

Preliminary Statement: The following report gives some info on what I've been able to do in Bolivar County. Transportation is a real problem so I don't get around enough to give coverage well for both counties in my district. However, I've selected Mand Bayou for special study for reasons to be given. Also all this jailing is very hard on research. In the last report I played Indiana up as the future hotspot. Like Gallup in 1948 I was somewhat off the mark and Drew is in the limelight. Also I hope you all received my separate notice on James Smith of Indiana who is Negro, and a crumb.

### Sunflower County

Jack asked about the Sunfl. Co. Development Organization. I cannot make an exact statement, but this I believe is very accurate. Like in Bolivar County, where the group is known as the "Bolivar Co. Area Development Group", this is the organization responsible for submitting the OEDP; they are representative of the area, top businessmen, etc.; and are qualified to implement or coordinate the program set forth in the OEDP. In Bolivar they are denoted as: "A non-profit development organization representing a realistic plan of action of the area to achieve the objectives ~~of the Area Redevelopment Act, the objectives of the Rural Areas Development Program, and the objectives of the leadership of the county to alleviate the distress areas as reflected in the~~ OEDP." I think this is the same in Sunflower County. This cross section al representation of the organization is come by in cooperation with the C. of C. (selected from C. of C.) as well as state officials (such as Welfare people), and also USDA. They are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of the OEDP, which is submitted through various state agencies to the ARA in Washington. Therefore, this can be said: The personnel of the Development Org. are the top men in the power structure; no Negroes are on its membership list although it is a county-wide decision making body; and, last, it would seem to be some kind of public corporation since it has charge of implementation of public policy. This very important last piece of info I cannot verify. Consultation with the ARA should prove it out or not.

Ruleville: Events in Ruleville itself have been unexciting. The usual weekly mass meetings are held. Another large shipment of clothing has arrived. The Ruleville Action Group (teenagers) has declined shamefully since the summer session of the public school has begun. Only about five girls seems really interested now, and we are very concerned about helping them build up again but not impose ourselves upon them. They have expressed some interest in picketing their school to demand that teachers get down and register. Some students have talked privately with their teachers to urge this. I had depended on the student group to do my questionnaire but this is really Mafoois right now. The Freedom School attendance has dropped off--a good thing--, and the schedule enclosed earlier is being adhered to heroically. There must be about 50 students in attendance regularly now. The cut in attendance has been in the very young age group. A newsletter for the community has been started to give expression to the locals and as a means of teaching mimeograph to some young people. Enclosed a copy.

Drew: Everything broke loose here. We had been softening up Drew with repeated can vassing. On 14 July evening seven workers were arrested for distributing leaflets (song sheets) without a license and for obstructing the sidewalk since an outdoor mass meeting was in progress. The enclosed press releases should tell this story. Another rally on the

the following evening neted 24 workers, Daleville, and Drew residents. They were all released on the 17 July after payment of \$4,860 bail bond. Again the release tells the story.

Drew is a community of 2,143 persons (1960 census). Largest employer in town is Drusteel Co., probably 150 persons. They make steel frames, fire doors. I looked at one man's pay check and it said on it I. M. C. Industries Inc., Memphis. Local Negro source says that when the plant opened in 1960 or 61 they employed about 40 Negroes but then laid everyone off and hired most whites. Only about 6 Negroes are now employed there, at least 3 doing skilled work as finishers for \$1.40/hr., an excellent Delaware wage. The I. Fattel and Sons garment factory employs over 50 (according to Atlanta info) (and size of plant would support this) but none are Negroes. I am particularly interested in [redacted] which writes its names on [redacted]

[redacted] He was fired the day after her arrest, after he had received some harassment on the job. He has served the company about 18 years. Drew is a 4 gin town (though they tell me 6 for some reason or other). There is also a large elevator owned by Quaker Oats Co. The bank in town is the Merchants & Planters Bank, a branch of the Bank of Clarksdale. Excuse the loose generalization, but, like Daleville, there are a large group of Jewish and Chinese merchants (about 6 Jewish stores and 4 Chinese). At least one of this number has filial connections in Daleville. I can't know why I have on this, but it just strikes me as so terribly odd. I have developed a very good source for W.O.C. info of the sort that comes across the breakfast table. So far only for sure can I name W.T. Stokley, a furniture store operator, as a member of W.O.C.

