

[Sept. 27, 1964]

Daily Report---Phil Sharp

Sunday, Sept., 20, 1964

I arrived in Jackson. I spoke with Liz Fiasco about Freedom Schools. She outlined the program proposed in Jackson. We talked about

1. Student petition to be drawn up before Freedom Study Day in November.
2.
 - a. desegregation. Why.
 - b. free discussion
 - c. teachers oath. Why.
 - d. teachers registered to vote.
 - e. other significant and reasonable requests.
 - f. parent petition ~~and~~ support of student demands.
2. parent's petition---request for audience with principal, Superintendent, board of trustees.
3. Importance of discipline.
 - a. possibility of jailing and court record
 - b. other possible reprisals.
4. parallel instruction in freedom schools.

Monday, Sept 21

1st day in Valeyview. Attended staff meeting in Valleyview in a.m. I attempted to refamiliarize myself with details of program here.

During the day Charlie Prickett, Judy Hampton and myself canvassed in 12th precinct. I spoke with a recent high school graduate, Johnnie Lee Smith. He would like to attend college but has no money. He is interested in Mechanical Engineering. I will check on scholarship programs this weekend at Batesville F.S. coordinators meeting.

Monday evening---staff meeting in Canton.

Tuesday, Sept 22

Charlie & I canvassed precinct #2.

I spoke with Mrs. Harris concerning re-opening the Community center for younger children so that parents could work or shop or go to courthouse. Mrs. Harris said she would speak with Mrs. Nash and Mrs. Williams. These 3 women are to work on setting up the community center. They will have time to devote to the center after the cotton is picked. They are going to try to arrange a program whereby one of them or other community person will be at the center all day.

Tuesday night---meeting in Jackson.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

ran errands in Canton---Stenals, laundry, and supplies. I spoke to a boy down from Chicago interested in working in the movement for the winter, Robert Lucke. He lives with his family near here.

I attended Farmers League meeting at St. Johns. Passed out announcements on M.S. U. meeting Tuesday night at 6pm. The officers will meet Sunday After church at Magdalene.

After the F.L. Meeting we met with Tom Ramsey.

I then drove out to see Percy Fleming, president of M.S.U. I outlined possible MSU projects. He is to contact other officers for Sunday's meeting. I intend to speak with persons who attended Magdalene F.S. to get officers from there to meeting.

Thursday, Sept. 24

Worked office and organized my own materials in the morning. In the pm I went with Charlie to give a scholarship form to Johnnie Lee Smith. In the evening we studied for driving test. Picked up Green in Canton At 1:45 AM.

Friday, Sept. 25.

9:30 am Charlie, Green, Judy, and I arrived at Drivers License building in Canton I ~~was~~ was to take the complete test as my out of state license had expired. I passed both sections of the written test. I was told to wait for the road test. (Judy had to wait to take the written test.) We waited until almost noon and were then told we would have to return after lunch. When we returned to the car both front tires were flat. and there was a ticket on the windshield for over parking even though there was 40 minutes left on the meter. I took pictures of the car and meter. We walked into the Negro section of town when it looked like trouble might be starting at the filling station next to the car. George picked us up and pumped up the tires singing freedom songs.

We returned to the license bureau a little after 1 pm. We sat down to wait while the examiner proceeded as slowly as possible to give everyone that came into the room (2 at a time only) the written test. When I questioned him as to when he might get around to giving me the road test he said he was waiting until he had 3 or 4 more people to take to road test so that he could give them all at once. At 3:15 pm two white girls came in. He escorted them in to take the test immediately ---breaking ofcourse his arbitrary rule of 2 at a time. Then he said we could go out to check the car I would be taking the test in. (Greens Olds.) Everything was in good working order, but he said the muffler had a hole in it. I then revved up the motor to demonstrate that the muffler was quiet. It was, but he said, "Hear that---the muffler has a hole in it. You'll have to get that fixed and come back with the same car next week." He added that I should clean the inside of the car also because he didn't want to catch me going.

I caught a bus at 4:20 for Batesville.

Saturday, Sept. 26

Picked up materials to work from in the F.S. We discussed possible changes and additions to curriculum.

Sunday Sept. 27.

Literacy workshop: picked up ideas on improving my own method of teaching. In particular: 1) using words ~~about~~ about topics of particular interest to student. 2) Using literary works like Huck Finn where discussions can arise which will bring in personal experience.

Returned to Canton. Charlie picked me up at 9 pm. On the way back to Valleyview, we investigated a possible firebombing. But it was a barn that had been struck by lightning.

Late that night and in the wee hours of Monday morning, I set up ~~typing~~ typing my personal report to George.