

(1964)

EVALUATION

1. Name: Rev. J. Raymond Sikkel

2. Church: 1st Congregational

3. Denomination: United Church of Christ

4. Address: 14 Brookside Road, Darien, Connecticut

5. Area Canvassed: Elizabeth Street. Amount of time spent Two hours

6. Number of people visited: Five

7. General Response: One enthusiastic- a registered voter; several would hide in the house, and refuse to answer door, some "too old and forgetful, and wouldn't try registering, one "come back, a sick person in house"- but she had only come out of the house because a wealthy white lady honked her Lincoln horn- she hadn't answered when we knocked.

8. Did you have any contact with white community? Explain. Yes,
I attended the B'nai Israel Congregation's service, Fri. p.m., met several of the people. Visited in Rabbi Ben Ami's home afterward; called on Father Ricci, Newman Club Chaplain; visited with a Deputy Sherriff in Gulfport; tried calling on Baptist deacon- but never caught them.

9. Did you have any contact with police? Explain. no

10. Give your impressions of community, evaluation of your work, what you think can be done. Hattiesburg a nice place to live for a white, middleclass person provided he has no conscience.

COFO seems worthwhile for what it has done, and its presence is a reminder of that- but seems little more now. Two girls (plus one who was ill much of the week) seemed to do all the work- others hung around, unless there was driving to do. Their image is tarnished in both white and Negro communities. Clergy are a link between the two communities, but frankly limited by fear of "getting too involved", and by being inconvenienced or hurt (so was careful to whom I revealed my identity.)

Amazed at "open door" to negro community and personal relationships. Fleased at Negro leadership (some), fearful of others motives, sad that majority seem apathetic or afraid. Wonder why I was here, but hope it encouraged white and negro community to feel that we here on a continuing basis. Actual voter registration never seemed to get done- but guess it was done this summer.

It is hard to gain perspective in a week. A big cause, no simple solution.