

September 26, 1964

Individual daily and weekly report from Office Manager Mary Ann Shupenko (affectionally known as white slave)

Dear Director: I will start off by saying that asking this type of report from me is ridiculous, time consuming and serves no purpose since you know I sit in this office fifteen to seventeen hours a day with no break and that I ~~am~~ work all this time doing my own work and everybody else's work that they don't do... I started this report once before and the first three days took four pages, so I decided to try again in a condensed form. I don't always remember on what days I have done what specific things unless I consult my daily list of work--at this hour I cannot even read and since you require this report tomorrow morning (excuse me, this morning) some things may be jumbled in a general weeks work.

Monday: I went into Jackson to take the petitions from Madison County for Mrs. Devine and Aaron Henry. While there I went into downtown Jackson to pick up the Meridian petitions at the bus station for Dave Dennis. I also went to see the doctor and he told me to rest and work eight hours a day and gave me a conglomeration of pills which I forget to take. Upon returning I brought the ledgers up to date, ran off four different stencils, attended the Staff meeting Monday night and took minutes. During the day I also answered letters to people who wanted to be Friends of the Canton office. I also had long conversations with people in Jackson who handle the supplies and welfare and got those two things straightened out.

Tuesday: I stenciled up the four pages of minutes from the previous nights meeting, arranged for Mrs. Devine to speak at Hattiesburg and got her to Jackson for Staff meeting F.D.P. I also cleaned the two offices (which is a daily chore, forwarded mail, and argued with the Jackson F.D.P. people, which is also a daily chore) I then went into Jackson with you for the Valley View Staff meeting which lasted till midnight. Then I had a meeting with Dave Dennis and Jesse Morris over finances; then I went to the F.D.P. office in Jackson and got some dope to use for Mrs. Devine's campaign. I returned to Canton and two in the morning, typed up Marcellus's loan statement, talked with you and went to bed at 3:30 in the morning. Also while in Jackson, I stole a good amount of supplies and literature from the Jackson office.

Wednesday: I had a hell of a time straightening out the check business with Andrew Green, this went into Thursday. I spoke to Marv Rich and cried for James Farmer and your camera. I answered a memo to the Jackson office, got out two business letters, started mapping out Mrs. Devine's campaign speeches, Typed up a daily list of reminders and appointments for you. Straightened and cleaned your desk, spoke to Mrs. Devine at length concerning the Freedom Rally, rechecked plans for that day. From here on in things are a blur so I will just list what I did sometime this week. I have gotten out over a hundred posters made all by hand individually on the Freedom Rally and Freedom Day. Made up stencils and ran off at least three to six hundred copies on the following subjects: Black Out, Rankin County Rally, Program for that Rally, Leaflets on District Rally, Maps on District Rally, Memo to Office Staff, Henry Lee's Radio leaflets, Wilbur Robinson's Sunday school convention and edited and typed the stencil and ran off a thousand copies of the Madison County Citizen.

I got the cars and insurance straightened out with Casey in Atlanta, made several business calls to Marv Rich, Completely worked out the settings, assignments, posters and in general planned the Fourth District Rally. I answer the phone at least thirty times a day, remind, discuss and argue points with you at least once a night. Spent a total of ten hours throughout the week listening to the problems of this office and the Valley View office with staff relations. Get into arguments because I enforce security regulations. Work out bills and books every day. Try to keep this office running well and the people happy. In general run the damn place while you are in Rankin. I arrange appointments for you and Mrs. Devine, buy food, don't get enough sleep. Fight off the local guys who constantly drop into this office to tell me how nice I am. Go from points of ~~frustration~~ nervous frustration in trying to understand and get along with Sears, George Johnson, and Jack Milton. Try to keep Martha from telling Arlene and Sally to go hell and talk her out of going home. Try to filter problems so you aren't constantly bothered with petty problems, try and keep Tom Ramsey from running every one else's programs as he did with Martha and her M.S.U. meeting. and in general try to keep people happy. Talked to G.O. Chinn for three hours, and then tried to explain to him things are not the same as they were before he went to jail. Mrs. Devine and I have quite a few private talks concerning G.O. and the project, people, and community in general. I speak to local people, take care of legal and financial problems, do one hundred and two spur of the moment things which Jackson or someone in this office or Valley View must have immediately. I tell you to rest and re-assure Mrs. Devine that I'm not on the verge of a nervous breakdown from overwork. I quite often yell at you, but then that's to be expected. Since you listen to me, talk me into my senses and then it's allright.

I'm glad you are the only one who reads this damn thing, because someone else might think I'm crazy. Whatever I do or say, I'm not complaining. I work these hours and do the things I do because I believe and feel in this cause for myself as well as for all my fellow human beings black and white alike. As I told you today I will take a rest eventually. This is not only an office daily report, it's a kind of psychological therapy. Thanks!--

MCS