Report from Moss Point-Pascagoula
November 26 to November 21

1. Relations with the community
   a. We have as yet made no definite conclusions about what our
      relationship to the NAACP will be. The president of the branch says
      that he is doing some thinking about it, too.
   b. We held a mass meeting on Thursday. There were about a dozen
      people there. We didn't dwell on why the rest of the people weren't
      there, but rather tried to make the meeting so interesting that
      the people present would tell their friends about it. We held the
      meeting in a church in a different area of town than we usually
      meet in, in an attempt to interest the people in that area. There
      were a few new faces.
      We told the people about the Freedom Schools, and about the
      food and clothing shipment which we will pick up from Gulfport in
      a few days. The rest of the meeting was devoted to the situation
      in the two Moss Point Foodtown grocery stores on Main Street. At
      those stores over half the business is from Negroes and yet the
      only Negro employees are the boy who bags groceries in each store.
      We all decided that there ought to be at least one Negro person
      clerking in each store, considering that so much of the business
      is from Negroes. On Friday, two girls went to the Foodtown to ask
      for a job. At one store they were told that the same employees
      were there from three years ago and that no new ones were needed.
      At the other store they were told that they would be called on Mon-
      day after a new female checker who started on Friday had the week-
      end to "work out" or fail. Two other girls were supposed to go to
      the Foodtowns on Saturday, but they changed their minds. Another
      meeting will be called when a new development arises.

2. Personnel. The new girl's full name is Nancy Sours.

3. M.S.U. No meetings were held.

4. F.D.P. There were no activities or meetings.

5. Voter registration. Harold Kelvin, Barry Utt, Harry Swan and
   Rufus Mosley, Jr. (Jock) canvassed all week, mainly in one Pasca-
   goula housing project. Three people from that project took the
   registration test this week and two of them passed. Mary Larsen
   and Nancy Sours also canvassed for the mass meeting.

6. Community Center possibilities. We have a good physical set-up
   for a community center--two large oblong rooms in the local Masonic
   Hall. In one we have a library and office; in the other our
   Freedom School meets.
   In the library we have a large number of unarranged, useless
   books and also some good fiction and non-fiction which we try to
   keep in order. All the books are shelved; none have check-out
   cards. We have had some trouble with the best books being taken
   out and never being returned. Community people use the library pretty
   faithfully. So far we have had no community people work with us
   to try to arrange and catalogue the books. We're going to work
   on that.
   We have plans for two newspapers--one coming from the younger
   children, including all their writings, to be called The Freedom Press
   the other, The Freedom Legend, run by the MSU, is directed mainly
at students. Two issues have come out so far. We hope that ses-
sions will produce a lot of writing for this paper.

At this point, the Freedom School-Community Center program could
not be called successful. There is too little community participa-
tion. Perhaps development and wide circulation of both newspapers
will help.

We are also considering opening one room for tutorials and
study hall from 4 to 6 or 7 p.m. every day. We have no definite
plans for adult classes as yet, but hope to get adults involved in
improving the library.

There are now two staff people working on Community Center-
Freedom Schools: Mary Larsen and Nancy Sours.

7. Freedom School activities. Every morning (except Friday because
the cold surprised us) at 9 a.m. from ten to twenty 2nd, 4th, and
6th graders descended upon us. The children painted, drew, wrote,
worked on ABC's, sang Freedom Songs, and talked about segregation-
integration-agitation for about an hour, then went out in the back
yard and screamed and fought and played volleyball.

Every afternoon (including Friday, even though it was cold) at
1 p.m. from ten to twenty 1st, 3rd, and 5th graders did the same
thing as the morning group.

We are trying to increase attendance both mornings and afternoons
and involve community adults.

Friday (Nov. 15) at 3 p.m., Freedom School for high school stu-
dents began. We had a rousing class where staff outnumbered students.
We're all reading J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye. The class
was held in the Moss Point COFO office.

Mary Ellickson—Communications
Rufus Mosley Jr.