being unloaded by Ruleville citizens, a white fellow who owns the Ruleville Country Club, came by and took pictures of the people and of Charles McLaurin.

The following day the mayor of Ruleville made an announcement on the radio station from Cleveland (WCLD) saying that there was food and clothing being sent into Ruleville for all of the citizens of Sunflower, that they should come out and receive. He allegedly said that he had paid for part of the transportation (at a later date). That afternoon, about 500 Negroes came out to apply for food and clothing. After they asked the people to go to the courthouse to register to vote (Mrs. Hammer and He), we were told that the mayor had said that he had paid part of the transportation and that they should get the food without having to go to the courthouse. (NEGROES SAID THIS.) They announced that there (30 went) would be a meeting Friday night. At the meeting, they explained t

to the people that they would like to have them go to register because the food and cloth. was sent down for people who had been the victim of economic reprisals. Saturday and Monday they had 65 and 121 respectively. About 65 of the total no. were allowed to take the test. Monday (today) afternoon, had about 125 (another group) ready to go to the courthouse. They received word from Indianola (county seat) that registrar wasn't taking any

more because some of people were old and would take up too much time trying to feel out the application blank. McLaurin tried to get the registrar to let him fill out blanks if they (people) signed X in presence of two witnesses. He allowed McLaurin to sign one and then said that that was a waste of time since he wouldn't pass that person anyway.

Each town in the county was represented in the total number. Took people down in cars. Some traveled as far as 30-40 miles to get to Ruleville in order to go to the courthouse.

Plan to take 50-60 people to morrow. Plan to keep drive going. More food and clothing promised--should be in by next week.