

Sept. 27

I spent most of Friday trying to get a check cashed. I went to about every bank in town but they would not cash it unless I could find someone with an account there large enough to cover it. I tried to contact the NAACP people in town but I was unable to get an answer. I finally got one of the girls at the Wesley Foundation to vouch for the check and got it cashed about 5:00 that afternoon. That night I had a long discussion with about five or six people at the Wesley Foundation.

Sept. 28

It rained all day today and I just don't mean sprinkled. It poured. I went out twice from the Wesley Foundation and got soaking wet both times. I spent the day talking to students and reading.

Sept. 29

I attended the services this morning at the Wesley Foundation. After the service we broke up into discussion groups and some of the groups were very good. I sorta roamed around from one to the other. After dinner I met with some students from Winthrop College in Rock Hill that had come here for a Human Relations meeting at 3:00. It was a state planning meeting of the South Carolina Student Council on Human Relations. There were students there from all over the state. There were a group of students there from Orangeburg who had just gotten out of jail. After some opening remarks from Mr. Ledeen and Steve Ackerman from Clemson College, the pres. of the group, we broke up into small groups. There were four workshops, (1) expansion of the Student Council on Human Relations, (2) Education committee working with potential dropouts, (3) direct action involvement in movement, (4) plan winter conference. I went to the one on direct action. We discussed how the SCNR can get more involved in direct action. The students from Orangeburg were in this group. The conclusion was that they had to get more involved. We came back together to hear the reports from each group. I talked to the whole group for about 15 or 20 min. on what I would be doing this year and how I needed their help. I made contacts all over the state at this meeting.

That night I met with a group of students from USC at the Canterbury Club. We talked about 45 min. about the problems there at the university, such as academic freedom, the apathy on the part of the students, and etc. That night I moved into a roominghouse.

Sept. 30

Today I spent my time walking around at the university and talking to students. I talked at length with Brad Poston and his roommate Dean Wilson, who is a freshman with a hell-of-a-lot of potential as a student leader. That night I met with Robert Anderson, who is one of the negro students on the campus. There are two for the first time. The other is Henry Montique. I tried to see her but so far I have been unable. Their rooms are watched very closely. Robert is a transfer from Clark College.



Field Report: Sam Shirah

Oct. 1

Today I went out to Allen University and Benedict College. One of the reasons I did not go out there sooner is that Del Messer, my key contact was in Atlanta over the weekend. When I got there I started talking to the students at Allen and found out that there had just been a Rally over at Benedict. I went with some of the students over to Benedict to meet Bernard Moore, the student leader of the movement here. Bernard is a sophomore at Benedict and is a very dynamic leader. He would be a good person to have on the coordinating committee. The student organization here is the youth council of the NAACP. They have been picketing the theaters downtown and two of the restrants, Piggly-Winkler and Kwik-Shops. So far there have been about 80 people arrested in the past two weeks. About 20 were arrested Monday.

We had a meeting in the canteen with the student leaders. Del Messer and Bernard Moore were present. We discussed the movement here and how to organize the students into a stronger unit. I gave Bernard and some of the others the materials on organizing for nonviolent direct action. If at all possible I think it would be good to send in a field sect. to help here and in Orangeburg. Sumter is also moving.

That afternoon I met at the Bethel Baptist Church with the students. They have been meeting there every day at 4:00 to form their pickets. The pastor of this church is Rev. Mungin, who is also a student at Benedict. When I got there I met a young 17 yr. old white student at USC who has been active in the movement here. His name is Emmett Durant. Emmett and I discussed his situation at the university for about a half hour and then went out to observe the demonstrations. The administration has been putting all kinds of pressure on him for his actions, but he keeps coming back. Five students at the university jumped him one night saying they were going to lynch him. They hit him a few times and tried to push him into a car but when a car started coming they all jumped into their car and left. This cat is potentially the most radical white student I've found; a Bob Moses, very quite and reserved. The administration says that he will be expelled if he is arrested.

We walked out to the Wesley Foundation about 5:30 to try to get some students to go with us to the mass meeting. We found some that said they would like to come but had to do other things. Emmett called his step brother, A. K. Brown, who has also been participating in the demonstrations, and A. K. came and picked us up to carry us to the mass meeting. AK is not a student. He worked at the state highway dept. until he started being active in the movement here, at which time he was fired.

There were about 300 students at the mass meeting. I spoke to the group about 10 min. and then taught them some new freedom songs. Rev. Cruikshank, the pres. of the NAACP also spoke along with Rev. Mungin. Bernard was in charge and called for reports of the demonstrations. Some of the students got up and told about the jails and so forth.

After the meeting Emmett and I went over to the campus of USC. I wanted to meet Anderson. We talked with Anderson about 10 min. and I left.