

FREEDOM SCHOOL REPORT
Gail Falk

Best news - we have a signed agreement from the East Mississippi State Baptist Convention granting us use of the top floor of the Meridian Baptist Seminary for this fall and next spring, provided we pay our utility bills and damages. Will try to begin classes there in a week. In addition to high school classes, will talk with Mrs. Crump about what we might best do with elementary ages right after school, when the high school kids are still mostly involved in activities. Also will start some adult classes. Also high priority to persuade MSU to move its office back to the same room it used this summer - Roscoe earlier indicated he wanted to do this - in order to break the present grip which Young-Darden et.al. have on Roscoe (such that last night he announced that the main activities for the winter would be a Freedom Choir and raising money to bring down some kids from New Jersey - good things but not exactly militant)

Have had a few meetings of a French class with some former FS kids. Also two afternoons of discussion about colleges. Also one meeting each of a negro history and a Freedom class. These were disrupted by the Freedom Day and Freedom vote and School Protest. Will start them up rightaway again as a nucleus in the Seminary.

Continue a couple individual reading classes. One particularly good relationship - Lelia Waterhouse and I have been going twice a week to teach reading to a young couple and their 5 year old son. The Nathan Jenkins family.

I've been working on finishing sorting the books stored in the new office - which will be distributed among the Community center, the Freedom School, Clarke County and Neshoba. We have yet to decide how to dispose of second-rate novels (some kind of book give-away), multiple copies of textbooks like Your Speech and Business English (they are in good condition but I don't expect any of us would want to teach from them) There are also large numbers of children's textbooks, which I think we can distribute to the kids. Also large numbers of old books which we would not want to distribute (I suggest trying to find an old book dealer who would give us, say, \$15 for the lot).

It is going to take a lot of talking and working to get Freedom School started again because one by product of the school protest has been a lot of anti-COFO propaganda. (I will detail this in a separate writing of the school protest). If Frank and Judy Wright decide to stay on in Meridian I think it would be a very good thing for them to work with me on setting up the school and be able to take over when I leave in January. They would be good at this and have showed some interest in it.

The week before Freedom Day I spent mostly on political work in Precinct 7 with Barbara Moss. We did alot of canvassing and found some new people who we should work to involve. - Mrs. Helen Nicholson, Mrs. McGlothlin, Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. Dukes. Barbara knows alot of young adults in this precinct and we should try to bring them together.