

Report on Progress in Ruleville and Drew Mississippi 12-4-62
on Saturday December 1, 1962 the three of us working in Ruleville
spent most of the day talking to people in the community.

The community is starting to respond a little, the people are asking questions about voting, and other things citizens should know. The people are asking about the FBI and what is going to happen about the shooting in Ruleville, in other areas the first thing they want to know is what is they going to do when someone shoots into their homes. What will they ~~do~~ when their bosses put them off the job or off the plantation? what kind of aid can we give them to help cloth and feed them? and thousands of other questions are asked when you mention registering to vote. On top of all these we are finding people to go down and attempt to register.

Each day we will take as many as five persons down to Indianola, and will try to get started in drew. IN talking with the most common persons in Drew we found that the community is afraid of the word/Vote, they think everybody is that ~~that~~ blame old NAACP and won't talk to us. But I think we can get things going up there, we found that a great number of the older people can not read or write and we find it easy to first start talking about setting up a school, this works most of the time.

We have not found a place to hold meetings yet, but each week some person will let us hold a meeting in her home, at present two persons have opened their doors to us. Mrs. Irene Johnson and Mr. Joe MacDonald is those persons, others will open as we get closer to the people and they begin to feel a little secure.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, have moved to Ruleville and will be helping to get the community moving. Mrs Hamer is trying to get people on the plantation to go down to register, she has already made the second trip to Indianola, she was one of the 18 to go down August 31, she failed, on December 4th she went back and took the test again. Efforts will be made to get all of the persons back down also to get at least five new ones ~~now~~ a day.

Mrs. Rebecca MacDonald, went down to talk to the Mayor of Ruleville (Charles M. Burrough) about turning the water on at the church (Williams Chapel) the mayor told her; that he would turn the water on, but he didn't want any more of that mess down ther' meaning Voter workshops. the water have not yet been turned on, and Mrs. Macdonald is plainning to go down again, the water is needed to flush the toilet and if the water is not turned on soon steps will be taken see that it is turned on.

The Ruleville Christian Citizenship Council Will meet tonight December 4, 1962 to discuss ways to get the entire community on the move, also new persons in the meeting will be taught how to fill out the registration form.

The four person that passed the registration test went to the City Hall in Ruleville to put their names on the books there, so that they will be able to vote in the City elections, but the mayor said he would have to find out ~~know~~ if that had passed in Indianola and would not let them sign. They will return.