

Valley View

Sept. 13, 1964

Two week report, beginning August 29

Saturday night, August twenty-ninth, a bomb was apparently thrown at Mr. Williams's store, next to the Freedom House at Valley View. No one saw the bomb being thrown, but it was not there Saturday afternoon. The bomb was unlit when thrown- neither the wick nor the rope that held the gallon jug was charred or burned. The pieces were picked up carefully to permit investigation for fingerprints, and they were taken into Canton. The store is insured, and we presume the bomb was thrown for the purpose of intimidation, rather than actual destruction.

Aside from that, there has been no violence or threat of violence. Unidentified cars continue to come by; some have stopped up the road at night, but nothing has happened.

On Tuesday a group of children was taken to Canton to register at the white high school. On Thursday some high school children went down to hand in applications for transfer from Rogers. The children from this area are:

Eddie Williams
Floyd Esco
James McCallough
Lena Harrison
Georgia Mae Reid
Betty Jean Silas (living with her grandmother, Mrs. Lou Ella Chambers)

Since the children went, a check has been made on the families at least once every two days. Mrs. Chambers is the only one who has had any trouble. Several people have spoken to her, including the postmaster of Canton, a Mr. Luder, who owns the property on which she lives. An affidavit was made out on the subject and sent into Canton. She now has one of the walkie-talkie units of the two-way radio in her possession. Her husband, Harrison, is responsible for the trouble; he informed Billy Noble and Mr. Luder that their grand-daughter was being sent to the white school.

Although the office has been severely handicapped by lack of personnel,

a voter registration drive has met with some success. The following people went down to the courthouse on Tuesday, the eighth:

Mrs. Harrison (mother of Lens, who is transferring to Canton High)
Mrs. Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fleming
Dedove Marriweathers

From Mt. Zion:

Mrs. Boyd
Mr. Dempsey Coathens and his nephew

All these people, with the exception of Miss Marriweathers, have leadership potential. The workers plan to use them in canvassing for further courthouse attempts. One is tentatively scheduled for next Wednesday.

The area around Mt. Zion and north of that (above Camden) has good potential, although it is handicapped by lack of organization and a passive rather than active participation in the movement. Two people working up there could set up a strong community. Emphasis should be placed on developing the local leadership; perhaps an alliance could be set up with the farmers' league, which is being established in the area. At meetings attended by Valley View workers and during the canvassing for registration and the mass meeting on the twelfth the volunteers got the impression that a Freedom Day would have great success.

Another area open to us is Pleasant Green. The people there are especially anxious for a school boycott. Several individuals came up to a worker independently of each other to discuss the matter, and they are assured of at least 75% co-operation and, in many communities, 100%. The boycott in this area could well be extended beyond the one-day boycott planned for the entire state in November. They expressed a willingness to boycott for as long as three months, if necessary, to redress their grievances- segregated education, inadequate facilities, poor and unregistered teaching, the loyalty oath the teachers are required to sign, and the refusal of bus drivers to return students

to the place from which they picked them up.

Leads on possible social security frauds were followed- workers obtained three affidavits from the Mt. Zion area on a Mr. Gilbert in Canton. These affidavits were sent in to Canton. The people who made them out are anxious to hear the results of any investigation carried on by the Canton office. A Mr. Washington of the same area has some information on a Mr. Amos Dowell, who has been engaging in the same activity in Canton. Special attention should be paid to the fact that one of the men, Joe Parker, stated that a female welfare worker (white) from Jackson, on her yearly inspection, suggested that he go to Mr. Gilbert to get his social security form filled out.

Leaflets were printed for a boycott of stores in Pickens. These are presumably being distributed by local Negroes.

Security precautions need emphasis here, in the opinion of the volunteers. Driving at night, alone, is frequent; failure to check in and out properly, to inform the office of destination and arrival, and to call in at regular intervals have resulted in several false alarms. Should anything happen, the office would not know about it until the following morning, if then. Radio contact with mobile unit two is difficult, because of its failure to leave the radio on while traveling. The volunteers feel that the authority of the project director in Canton should be used to impose stricter regulations, especially on night driving. Although the volunteers have expressed their concern with this issue verbally, they feel it is important enough to include in this report.

Finally, the volunteers feel it urgent that all workers in the Valley View area be equipped with valid licenses, that the project car be insured for workers under twenty-five, and that the car be more widely available for the project. Their work is often retarded or handicapped by a noticeable lack