

Canton Project Political Programs Report

*Sept. 6, 1964

The political programs department will concentrate in the next few weeks on establishing a county-wide organization for the purpose of dealing with future elections and manifesting the program of the Freedom Party. Organization will be along beat-precinct lines. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
A block captain system for communication will be set up in the Canton area.

County organization

The county organization will center around the FP County Executive Committee. The three committee members in each beat will be responsible for mobilizing the program in their beat and will develop county programs on the Executive Comm. Each beat will operate on a three-precinct basis for close contact with the entire membership. A meeting place will be located in each precinct. Workshops will be held in the precincts to familiarize people with the FP program and to choose precinct leaders. Later candidates for local elections will be chosen through the precinct system. A county-wide mass meeting to be held Sept. 12 will serve ~~as~~ to launch this county organization.

Canton organization

For purposes of efficient communication and de-centralized control, a block-captain system will be organized in Canton. The city has been divided into ten areas, each to be headed by an area secretary. The area secretaries will hold an organizational meeting on Sept. 17. Each area will be subdivided into 9 to 12 "blocks" each with a block captain responsible to the area secretary. The area secretaries will be responsible to the the Precinct One leader, and to the secretary of the Madison County Movement so the system will serve both FP and the Movement.

Voter Registration

To make FP in Madison County a formidable political entity the number of Negro voters in the county must be substantially increased. Thus we will continue emphasis on voter registration. A VR checklist to ascertain exactly what the situation is in this regard will be obtained through the precinct leaders and block captains. A Civil Rights Rally, possibly of district-wide proportions, will be held on Oct. 3, as a prelude to a Freedom Day and to encourage registration attempts generally. The suit against the Madison County registrar which is now pending in a Federal District Court will be followed closely and moved to the Fifth Circuit if necessary to fully mobilize the counties eligible Negro voters who compose 73 percent of all eligible voters in the county.

Office

A permanent office for the Madison County is now being sought. Fund raising activities for this and other party activities will be considered shortly.

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