

SPECIAL REPORT from:  
STUDENT NON-VIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
31½ Franklin Street  
Selma, Alabama

November 6, 1963

## OFFICIAL REPORT

### PLANTERSVILLE, ALABAMA

Beginning on October 22, 1963 of that Tuesday morning, I Rev. Thomas L. Brown and William Robertson left for Plantersville, which is the next largest city to that of Selma, Alabama, of Dallas County.

The geographic perspective of Plantersville is quite rough, a lot of the Negroes live right of Highway 22 going North. To get to the Negroes is quite rough, due to the fact that a larger number of Negroes live back up in the wooded area of Plantersville. It can be said that around the Negroes area of Plantersville, that it is like living in the Ozarks of Tennessee. However we would omitt its mountlaneous location.

As I mentioned before of Plantersville being the next largest city of Dallas County, I must remind you it is predominate Negro, however, it is also predominately the living area of the Klansmen of Dallas County, which brings about a great amount of fear in the Negroes and makes it even harder to get a Negro to be willing to "Apply for Registration to Vote."

Now, when my colleague and I went to Plantersville, we first had to find out where the Registration office of Plantersville was, however, we were unsuccessful in finding it, and also, we were advised to get out of Plantersville, right then, by one of the "White Brothers." After receiving this threat, however, we decided to get Negroes from Plantersville to come with us to Selma to be processed in the County Court House.

Our encounter with the Negroes in Plantersville was quite encouraging, however, I could see the great fear in my Black Brothers eyes, for he wants to be Registered to vote but for some reason, fear of the White Brothers caused him to say this, "You're right, we have the right to vote, but what will happen to my family when the Boss Man puts me out of Work?" How will I feed my children?" "I have no place to go."

Mr. Robertson and I covered some forty houses that day, but we had the doors shut in our faces quite a lot when I used the word "Register," not even getting to say, "Vote."

I talked to a great number of deacons of the churches and found out that many of the ministers were equally uninterested in registering to vote, Why? Because they have been threatened by members of the Klan.

During the past three weeks, we scheduled a Voter's Registration Drive, every other day in Plantersville, by method of canvassing, however, many times I found myself getting out of Plantersville by the skin of my teeth. We also had a lot of car trouble due to the rough torrain in Plantersville and at one time I found myself soaking an old lady's hand in epsom salt, and hot water. She had busted