Monday, December 7, 1964

HOLLY SPRINGS. Cleve Sellers/Barbara Brandt
William Seabron, Special Assistant to the Sec. of Agric., called
Cleve this morning and informed him that Robert Jones, a Negro
farmer from Chulahoma Community in Marshall Co. had won as first
alternate. Seabron wanted to assure Cleve that the election had
been carried on in a proper manner. (A state ASC representative
and a county ASC representative were in the room when the ballots
were being counted, Cleve says, but he plans to contest the election
anyway because it is believed that more votes were cast for their
candidate than were counted.)

Robert Smith, Irregularities in Benton Co.
In Benton Co., where balloting was done by mail, COFO supported
candidates in 3 out of 5 communities.

COFO workers Smith, Diane Roeberson, James Batts, Aviva Putorian
and a local woman stayed at the Benton Co. in Ashland, where the
votes were being counted, from 9 a.m. until 4 that afternoon.
According to the COFO count, they won one community, but will
know definitely tomorrow. They also suspect that ballot boxes
in Communities A and C were stuffed, but will know more definitely
in a few days. (stuffed with ballots of ineligible whites)

"The entire county police force" was in the room during the
counting, as well as two federal officials.

Bob saw at least one instance of illegal practices during the
counting—the county committeeman, who was calling off the names
of the candidates who received votes, called off the name of a
white candidate, when the ballot contained only the names of three
Negro candidates. During the day, two white men stole lists of
names containing names of eligible Negro voters from the COFO
workers. When Smith tried to catch the men, he was stopped by
Benton Co. Sheriff Brooks Ward. The Sheriff said Smith could not
search the men because Smith did not have a search warrant, and
the Sheriff said he would arrest the thieves only if Smith got a
warrant for their arrest from the Justice of the Peace.

12 am Jackson Jane Adams/Barbara Jones

There will be a meeting tomorrow in Batesville with all the
(COFO backed) farmers who have been running in the ASC elections
those who have been working on them, to decide what they will do
next—will they ask for new elections, etc.?

Tuesday December 8, 1964

HOLLY SPRINGS. Cleve Sellers and Aviva Putorian/Julian Bond

COFO WINS SEVERAL ASC POSITIONS IN BENTON CO., DESPITE IRREGULAR*
ITIES In Benton Co., SNCC*COFO sponsored three candidates in one
community, three in another, and two in another. In one community,
all three candidates won. They are L.B. Paige, 183 votes;
Calbon Jackson, 181; and Mrs. Sarah Robinson, 170. (The white
candidates got 165 and 160 votes each.) They found at least one
case of padding white voters' lists. Two teenagers who were not
eligible were on the list and were successfully challenged by COFO
vote counters yesterday. In all three communities, COFO discovered
156 eligible Negroes whose names were not on the lists. In one
community, they lost by 40 votes, and COFO is sure that there are
at least 40 eligible Negro farmers from that community were not list-
ed. In some cases, sharecroppers were forced to go down and with-
draw their names. New ASC community committee president L.B.
Paige told SNCC he was "surprised and pleased" and welcomed the
chance to do something for Negro farmers in Benton Co.