

[1964]

DATE: July 7

TO: George Raymond

FROM: Michael Fiore

SUBJECT: Federal Programs Project Weekly Report

The group divided up into the following areas:

- Agriculture: Jacques Calma
Sharon Anderson
Bill Carney
Milton Pinnett (from Canton)
- Empolyment, Industry, and Commerce:
Martha Wright
Mike Fiore
- Housing: Bill Carney
- Health: Martha Wright

We are open to suggestions as to other areas which ought to be covered, but these are the areas where most of the Federal programs are, where there is the most material, and upon which the people in Jackson are working.

The following is a report of activities by area:

Agriculture

We are trying to organize an association of farmers. The ~~an~~ association should provide an immediate channel for informing the farmers of existing Federal programs and hooking them up with the agricultural officials in the county whom we have asked to ~~join~~ come and speak to the first large meeting at St. John's on Thursday, July 9 at 12:00 P. M. In the long run, the association should provide a channel for integrating the committees which control the agricultural programs in the county, especially the crop allotment committee.

We have talked to all of the major county agricultural officials directly connected with Federal programs as well as the Negro and White county agents. The FHA, Soil Conservation, and ASC men said that they would attend our meetings but as yet we have not been able to get confirmation for the Thursday meeting. The White county agent said that the Board of Supervisors had told him that neither he nor the Negro county agent should attend the meeting; relations with the White county agent, originally polite but restrained, have now become somewhat less polite and less restrained.

James Myres will also attend the St. John's meeting. (which is really not at St. Johns but at the Masonic Temple across the street).

Empolyment

Employment

I talked to the Employment Security Office in Jackson about setting up a retraining program in Canton. They were not much help but I got the feeling that if we could design a retraining program for Canton they might help us to revise it and possibly set it up. I have heard from other sources that Mississippi is finally going to begin to set up such programs on an integrated basis under MDIA but they plan to proceed slowly and quietly for obvious reasons. In any case, I will visit plants in the area in the next week looking for possible places to have a training program and we will distribute forms on retraining which H Jackson COPO has sent us.

We are also working on the American Tent Company case. We checked with Hunter Morey in Jackson who checked with those in the Know on such matters and they thought we had a good case and should go ahead. We are therefore collecting affidavids. I went to the American Tent Company today to inform them that if they did not hire the people back we would go to court and they would probably have to hire them back with back pay. I nearly got killed.

I talked to the AFL-CIO guys, Claude Ramsey in Jackson about getting the ma plants in this area organized to stop the economic harassment here. He said told me what information they needed for a start and I am getting it together. When we have it, he will see the relevant local unions about sending in an organizer.

Housing

Bill Carney is still collecting affidavids on the abuses in the Federal Housing project across the street. The case is beginning to look weaker and weaker but we will collect what material we have and probably send it in to the Housing Administration. I say probably because we do not yet have a copy of the Federal housing regulations. Jackson has sent for these, and we will have to wait their arrival for further action.

Health

~~xxxxxxx~~Martha has been collecting information on the health program in Madison County and looking into ways of getting it extended. She is working with the Community Center people. So far she has made little progress: the Health Officials are very uncommunicative, probably because most hospitals are built with Federal Funds and have recently been ordered to integrate.

Commerce

We have been working with Mr. Wilbur Robinson on forming a Negro Chamber of Commerce. A stab was apparently made at this last summer but it failed. We will try ~~xxxxx~~ to have a luncheon meeting sometime early next week; last summer's failure left a treasury with some money and this may finance the luncheon. Once we have the Chamber, we thought it could be used as a vehicle for a ~~xxxxx~~ credit union or a small business investment corporation and also might be a vehicle for integrating the OEDP committee.

We have been trying to contact the OEDP committee to discuss industry and employment, the AHA and the MDIA with them but so far without success. ~~Re~~ The President of the Chamber of Commerce flatly re

refused to see us.^{re} But we will keep trying with other members of the committee.

Others

We have sent away for material on the Surplus Food Distribution ~~program~~ program but can do nothing until it gets here.