Dave Dennis

STAFF MEETING HELD AT CANTON FREEDOM HOUSE 9-21-64

George Raymond chaired the meeting.
PRESENT WERE: Bill Curtis, Myrtis Evans, Milton Pickett, George Raymond, Tom Phoner, Charles Pritchett, Sears Smedley Jr., Martha Wright, Maron Duncan, Joe Lee Watts, Don Ramsey, JoAnn Coleman, Marcellus Byrd, Nancy Jervid, C.O. Chinn Jr., Sally Shindler, Eric Orr, Judy Orr, Phil Sharp, Mrs. A. Devine, Rev. J. McCree, Judy Hampton, Arlene Bock & Mary Ann Simponto.

THERE WILL BE A STAFF MEETING EVERY MONDAY NIGHT @ AT 9:00- Individual projects reports from every person are due then.

AGENDA

1. Job Description
2. Freedom Rally, October 3rd.
3. Freedom Day, October 5th.
4. Organizations of precincts
5. Organization of Block Captain system
6. Voter Registration & Freedom Registration activities
7. Problems dealing with projects
8. Finance
9. ASC Elections and recruiting
10. Freedom Schools
11. Assignments

The Freedom Democratic Party Rally is coming up. We have 15 precincts which must be organized by this date.

COMMUNICATIONS

JoAnn Coleman, Sally Shindler, Arlene Bock, Martha Wright, and George Johnson are the staff. At least 3 of these people will be free every day from nine in the morning till 3 in the afternoon. During the day all available staff must start organizing precincts in Flora (the Southern section of the County) This must be organized by people working out of the Canton office. There are eight precincts in this portion, a workshop schedule and agenda should be set up by Monday. The same thing goes for the people working in Valley View who will be handling the Northern section of the County. They have 7 precincts to organize. By next week meetings should be set up for Mrs. Devine to speak at. We cannot promise that she will appear at every one, however, she will try. So there is no confusion, the people setting up speaking arrangements for here in the Northern part of the county will set up meetings on odd days of the month. The Southern section of the county will set up speaking days for Mrs. Devine on even days of the month.

Tomorrow morning (9-22-64) the following people will hold a meeting in Canton to make plans for organizing the Southern section of the County. They will also discuss and decide the block captain system. Minutes of this meeting must be turned in to me (MCS) by Wednesday morning. Arlene Bock, Jo Ann Coleman, Sally Shindler, Martha Wright, George Johnson, Don Ramsey, Tom Foner, Eric Orr, Judy Orr, Rev. McRee, and Mrs. Devine and Joe Lee Watts must be present for this meeting. The staff in Valley View will hold a similar meeting dealing with the Northern

section of the county. Minutes must be turned in by Wednesday.

FREEDOM SCHOOL AND VOTE INFORMATION

Martha Wright is in charge of this. Freedom schools will be held during the evenings from 7-9 p.m. Three nights a week 2 teachers will be sent out into the rural and two nights a week school will be held in Canton. Gluckstadt and Flora will definitely have Freedom Schools (must find a place, however.) Pilgrim Rest has expressed an interest in having their church used for this activity so that will be checked out immediately. Comm. Center programs take care of all C.C. staff at night, there are no extra people. There may also be an adult literacy class started. By Friday of this week, a report must be in my office concerning the schedules and people used for the Freedom Schools.

A week from this Wednesday, a report is due from the people organizing precincts in the Northern and Southern sections of the county. Included must be the names of the 15 precinct chairmen, their names addresses, and phone numbers, and a starting schedule set up of workshops--the times and places.

We must work quickly and effectively, because soon after Madison County is organized the same people will travel into Scott and Rankin county to do the same organizing work.

The Community Center at Valley View is being set-up and re-opened by Phil Sharp.

VALLEY VIEW STAFF

Aaron Duncan, Phil Sharp, Nancy Jervis, Charles Prickett, and Judy Hampton and Andrew Green. Bill Forsythe may be coming back within/ two weeks.

Martha Wright is to gather all necessary information on the coming one day school boycott and get it to staff people as soon as possible.

Tomorrow night in Jackson there will be a meeting of Andrew Green, Valley View staff, George Raymond and myself. All project problems will be worked out then.

Finances cannot be discussed until tomorrow nights meeting with Dave Dennis and myself.

Mary Ann will type a list of all coming events during Oct. and November and distribute them to staff and interested local people who are involved. The tentative list I have is as follows: October 3 - FDP Freedom Rally---October 4- Mass meeting--Oct. 5, Freedom Day in Canton involving all of Madison County. Oct. 11, meeting at Milton Grove at 3:00-purpose is to rebuild the two burned Churches. Nov. 3, Election Day, Johnson, Humphrey, Mrs. Devine; Nov. 3, ASC Initial slate, all white candidates; Nov. 18, Second slate of candidates for ASC, our men. Dec. 3, ASC election, Dec. 25---Christma.
THERE ARE FIVE BEATS IN MAD. CO. COMPRISING 15 PRECINCTS.

