EVALUATION

1. Name: BICKEL, WILLIAM H. "BILL"

2. Church: 

3. Denomination: UNITED PRESBYTERIAN U.S.A.

4. Address: 2814 MCDONALD AVE.

5. Area Canvassed: PALMER'S CROSSING

6. Number of people visited: APPROX. 40 OR 55 PEOPLE

7. General Response: "Very few little disturbance. People most cordial with many inviting me in and really wanting to talk. I found me evidence of hatred on the part of negro toward white Mississippian. Most are optimistic and appreciate me help.

8. Did you have any contact with white community? Explain. I had contact with the man, the minister of the Westminster Presby Church and with a white family in the background of the negro community around the project area here.

9. Did you have any contact with police? Explain. During my stay in Vicksburg I had no contact with the police.

10. Give your impressions of community, evaluation of your work, what you think can be done.

Negro Community: I felt very safe and secure in the negro community. In all my contact with them I felt they could be trusted and shared that they felt that we could be trusted. There was noted that some few were afraid of0

regionalist. They showed a too active interest in the new immigration movement; others realized that the time had come for them to press hard and they were most willing to do their part despite the risks involved. Many were determined that they will eventually get the justice and equality that has been so long denied them. This seems to evident at the
On Tuesday Aug. 24, 1964 Rev. "Tukey" Whitfield, Mark Lander and I attended a Men's Club Dinner Meeting at the Westminster Presbyterian Church on invitation of the pastor, Rev. Cox, but were only received. It was necessary that we introduce ourselves and inquire about Mr. Cox. He opened himself after greeting us to some extent something he used to do. The men of the men's club met together talking about the Democratic Convention. As we tried to become a part of this fellowship, the men would move elsewhere or break up in smaller groups. Finally, three of the men brought up the neat situation in Mississippi, and in the controversy was preceding nicely, the pastor approached us and said the decision had called a meeting and was inviting us to attend. It was immediately clear that the meeting related to our presence. The pastor was apologetic and appeared to be personally feeling that we were welcome to stay but that some of the men felt that we were an offense to them, an embarrassment, and were unwelcome, but the decision to stay or leave was left to us. We left but not before setting my views. A few days later, Mrs. Lander and I had a luncheon date with Mr. Cox, and he is all right. He was very sorry that we were kicked out by the decision, but felt he had some where he could work with, and these few were somewhat disturbed by our being rejected although they did not speak up in the meeting.

On Wednesday, "Tukey" Whitfield and I visited a white family. A man by the name of Davie had a farm, a Mrs. Lawrence and a Mrs. Relean. He is a railroad station attendant. They were friendly and talked freely. I had the respect here entitled to equal treatment. But there should be no mixing of the races, afraid of intermarriage. Mr. Davie agreed. Most trouble, in far as we were concerned, was usually caused by not holding on both sides.
Community center and mass meeting that I was privileged to attend. Many of the groups I contacted were Christian people and have lost in their hearts for their white brethren. Our continued presence there has given them confidence and hopes that they can do something. They appear to be a strong faith in God - those who have talked to me in a religious vein - and they know that by themselves they can do nothing. They impress the life of the white community. There are years and years of prejudice and hatred here hard to break through. It appears that every delaying tactic will be employed to prevent compliance with the Civil Rights Laws.

I believe the work of the Monitor Project in conjunction with COFO is having fruit. Through the efforts of both organizations the Negro community has grown more aware of the need of effort on their part. That is, their own part, and the importance of the vote.

I believe a greater effort than I saw should be made to contact officers of the white community since we have a rather bad smash in the eyes of the white Macon paper, perhaps telling individual pastors and inviting them to be present at a luncheon or a dinner date. If present we will stress that one of the needs of a meeting of the Women's Association gives us a hearing. Reaching the women of the church might be easier than reaching the men. Reaching the women on our side could be a way of reaching the men.

If legal funds are available or could be made available perhaps a testing of accommodations should be started. Mississippi will continue to put off as long as possible compliance with the Civil Rights Law.