

Morris

Report #2
Sunflower-Bolivar Co s.
7 July 1964

Preliminary Statement:

As the project expands it is becoming more and more difficult to keep track of things well and hence delay of this report. I will mention incidents only briefly; you can check our press releases for most of this stuff. I will not include statistics on voter registration, names etc., but have them on file.

apertures, and the meeting lasted from 9-11PM. Only men were present, one for sure from Ruleville. Only the following conclusions can be drawn; that it was well planned in advance; people came and left efficiently. This was on the night of 2 July, Thursday, coincident with signing of bill. Strange rumor from local white VFW that members of that club are concerned we will be down to integrate soon there.

Ruleville Project Activities: Community Center and Freedom School has been set up at 820 Quiver Street(rear). An outline and schedule of curriculum is enclosed. About 12 persons attend in the mornings, and 30 to 40 come to afternoon sessions. We have about a 3,000 volume excellent library. Community center cares for children while mothers attend classes in morning. Also center conducts literacy instruction and at the moment is helping out freedom school program. Soon center people will start a sewing program and recipe exchange club. We are extremely pressed for room.

Big event was visit of 4 congressmen on 3 July Friday mass meeting. Collection that night (usual collection to defray costs of transport to courthouse) yielded \$68. On 4 July the local people threw a picnic dinner at the Williams Chapel in honor of the civil rights workers down for the summer. The insurance policy for Williams Chapel, same that got molotoved recently, has been canceled. We have so far made unsuccessful attempts to get an ins. policy. Drew has still not been reached very penetratingly. Partly this is our fault. We have got about half dozen from that community down to our Ruleville meetings and a couple have gone down to courthouse. Much remains to be done here and we are attempting to find a place to hold meeting. WE have made two trips to Indianola and workers report an extremely hospitable reception by local Negroes. Indianola has an anti-leaflet ordinance, except by permit after hearing before mayor and aldermen. We received a favorable decision on our leaflet(good for only 5 days). This allowed distribution on public property. We will apply again when this period runs out, but have been informed that the hearing board will not meet after 13 July. Lawyers have expressed interest in testing the constitutionality of the ordinance. Local officials were somewhat confused in administering it. Sheriff told us we could post them on utility poles but city attorney felt this was illegal. A group of white youths tore some down off the poles and we lodged a complaint with police. No action taken. George Lee Jones, young Negro of Indianola, has so far acted as all-purpose guide and major enthusiast. Indianola Negroes are ripe for action. We will soon shift registration effort there and are presently setting up a block captain system of canvassing. James Smith, the Smith of the Smith-Dillon Funeral Home(big Negro mortician of county), is Commander of Negro Am. Legion Post and wishes to support us heavily but undercover. Mrs. Ethel Banks is less militant, a school teacher, but will support probably. Both are top community leaders, and both are registered voters. Dr. E.L. White is the Negro community's major spokesman, a Tom, used by whites. Other Indianola material under that heading.

A large shipment of clothing was received from sources north and has been distributed here in Ruleville. This is the shipment included in the truck incident in enclosed press release.

A community questionnaire for Ruleville is now finally ready for distribution. This will be used to involve the youth group here; they will administer the questionnaire. Hopefully we will set up this project on a block captain basis that may be able to be transformed for voter registration purposes, etc. We've decided to do a complete population study, not just sample.

Indianola:

Community of about 7,000; 43.9% white, 56.1% Negro, about 40,000 persons in 15 mile radius. County seat Sunflower county. Government Mayor-Alderman: Mayor.....Tom M. Pitts
Aldermen.....Ira T. Crosby (Airport, Civil Def., and School Commissioner)

Winstanley, badger

Aldermen (cont'd).....Frank W. Baker(Vice Mayor, police comm.)
 John W. Holmes(Park and Rec., Fire comm.)
 W.D. Hemphill(Finance and tax comm.)
 D.L. Cole (Street and Light comm.)

Police chief....Bryce Alexander: Former Army intelligence officer; has been out of the state for 30 years; has been in this position for 8 months; he is mild mannered and very interested in not having any trouble; has provided police protection for canvassers.

Chief says he has force of 12 plus 3 crossing guards. Two of regular force are Negro. One Negro cop, name of Nathaniel ("Slim") Jack, has been on force 15 years and is known for strict treatment of Negroes. Negro cops patrol Negro area only, and according to chief have full power of arrest(doubtful of course). Negro cops mostly used at night. 20 well-trained volunteer cops are available for emergency.