After the precincts are organized, the precinct chairman will be responsible for sending at least 5 people a day to the Courthouse.

FOURTH DISTRICT FREEDOM RALLY, OCTOBER 3, 1964--ALL STAFF MUST BE AVAILABLE AND ON HAND FOR THIS DAY. Booths must be built for registration centers and information centers.

Mrs. Devine, Rev. McRee, Karen Duncan and myself will see to it that the program and agenda is ready and printed by the Rally.

Martha Wright, Eric Orr, Mrs. Devine, and Rev. McRee will get together and draft a letter to every white person in the project. It will state and discuss facts and relations between the black and white community. It should be turned in to my desk by Fridday, so I can prepare it to be mailed in Monday's mail. Once they get it, they will more than likely read it.

NEWSLETTER--Editing Staff consists of C.O. Chinn Jr. (Editor) Tom Ramsey, Rev. McRee, Martha Wright and Charles Prickett.

All local peopl e should be encouraged to write articles on their feeling, ideas and beliefs. Mrs. Devine will also have a column, and local leaders in the movement and staff people will be allowed to submit articles. It must be understood that all articles can be edited and that not every one must be published. The articles must be in to my office by 3:00p.m. Friday afternoon- The paper will be ready for distribution Sunday morning at the Churches. It will go under the old newsletter heading THE CITIZEN. If we decide to put out a monthly paper, Miss Hazie Benton Smith in Jackson will do the printing for us. These articles must be halfway intelligent with a deal of facts. Not completely emotional saop-box stuff.

The Madison County Movement must be identified with local people-We must draw in local people, involve them, get them to act. The Monday night meetings at Pleasent Green should be rejuvenated. Interest must be built up.

When a person is assigned a task, they must do it--or they can be replaced. Everyone here is a campaign manager for Mrs. Devine. I will start assembling info on her opposing man, Arthur Winstead. NOTE* MEDICAL COMMITTEE DOCTORS CANNOT TREAT LOCAL PEOPLE, IT IS AGAINST THE RULES. ALSO, WE CANNOT AFFORD LAWYERS, FINES OR BONDS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH THE MOVEMENT. THIS OFFICE IS NOT A FREE MEDICAL OR LEGAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE.

George Johnson is responsible for meeting with me by 3:00p.m. Thursday and getting out blackout leaflets, he will also take a group of young men(no minors) into downtown Canton this week-end wearing CORE shirts. It was generally agreed that this does have an effect on keeping local Negroes out of town. George is also responsible for helping Martha work in the C.C.

Martha Wright will make out a map of Canton showing public acc. and utilites by Friday, we can use this in time.

NOTE: WE HAVE NO MONEY TO BAIL PEOPLE OUT OF JAIL....

WORK CAMPAIGN, connected with ASC man Hodges, have local comm. kids get together and start up a clean-up campaigns in the neighborhoods. WELFARE, the Movement cannot take care of and support local people. Priority comes to those working in the movement and those who have tried to register. When our Welfare staff and Valley Views staff is organized, Dave Dennis is supposedly holding 2 tons of clothing etc. for us in Jackson.

ASS (Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service) is holding elections on December 3. Two weeks before this, they must have several people to canvass and beat the bushes for the meeting. You do not have to be a registered voter to vote for a man on the ballot, you merely have to be a farmer. Federal programs people must get out a sketch of the 8 community boundaries and get it to Staff and involved local people. They should also have a short sketch describing people who are candidates for the ASC board. Transportation will be needed for organizing this election.

Eartis Crawford is coming here. Milton Pickett is going to Leake County. We should find high-school kids who have drivers licnences to canvass for u s.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be no drinking of any kind in any public place in Madison County as f ar as staff people are concerned. This goes for project people who are just passing through this county, such as people from Leake Co. and from Jackson. If you are living in a dry county there should be no drinking in your private homes either. In Madison co. we may drink in our private homes if that is agreeable to everyone connected with the house. I will check for the drinking laws in Rankin and Scott County and have them posted.
2. There will be no familiarity shown in public between Negro and white project and local people. This causes nothing but trouble and gives girls a rotten reputation. It must stop.
3. Security must be tightened, sign out every place you go, never drive aalone at night whether you are Negro or white. Call in when you reach and when leaving your destination.

TALK UP THE MADISON COUNTY MOVEMENT MEETING EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT ASBURY CHURCH AT 9:00 a.m. LOCAL PEOPLE MUST START ATTENDING THIS MEETING.

Taken and Submitted by
Mary Ann Shupenko