



NORTH FLORIDA CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION PROJECT
Rt. 3, Box 428-F
Quincy, Florida
Phone 627-8458

TO: Mr. Richard Haley
Southern Office
New Orleans, La.

FROM: Spiver W. Gordon, Field Secretary, Florida

DATE: November 25, 1964

SUBJECT: Field report for the period Nov. 6-25, 1964.

The North Florida Citizenship Education Project, at this time, is working in the same three counties as explained in my last letter to you in regard to assignment. Attached is a summary of reports submitted from the field by workers.

Perhaps, I might begin by saying the staff had discussed the possibility of expanding into other counties, before we were aware of the seriousness of our financial situation. Due to that and a limited number of workers we decided to expand only into two counties, Liberty and Lafayette, and every now and then touching up Leon county.

Because of these limitations, much of the work in Liberty and Lafayette will be only scouting, and seeking strong leaders and hopefully, to bring about a similar situation as in St. Francisville, Louisiana, since the situation is pretty much the same in terms of the white resistance, but the contrary in terms of Negroes as numbered to whites.

We feel that Liberty County will give North Florida the corrupted image it has, but is very seldom mentioned in the newspapers.

Lafayette county, being the other county of concentration is somewhat the same. It has been rumored that there is one Negro registered there, but the state registration publication proves otherwise.

By the first of this month I will be able to give a more detailed report in regard to these counties. I plan to be scouting the remainder of this month in those areas mentioned.

In Gadsden county, where whites are outnumbered by Negroes much concern is being shown by the white power structure. For instance many streets in heavily Negro areas now have street lights, much of this can be attributed to the successful get out to vote campaign waged by a local civic group and CORE. The recent election also spurred an Uncle Tom group to move. These gentlemen call themselves the "Business and Civic Group"

Turned out
not to be
that bad

Stories
Photos
Statistics

Devise
broad com-
munity program
stay ahead
of opposition
Write for Anti-Poverty material

composed of many middle class Negroes and led by a high school principal. The group went to the white power structure with a few washed down proposals and said either you do business with us or the outside elements will take over, meaning the Civic Interest Group and CORE. Despite all of this I have had a chance to talk to one man in the group, who expressed disapproval of the group's action, who also told me about what happened at this meeting. He suggested that since this group won't join with us, why not us join into their ranks. This sounds like a good idea and it is being given some consideration. However, we don't expect too much from a group like this. Quincy has been the scene of much activity, which is not being done all by the task force workers, but by Quincy CORE and the other group (The Civic Interest Group). A report from Steve McVoy will explain some of this activity.

Nature of suit?

Jefferson County, the city of Monticello seems to offer the most resistance at this point, but hopefully we might be able to get some Federal action from the FBI in regard to complaints. I also wrote Carl about the possibility of bringing suit against the county, but this was before our financial plight was a major factor. Much can be gained in Jefferson, if we can only get more community support. It seems at this point we are faced with a similar situation in Jefferson as in Quincy. There is a local school principal in leadership of the local Voter League, which serves as the only type leadership at this time. His position is that he knows all the answers and CORE is only trying to steal his thunder and make a fool of him. I haven't been able to get to a meeting of this group as of yet, but this is my intention. I understand from Sidney Daniels that there are some good people on the board of this group, but in his opinion that the group will not only need a shot in the arm, but new arms if they are to get some meaningful results.

Madison county, poses quite a few problems. The adult leadership is just about nil. Rev. Jamison, who is president of the local steering committee seems to think he speaks for Madison county and is a very touchy character. Saddle Jones and David Dukes had lost all contact with him because of this attitude. I have since then assigned them elsewhere, thinking perhaps it was their fault, but two other workers are having the same trouble with him. Helen Henderson and Scott McVoy are assigned presently. I had a long talk with Rev. Jamison and he had the impression that after the election CORE was to pack up stock and barrel and leave his county. He is the kind I think we will have a little trouble with at first but can be brought in line as others have.

Now on the other hand the younger group of the NAACP is ready to work but needs some adult leadership, hopefully we are trying to find such a person or persons. Scott tells me

that the chance of getting a CORE chapter in Madison is very slim, because of the hard work of David Dukes and Sadie Jones building the NAACP youth. Both are doing well in their new assignment. Madison county could become a very good place for all to live in if the Negroes will unite as they did on the election day of November 3, 1964. The result of the voter registration drive there proved that the white folks there are concerned. Rev. Jamison tells me that the white president of the local Junior College called the Negro head and told her to tell her students that the white junior college would accept students without regard to color, race, or creed. Also, however token it may be, a Negro policeman was hired, and given a car to patrol in the Negro area. It might be noted that Madison has a 47% potential. This will be at its highest by 1966.

Send applicants for next trimester

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT:

Due to the many limitations, money being the major one, I have been unable to visit any chapters in Florida. However, I have made it a part of the outline program to include a report on the possibility of establishing new chapters in each counties we are working. The result is the possibility of two chapters already, one in in Havana and one in Chattahoochee, all being in Gadsden. We are trying to get all concerned to form one chapter and call it the Gadsden County CORE, instead of dividing their strength, join it together.

Very good

POLICE HARRASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION:

Gadsden county has a good deal of intimidation, since the election, all of which has been reported to the FBI. The first day here I was followed for several blocks by a city policeman. The next day I was told to get a Florida license tag. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Steve McVoy was arrested November 23, 1964 on a charge of "lying on an officer", being the county sheriff. A call by the FBI to the sheriff got him released. A copy of a complaint to the FBI is being forwarded to you to explain the incident.

Jefferson County. The normal following of workers by the cops and cat calls by passing whites in cars has been the only harrassment of V. R. workers, since the last beating of Sidney and Scott, which is still hanging, since I haven't heard from Carl Rachlin yet.

Will write to Rachlin

Something which had no connection with the civil rights movement happened however in Monticello a few days after the workers were beaten. A young Negro girl was picked up by a carload of white boys who tried to rape her. An official complaint was filed with the local officials and they laughed and said there was nothing they could do. This only confirms our belief that a white man will never be arrested whenever a Negro files a complaint, unless CORE or some organization does something in this regard.

Reported?



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Voter Registration Situation

1. Gadsden County	Numbered Registered	Numbered Contact
	150	200
2. Jefferson County	100	200
3. Madison County	250	300

Madison county, has had a good amount of harrassment of the local people but not of V. F. workers as yet. Scott McVoy is working there now and the result may be different the next time I write you.

FINANCES:

This is no doubt the most talked about thing in CORE at this time. The fact that we are having financial difficulties are pretty hard to convince our creditor, since we have owed them for several months. We owe out somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1000 or more. I am forwarding you a copy of all bills we have on hand. The manager of the National Car Rental called yesterday and told me he would need some money or would have to turn in the V.W. I am referring all those who call to the Southern Office, since I don't know what to say in these matters. The project here can be self-supported at this point, if only we could get salaries for the three workers who don't receive pay. We are now collecting money from workers who get paid and putting it in a pool to pay bills and feed the unpaid.

This we will do as long as we have to.

I hope this report will bring you up to date with the project in North Florida.

Yours for freedom,

Spiver W. Gordon
Field Secretary in Quincy, Florida