

~~Exhibit~~

*fill in legal name in this*  
It was, ~~nevertheless~~ <sup>negro</sup> Project policy to take illiterate down to the Courthouse too, <sup>on the ONE MAN ONE VOTE principle</sup> Registrars were supposed to take down the names and addresses of such people:

(Tom Rowe)

*Gulfport  
July 29*

RETURN

To answer your question about justifying the registration of illiterates--simple: the argument of both COFO and the Federal Government (upheld, I believe, by at least one court case in Mississippi in the upper-level Federal courts) is that the education which Mississippi provides for Negroes has been and is so grossly inferior, both in general and in relation to that provided for whites in Mississippi, that it is completely unfair to disqualify a Negro on the basis of lack of education. Such would amount to justifying the continuation of a system by the effects of that system (for we view inferior education and disfranchisement as part of the same system), ~~which is pretty bad reasoning.~~ Basically, since it's Mississippi's fault that the Negro can't read, Mississippi shouldn't be allowed to hold that against him. A reinforcing point is that, particularly in recent years, illiterate whites have been registered without question in some counties; to bar Negroes from registering in those counties for reason of illiteracy clearly violates the Fifteenth Amendment, that the right to vote shall not be denied on account of race. And finally, I don't know if COFO quarrels with the basic idea of a literacy test in general where a decent education is provided and non-discriminatory application is practiced, but in Mississippi the test is almost entirely a vehicle for disfranchising Negroes and therefore also violates the Fifteenth Amendment in practice. OK?

Tom  
Rowe  
(9)

7/29

*Gulfport*