Fire Chief.....Ford Williams, full time; 20 volunteers.
City Attorneys...Firm of Clar, Townsend and Davis.

(I'm listing all this stuff because if my prediction is correct such stuff will be helpful in future when things really get moving down there.)(It could be another Cambridge.)

Schools and Utilities: 4 schools, 2white, 2 colored. Chamber of Comm. says three built since 1953, does not specify which of these. School statistics indicate discrepancy between Negro and white which should be investigated:

	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Filled to capacity</u>
City grade school, white(gr.1-6)	700	85
" " " colored(gr.1-8)	1800	90
" high " white(gr.7-12)	445	85
" " " colored(gr.9-12)	535	85

Serviced by Columbus and Greenville RR; Natural gas from Miss. Valley Gas Co.; Miss. P & L; Southern Bell.

Banks: Two of them. Info only on one.

People's Bank of Indianola

Pres.....M.W. Swartz
 V.Pres.....A.W. Gilmer Jr.
 Cashier.. ..N.A. Moore
 Directors.....Arthur B. Clare Jr.
 A.W. Gilmer Jr.
 M.W. Swartz
 H.M. Trice
 P.I.R. Herring

Total net assets of both banks about \$9M.

Industry: Two biggest employers:

Ludlow Textile Products, employs ca. 400, makes juxtex yarns; Charles E. Chatham, Asst. Plant Mngr; Cyrus E. Kirk, Plant Mngr. Home Office, Needham Heights, Mass. Makes twine for U.S. Post Offices. Located here since 1951.
Modern Line Products, employs ca. 275, makes lawn mowers and wheel goods, branch of Modern Tool and Die Co. of Cleveland, Ohio; Norman Henke, Vice-Pres; Walter Wohler, Plant Super. Supposed to have some kind of federal contract.

Attitude toward industry like unto other Miss. municipalities; BAWI, tax exemption for 10 years, and manufacturing inventory exemption all stressed, as well as the favorable labor climate.

An outstanding citizen of Indianola is John Hough, Representative in the Miss. Legislature. His other associations are as follows: Ginner; Realtor and developer; Past Pres. Indianola Rotary; Past president Ind. Investment Club; Alderman for 3 terms; Colonel in Miss. State Guard; Pres. Indianola Chamber of Commerce; Director of the Delta Council(year?); Miss. Econ. Council; Farm Bureau; Sons of the Confederacy; Sons of the Am. Revolution; and last but not least, White Citizens' Council. I think you could call Mr. Hough a one man power structure.

Sunflower County:

I have accumulated some stuff on Sunfl. Co. which while not strategic might be useful. None of it is difficult to obtain. However, since we had some trouble in Jackson getting at the Overall Econ. Dev. Plan. for the county, I'll summarize some stuff from a copy I examined in the Indianola Chamber of Comm.

Also enclosed is an up-to date list of county officials(also not difficult to get at).

From the OEDP: Study completed in March(?), 1962. The Sunfl. Co. Development Organization is composed of the following gentlemen:

Pres.....Eugene Kirk
VPres.....J.A. Ely
Secy.....Cecil Black Jr.
Directors

- Dist 1..Hunter Pratt
William Ervin
- 2..Allen Murtagh
Harold Hall
- 3..W.W. Gresham Jr.
Farmer Hamilton
- 4..J.P. Fisher Jr.
Ed Britt
- 5..Del Burke
W.O. Williford

I know this is delving into excessive detail, but I recognize some big names, all the big names in the county on the following members list. So with all excuses here are ~~xxx~~ some selected division membership lists:

Industrial: Frank Baker, chrmn., motor co., Indianola
Harold Dube, plant mngre.
Leighton Patterson, farmer, Sunflower
Morris Lewis Jr., pres. Lewis Grocer Co., Indianola
James Corder, famer, Indianola
William Williford, Drew
Stanley Levingston, Bus. Exec., Doddville9(sic)
W.W. Gresham Jr., Indianola
W.O. Weber, motor co., Indianola
W.M. Garrard Jr, farmer

Agriculture:J.W. Stowers, chrmn., farmer, Moorhead
Frank Tindall, farmer, Indanola
James Robertson, famer, Holly Ridge
Charles Fishackerly, farmer-ginner, Sunflower
T.A. Murtagh, farmer, Moorhead
George h. Lipe, farmer, Iniola
H.T. Miller Jr. farmer, Drew
W.D. Marlow,III, farmer, Ruleville
W.M. Ervin. farmer. Inverness

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Rodgers Brashier, farmer, Indianola
W.C. Jones, farmer, Inverness
Dozier Lester, " " "
Billy Baird, " " "

Gov't.

