

FIELD REPORT: SAM SHIRAH

OCT. 20, 1963

I arrived in Cleveland Ohio about 2:30 this afternoon and was met by Rev. Hoke Dickinson at the airport and was carried on to Sandusky, which is about an hour and a half from Cleveland. We registered in the hotel and waited for the others to get there. About 5:00 we had a meeting with Mrs. Ann Hedgeman from the National Council of Churches, Mr. Clark from the Ohio Council of Churches, Mr. Fangmeier from the Disciples of Christ, Rev. Dickenson from the disciples of Christ, and myself. This was the orientation meeting for the team. We were to go throughout the state of Ohio and get people to support the civil rights legislation in Congress. The meeting lasted about an hour and a half. We all ate supper and talked until time to go to bed.

Oct. 21

We had our first meeting this morning here in Sandusky. There were about 15 people there including us. It was a breakfast meeting. The program went something like this. Rev. Dickinson began the program by giving a theological basis for action in race relations. Then I got up and preached the sermon after a devotional. After I finished Bob Fangmeier gave the invocation to action on writing letters and so forth. Then discussion. We followed this program in all our meetings.

After Sandusky we went to Fremont and then on to Tiffin. At Tiffin I was able to go out to Heidelberg College and talk to the students. We went on to Elyria to spend the night.

Oct. 22

This morning we had a breakfast meeting in Elyria and then went on to Lorain for a dinner meeting and then on to Mansfield for a supper meeting. We spent the night in Marion.

Oct. 23

We had our first meeting here in Marion today and then on to Newark for dinner and then on to Delaware for supper. I was able to go out to OSU for a little while and agreed to come back to Delaware to speak to the student body at the Sim. after the trip

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OCT. 23

We had our first meeting here in Marion today and then on to Newark for dinner and then on to Delaware for supper. I was able to go out to Ohio Wesleyan University for a little while and agreed to come back and speak to the student body at Ohio Methodist Sem. after the trip around the state. We spent the night in Springfield.

Oct. 24

We met this morning with a group in Springfield and then that afternoon we met in Xenia. That night we met in Hamilton and spent the night in Greenville.

Oct. 25

We met with groups in Greenville, Findlay and Ashland today. We spent the night in Canton.

Oct. 26

This morning I had my last official meeting for the National Council of Churches in Canton, Ohio. After it was over I went to Delaware, Ohio and got in about dinner. I went out to Dean Dunn's house and slept all afternoon. I was exhausted. Dean Dunn is the man who invited me to speak to the student body at the Sem.

That night I met Dr. Tillson and talked with him at length about coming down and going to jail over the Christmas holidays. That night we also set up a bunch of meetings for me to speak to.

Oct. 27

This morning I went to church. Dean Dunn had ask me to conduct his Sunday school class. So I did. I told them that the church must take a strong stand in this movement and be willing to go to the cross if necessary. I sorta preached my old sermon "To Hell With The Church". This Afternoon I went to Columbus Ohio with Dr. Tillson to speak to the fall rally of the NCF. There were about 3,000 high school students at this meeting. After I finished talking everybody



OCT. 27

was so upset that they wanted to do something so we did away with the regular program and broke up into workshops. A leader was placed in each workshop and I gave them all the material I had. I took one group. I was very well pleased with the interest of this group in the movement. That night I spoke to a local NYP group in Columbus. Then we went back to Delaware and went out to the Sim. I talked with several of the students that night.

Oct. 28

This morning I went out to the Sim. and met with some of the students. I spent most of the morning out there. That afternoon I went out to OWU and went around talking to people until about 3:30, then I went to meet with the Student committee on Race Relations (SCORE). I understand from the students that Mary King was one of the main organizers of this group. I talked with the group about an hour and a half. They are raising money for SNCC and doing things in the community to help end Jim Crow. I ate supper with the group and then we got together a group of students and had a bootlegany.

Oct 29

This morning I spoke to the student body at Ohio Methodist Sim. After I had finished I opened the group for questions and discussion. There was a large group of them that wanted to come down and go to jail over the Christmas holidays. This is Dr. Tillson's idea. After the meeting was over we went over to the coffee shop and continued our discussion. I spent most of the day out there talking with the students and professors.

Oct. 30

I left Delaware, Ohio this morning on my way to Louisville, Ky.