

Aug. 8, 1964

## Report on Freedom Democratic Party work toward educational meetings

Mabel Metzger

Ed Vaughan and I worked First Ave. Firebaugh on Tuesday and Wednesday (Aug 4, 5). The first day we completed calls in 11 homes, seeking one where a meeting could be held. We found great interest expressed, and picked up 3 more party registrations.

The following day we completed calls in 16 homes. 7 others had no one home. This time we had some refusals to register with the party, the reasons given being fear of losing one's job, fear of losing one's pension, and damage to one's home. Several however even if these offered their support in other ways, especially through prayer. Among those expressing positive interest in the party, we secured 5 more registrations, making a total of 8 registrations on the street. Later: Completed the calls, except 2 where people are working.

We found no one willing to set up a meeting and invite others in to talk about the work of the party. However, one woman said the neighbors would get together and discuss it. We left the informational material, which was received with great interest. Many said they knew Mrs. Divine and we suggested they invite her in to get first hand information.

There may have been some hesitation about talking these things over with strangers, especially white people who may not understand all that is involved. I believe that a precinct organization where people could work together on local needs — maybe such a thing as garbage collection or something less controversial like that — could develop a sense of working together that is greatly needed. This could lead to working on these more difficult matters (if any are more <sup>or less</sup> difficult than others). They all may be equally hard.)

Working on this project has been a real privilege. I have enjoyed the persons I have met and those whose preparation made it possible for us to be used to some extent at least. Personally, I have gained much in understanding of what we who work for civil rights are up against, and I thank those whose vision made it possible.

Saturday, Aug 8 - Much interest in the Party's work today.