

Here is the information you requested on Valley View:

1. The people on this project are Andrew Green, Project Director, Phil Sharp, random COFO subsistence waiting for CORE to come through, Karen Duncan, CORE checks, Judi Hampton, random COFO subsistence waiting for CORE to come through.

2. There is one COFO project car kept mostly in the hands of the project director.

3. The summer Freedom School and Community Center programs had been discontinued when I returned late in September. The Community Center library has been completely reorganized. These two programs were hindered from further development because in this rural area the kids all picked cotton every day after school and all day Saturdays. A very successful Halloween program was put on by the young people. As soon as the kids were out of the fields, classes were begun in the Freedom House and were successfully operating three nights a week. A class was also begun one night a week at a church. A play has been written by a young school drop-out and some of the high school students have begun a weekly newsletter. Most of these activities have been temporarily halted to devote full staff energies toward the ASC election coming up on the third of December. A Student Union has been developed and then drifted away. Transportation and Communication have been major hindrances (lack of that is). No phones, no car.

All of these efforts, with the exception of local classes, seem to lead us in the direction of a more unified program. I think we ought to start at the beginning, organizing small groups of people along a section of road or block, get them together to talk about just any old thing--not voting, not boycotting, but what's really on their minds--their own personal problems, ideas and annoyances. Let them come up with their own solutions and then work with them when they feel they need us. A unified, organizational organization.

We are in the middle of an all out effort now to get a Negro ASC county board elected. This is splitting us up geographically but unifying us, the staff organizationally. The community organization we are trying to construct is put together by roads. We are trying to get local people to canvass particular sections of roads with which they are familiar. We hope to be able to use this basic structure, the road or block captain system, to develop all future programs.

Welfare distribution is in the hands of local committies when it is in hands at all. We have divorced ourselves from it except for the formation of such committees. My personal feeling, not exclusively mine, is that welfare promotes many hard feelings and Big Brotherism...they still know where it's coming from and those that have been kissing white men's arses all their lives go right on kissing arses only this time COFO is the arse.

People have been in the fields and voter registration has slowed down. Also, concentration has been on ASC.

The Freedom Vote did not go as well as expected. Here again, I believe the people are impatient and are beginning to feel out of the movement. Ignorance is a big factor. I don't feel that the Freedom Election accomplished its expressed purpose of educating people. Many came to me after the election asking me why their votes weren't tabulated on the television along with the others. Future programs, it seems to me, need to be more directly expressive of the people's needs. FDP and voter registration both are indirect. I feel those programs need to slow down in favor of listening and then building one program that begins with the people. And we need a single organizational structure through which all aspects of that program can be developed.

Please pardon my personal interference...

phil sharp