Affairs: C.M. Dorrough, chrmn., Mayor of Ruleville
G.W. Manning, pres. Board of Supervisors
Tom Pitts, Mayor of Indianola
John Hough, State Rep., Indianola
John Prichard, farmer, Inverness
Frank Brumfield, famermer, Inverness
Forrest Cooper, lawyer, Inidanola
R.M. Allen, lawyer, Indianola
Szymour Johnson, farmer, Indianola
Joe Baird, farmer, Inverness
Walter Jones, farmer, Inverness

The general goals setforth in the OEDP are as follows:

Education- expand Delta Jr. College(white) to meet industrial needs of area.
Industrial- promote technical and vocational training in school system.
promote establishment of 4-lane highway from Leland to Columbus.
Agriculture- investigate need for change in Miss. Fair Trade Law.
increase farm net income 25% for cotton; 40% for soybeans; and
50% for livestock.

The OEDP lists the following for immediate attention:

1. water supply for town of Doddsville
2. street and drainage for Ruleville
3. sewage disposal for Indianola
4. predatory dog control for the county
5. removal of dilapadated rural dwellings (Does this sound like a Negro removal program?)
6. take action to prevent lenders penalizing small home owner loans by requiring large discounts.
7. Increase net farm income.

The OEDP estimates uemployment in May '62 at 7.2%; of the total unemployment 3.0% were of the insured unemployed. From 1950 to 1960 non-agricultural employment increased 1,251 to 6,639. In the same period agricultural employment decreased 5,588 to 6,540. This leads the compilers of these statistics to muse: "The decline in agricultural had a tendency to bring total employment down."

Total assessed valuation for Sunfl Co.(incl. real, personal, auto, public utilities) \$31,723,322. The county has an industrial bond indebtedness of \$1,087,000.

Now that I think of it, this is getting to factish. If you cannot get an OEDP, let me know and I'll have my secretaries put more of this stuff down. I copied down quite a bit for further reference.

Let me continue with some facts on Sunflower County.

The following is the list of Barnett Colonels from the County. If you can give me Johnson Colonels, fine.

Frank Brumfield, Inverness
Robert L. Crook, Ruleville(State Senator)
Frank O. Crosthwait, Drew
C.M. Davis, Moorhead
William D. Donald, Morehead
W.M. Duncan, Inverness
C.T. Ellis Indianola
W.J. Godbold, Doodsville
Tom C. Harpole, Drew

D.H.Hawkins, Indianola ~~xxxx~~
 John P. Henry, Drew
 Glen Hewlett, "
 A.W. James, "
 D.L. Jones, Ruleville
 Fred Jones, Inverness
 Sidney Levingston, Ruleville
 C.A. McGowan, Moorhead
 Joe Mims, Drew
 T.C. Owens, "
 W.D. Patterson, Rome
 Robert Powell, Doddsville
 W.P. Scruggs, "
 E.Earl Shurden, Drew
 Otho Shurden, Drew
 Phillip Sklar, Drew
 Oscar B. Townsend, Indianola

Employment in Sunfl. Co. as of about March 1964 stood as follows:

Manufacturing.....	9.6%
Transportation and utilities.....	xxxx xxxx 1.9
Wholesale and retail trade.....	xxxx 9.2
Service and misc.....	xxxx 3.2
All gov't.....	xxxx 9.1
Other non-agri.....	xxxx 15.6
Agricultural.....	xxxx 45.2
Total employed.....	93.8
Unemployed.....	6.2

This taken from a recent Miss. P&L study.

I had best desist since I note that these statistics probably are just padding things. I will try to think up some way to employ them in some meaningful way. But if there is indeed some point to collecting such data let me know and it will be a pleasure to deluge you. I am now beginning to acquire information on Bolivar Co. and will delay this until I can put it down with some kind of conceptual spine to it.

Jerry Tecklin
 Research, Sunflower-Bolivar