

THE MINISTERS' REPORT

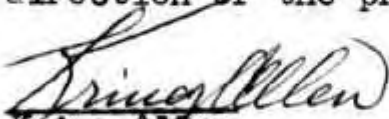
In our ten days' experience in Canton, Miss., serving under the auspices of the N.C.C. Mississippi Project, in cooperation with COFO, we have observed and experienced the following:

1. Great fear of police methods
2. Sense of having been abandoned by all law enforcing agencies, and lack of ordinary recourse to law, including the state office of the F.B.I.
3. Near total disenfranchisement of Negro citizens
4. Hunger and drive for political freedom and voice on the part of a large majority of Negro people
5. Lack of adequate medical and health resources
6. Educational inadequacies and irregularities
7. Inequities re: employment - wages and conditions of work
8. Prevalence of financially depressed families
9. Lack of cultural opportunities
10. Effectiveness of intimidation by whites; blanket consequence of intimidation by white citizens' councils, KKK, etc., affecting all facets of life
11. Complete lack of communication between white and Negro communities
12. Strong support given by Negro community to "blackout", F.D.P., and varied COFO projects
13. Singular ability and strength of local leadership
14. Responsiveness of large numbers of Negroes to outside help; their grasp and perspective on their own problems

From the district reports given at Tougaloo meetings, we learned that the conditions we have observed and witnessed here in Canton are fairly typical, ranging from a few areas which are a little better to some which seem worse.

We hope that our presence here has given some moral support to the program, i.e., to the students working in COFO and to the local people. We would like to believe that the work of the clergy in this project has helped to improve the image of the church in the minds of both. We know that our first-hand experience has given us some concrete material to take home to our respective communities.

We suggest better coordination of COFO and local community leadership; tightening of organization set-up; more attention given to the briefing of the clergy so they can better understand the varied programs, and how they can be most helpful. It is very important that some means be devised through N.C.C. or otherwise for transportation for the clergy under the direction of the project director, without overburdening student volunteers.



Kring Allen
McCarty Memorial Christian Church
Los Angeles, California



Donald L. Wright
Lee Road Baptist Church
Cleveland, Ohio

James F. Quimby
The Methodist Church
Bethlehem, New Hampshire

I hope that the "older folk" will continue to come and work beside their youth. Vote registration continues to be the key to the bright future.