

Jackson

## UNION COUNTY Workshop meetings on the Congressional Challenge

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As preliminaries before the county meeting on Dec. 16, two workshops were held in two communities. They were not well attended, about 10 people at each. However excellent discussions highlighted them both. Topics of discussion: voter registration, importance of the vote, power structures, citizenship, congress, and the challenge as well as the structure and importance of the FDP. Almost all present took part in the round table type conversation. Most Fruitful...

County Meeting Dec. 16 Pleasant Grove church

Purpose: to further discuss the challenge and the makeup of congress. The meeting was attended by 50 people, to my knowledge the largest group ever at a Union County meeting. It was a success because the FDP chairman, Leanza Siddell, had urged people to come in his church and other churches on Sunday. Previously he had been reluctant to even hold meetings. He is a respected and powerful leader.

He opened the meeting with prayer and songs, very reverent. His first topic was registering at the courthouse, things are fairly easy at the registrar's office and no one has had any trouble passing. This is true to this date. Then Mr. Siddell spoke briefly on the challenge as an introduction to me (Gloria).

As a reference I used the pamphlet on the challenge for discussion. We dwelled on each point with many men and women taking part actively. I really pushed writing letters to Mrs. Hamer in DC. Then we finally came to the \$64 question, after over an hour discussion. Who from Union County is to go to DC? Should anyone go? They all agreed that Union County should send a delegate. After some deliberation Reverend Keyes volunteered enthusiastically. Others decided they did not know as of yet and wanted more time to think about it.

Then we talked about going to Jackson on Sunday, Dec. 20. Secretary Paul Spight (teacher who has not been to a meeting since last summer) offered his car and was willing to take anyone who wanted to go. A few people are going including Mr. Siddell's oldest son. It should be noted that we were invited to the school where Mr. Spight teaches in Ripley. The principal invited us last week since two of the students are actively working with us. There is a report on this visit.

The county treasury was suggested by Mr. Siddell, but no one knew who the treasurer is. Whoever he is if he is has not attended one meeting. Clarence Estes was elected, a very articulate and concerned man. A collection was taken \$12 and was voted to be used for the Jackson trip. Then money was discussed for DC. They decided to raise it in churches and all communities from now until the time to go. I don't think there is a car available from Union County and I hope we can get one for transportation.

Paul Spight urged another county meeting for those who want to think about DC. A meeting was set for Monday Dec. 21, where Paul Spight will give a report on Jackson meeting, and others on fund raising.