

Preliminary: Little to report of significance. Progress of the project is really too much for me to document now that we've spread all over two counties. And I need not report on FDP activities since you should be informed on this stuff through precinct meeting minutes etc. I have some pretty good reference sources for general statistics of various kinds for the state, so if anybody wants to know tung nut production, etc. maybe I could help. I found that by accumulating everything that everybody else was throwing away and filing it in semi-order that there was some useful information of this type in it.

Citizens Council: I'm sending a notice from the Indianola Council that appeared in the newspaper to the Atlanta office. They can verifax and send on. The gist is this: Citizens unite against the evil civil rights bill; test it in the courts and we will back you with our legal defense fund; follow Paul Johnson's line on compliance. It's signed by Ira T. Crosby, president, Indianola branch.

Johnson Colonel: There is a new appointment to Honorary Colonel on Johnson's staff. P.O. Wilson of Drew was appointed in January 1964.

Frank T. Brumfield, of whom I have commented on before briefly, is also vice president of the board of directors of the Federal Land Bank Association of Greenville. This organization does a lot of business in Sunflower, Washington, Sharkey, and Itasca Counties. Other big shots on this board include: John W. Dickens of Leland, the president; Eugene Fissackerly of Blaine, a big planter in Sunflower; W.W. Patterson of Rome; E.G. Nelson of Chatham; H.K. Hammett of Greenville and Jack Gruidfest of Cary.

Delta Council: It's not a bad idea to watch this group for the Delta. The president is George K. Wade. The chairman of the Industrial and Community Development Board is a recent appointee from Sunflower County, Farmer H. Hamilton Jr. He has been vice chairman of the Board and has represented Sunfl. Co. for some time. He is also Vicepres of the Peoples Bank of Indianola; also past pres. of the Indianola Chamber of Commerce; same Rotary. The Delta Council Industrial board has been instrumental in bringing industry to the area since its beginnings in 1957.

People to Pressure: How about doing something to Kroger, the grocery firm. They have at least 54 stores down here and make all kinds of local purchases, including ~~about~~ 3 million dozen eggs per year from Miss. producers. From my observations in the North, many Kroger stores are located in Negro neighborhoods.

Project Activities: A couple project activities deserve statement. The local student action group is all up in arms about school conditions, unregistered teachers, etc. They have drawn up a letter of grievances and submitted it, with the threat of a picket. The supt. has replied with a directive to indefinitely suspend anyone who pickets or causes trouble. This could be an explosive thing; statewide move to draw teachers into the Movement. We have also begun documentation of possible peonage case against the school. Has to do with a day or two when we all "voluntarily" go out to the fields to pick a bale for alma mater. The kids never find out how the dough gets spent or who spends it.

In the recent arrest of two project workers up at Drew, our minister, rabbi, and lawyer were allowed to visit the prisoners in the Drew jail.

[Encl.]
[Ruleville]

This is a famous first.

Interview with Hodding Carter III: Like every other summer worker I went in to talk to Carter a day ago. This talk clarified the following things. With regard to Negroes being conspiratorially ~~maintained~~ run out of the Delta, it was Carter's opinion that this is all a matter of brute economics and that there is no real conspiracy to force an exodus. Nor does he have any indication that this crop is the last one, for hand labor. The important thing to note is that there are no groups set up to meet the problem of agricultural mechanization, and that, in fact, there is a general feeling against such groups forming. In other words, he thinks that most folks want the exodus to go on and on and wish to do nothing that might impede out-migration. In early reports I mentioned the various removal of plantation houses programs going on as a possible element in the conspiracy to rid the Delta of the Black man. Carter feels this kind of program is not at all sinister, but rather something deriving from the garden club element in the counties concerned--i.e., a genuine clean up type operation. I still believe the whole matter is of extreme importance. Many of the people we are reaching to organize will not be here in 5 or so years. Statistics show that presently we are just getting the tail end or final phase of the out-migration, which has been going on since the mule went out. I'm still working on this thing, maybe will make up a little report, which will demonstrate an irresponsible landlordship with few parallels since the 18th century enclosure movement, and which will shatter the myth of southern paternalism. The damning statements can all be quoted from Miss. Econ. Council literature and statistics. If I get around to it.

It is Carter's opinion that the C. of C. split in Jackson is the biggest thing to happen this summer. ~~He doesn't know much about it however.~~ He doesn't know much about it however. Hodding senior is up in Maine for about a month.

No more for now.

Jerry Tecklin
Research