

December 1, 1962
4:15 A.M.

On my return to Albany on the 28th I had that sense of homecoming which is common to all SNCC volunteers when they come back. I have told my friends here and in the counties that I feel as if I had never been away.

But for a very short period I wondered if there would be enough for me to do. Faith, Penny, and Jan Ross were all established at GHQ in Albany to help Sherrod coordinate the work in the counties and to lend the help we always want to offer to the Albany Movement. The girls were also involved in house- and office-keeping under cramped and difficult circumstances. They had enough to do, heaven knows, but I wondered if the presence of one more pair of hands was worth the added complications of housing and feeding one more Albany volunteer. I should have known better. 504 S. Madison St. May be overcrowded for the next weeks, but it will not be overstaffed.

The day after my arrival Mrs. Slater King came to see us, and to ask for our help in a new intensified drive for voter registration in Albany. She is chairman of the committee on projects of the Albany chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, a national sorority of Negro teachers. They are hoping, with all possible help from Albany citizens, the SCIC, and ourselves, to add (hold on to your hats) 2000 more voters to the list between now and the 23d of December. The ladies had already planned a registration effort as their project, when the idea came to them to make this intensive and spectacular drive. They were motivated not only by the desire we all feel to do everything we possibly can for the cause, but by a very practical consideration. Every Christmas their Grand Chapter designates an area, or a chapter of the sorority, where the need ~~xxx~~ is great, and the effort has been outstanding. All chapters make gifts here in a "National Christmas Party." And there is no organization in Albany which does not know what good use it could make of such an addition to its funds and such evidence that Albany is still a concern throughout the nation.

The campaign moves into high gear this weekend. The office, at the Federal Woman's Club on Mercer Street, opens for business this morning. On Sunday, December 2nd, there will be a mass meeting at Shiloh to start the campaign. Our good friend Andy Young of SCIC is the featured speaker. And on Monday the canvassing begins.

Where do we fit in? SNCC has promised to provide for the regular covering of the drive office, as well as our own. We are recruiting canvassers from our own friends among the young people of Albany. We will be canvassing ourselves. We will be doing everything that we can do, and we will still be doing all that was being done last week.

This drive promises to bring into the Albany Movement, and into the movement at large, a whole new group which has not as yet been involved. It promises SNCC new friends and new influence. It promises Dougherty County more and more of the kind of voters it needs. Watch for the news in our next!

Betsy Wyckoff