Mayor of town is W.L. Williford, who has an insurance agency in town (this seems to be the common occupation of Delta public officials). He is a director of the Sunflower Co. Development Organization. Curtis J. Floyd is town Marshall, with a force of two uniformed men and one parttime non-uniformed fellow. They have a car and a pickup and one dog, also a volunteer force (which they used to make our arrests) of at least seven. One of the regular cops, a J.D. (or T.D.) Fleming is known to be a rough character on Negroes, is strongly rumored to have had some time in a mental institution, and is the brother of a Daleville Fleming who is also known for Negro killing. Chief seems to strain to stay in the law, has asked some Negroes to lodge complaints against civil rights workers, and on the day after our large scale arrest he (along with Williford and the county sheriff) had a circular delivered to each white resident who claiming that the cops would handle all and that they should keep their shotguns under the bed. Notable Negroes in the Movement are Mrs. Nor Hayes and, since her arrest at the mass meeting, Mrs. Pauline Moore. Among the list of Johnson Colonels you sent me are the following Drewites: P.J. Townsend, Jr.--either the city attorney or the son of the same; Sharden brothers-- both very large planters.

Indianola: After using the library here a sign was put up announcing that it was not for the use of outsiders. We canvassed thoroughly and held a mass meeting outdoors of a church. The police rendered protection. Drew then stole the spotlight. Antisemitism still high here, however, and we will locate workers here to live in the community in just a day or so. Enclosed (my only copy being sent to Atlanta, who can verifax and send elsewhere if deemed important) find two bank statements of Indianola banks. Note connections with Daleville bank, and note a couple of individuals I have mentioned before and who are Johnson Colonels.

Sunflower County Miscellany: Among the colonels you ask about are some folk I have already talked about earlier. Here is a little bit more.

Drew Sales Co. which writes its names on letterhead of Tennessee Liquefied Gas Corp. This company in Drew fired the husband of one of the women active there in the movement and who had been arrested at the mass meeting. He was fired.

Frank Brunfield-	lives Inverness; on Community Council for Sunflower (the town) for the Delta Council; had a cotton loan of \$52,744.55 on 308 bales, repaying \$34,489.44 in 1961.		
<del>Mr. Scraggs</del>	amt. loan	bales	amt. repaid
W.P. Scraggs	\$72,465.37	408	\$12,452.01 (in 1961)
	148,582.04	921	21,487.08 (in 1962)
W.O. Skurden	63,406.53	347	13,621.67 (in 1961)

A federal projects man who has been associated with the project here has come up with some interesting tidbits. He interviewed Cecil Black the county agent. Black reported: A) no ARA plans going on in county or envisioned for future--the ARA is not suited to the community; B) working through G. of C.s rather than ARA; C) county is overloaded with industry, i.e. shortage of skilled personnel for more industry; D) manpower retraining is undesirable since the trainee wage conditions people for anticipating a wage higher than is paid in the Delta (integration of retraining not mentioned as important deterrent).

Of further interest is the following table sent me by this fed. proj. chap. You can labor over the abbreviations. It's from directory of approved projects APW program, as of 1 April, 1964.

		I	II	III	IV	V	VII	VIII	IX	X
Doddsville	water facilities	6/63	6	100	44	34	78	54	82	
Indianola	lagoon (sewerage)	3/64	9		28	42	139		67	
Ruleville	North Sunf. Co. Hospital	4/64	8		295	148	443		240	
Sunflower	water facilities	7/64			60	62	122			

- I--Starting Date
- II--Months to construct
- III--% completed
- IV--APW
- est. proj cost \$000 { V--Other Federal
- VI--Local matching
- VII--Total
- VIII--Estimated total man-months, completed projects
- on-site employment { IX- " " " " , projects not completed

Well the table was constructed by a Harvard graduate so you can see the plight of this country as regards a rising level of complexity commensurate with a declining necessity for the same.

Additional Drew info: Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce is as follows: pres. Robert L. Clanton; directors, Earl L. Foland, publisher of the Sunflower Co. News, weekly of Drew; OM, Marsalis; H.W. Stancill; W. O. Williford, mayor; Joe Mims; O.E. Meador; Phillip Sklar, furniture dealer; James Sessums.

Additional Ruleville: Finally here is the rundown on the local cops. The main reason I wasn't able to furnish this was the change in regime which took place at end of June. Dorrrough still seems to actually run the force. John Holder is night marshall; he comes from Parchman. Samuel Coleman is day marshall, relieving O.C. Givens who will retire 31 August. Coleman is former MP and has been security officer of Texas firm. Jesse Willingham is a relief officer and known to be a mean man. Rumor has it he engineered the shooting into the houses of two years ago. Willie Martin is a Negro cop, apparently a land owner, new to force.