

REPORT FROM GREENVILLE OFFICE

RE: MEDICAL SITUATION IN ISSAQUENA COUNTY

*Fuller*

The COFO personnel working in the county of Issaquena share this written concern on the lack of any medical facilities in the said county. The nearest medical aid for residents of this county is in the adjoining county of Sharkey -- specifically in the town of Rolling Fork. The reputation of Sharkey spells real terror in the minds of Negroes in this area. The brutality of South-west Mississippi, for all intents and purposes, is not unlike that of Sharkey. And the terror is not only real in the minds of Negroes, but it is a point of pride for whites. The image that Sharkey County thus perpetuates, and thus condones is enough in my mind to completely disqualify that clinic, and its staff from seriously practicing medicine to all people in keeping with the Hippocratic Oath. The second medical hospital is in Vicksburg (Warren County). As Issaquena County is both long and fairly isolated, it is the recommendation of this writer that serious consideration be given to the construction of a community medical clinic in this county. Somewhat limited discussion has already taken place among residents of Issaquena. Without exception, the idea was favorably viewed. A county-wide adult association (The Issaquena County Citizens Association), which is to date, unincorporated, is moving to acquire the needed land and will, unless instructed otherwise, hold as an organization the deed to the land. No expense is expected in the acquisition of the land.

In pursuing the idea of a medical establishment, this writer discussed possible plans with architect Charles Askew, who designed the Greenville freedom center (The Herbert Lee Memorial Freedom Center). His suggestions were as follows: