TO: MR. RICHARD HALEY, SOUTHERN OFFICE; MR. SPIVER GORDON, FLORIDA FIELD SECRETARY
FROM: MR. STUART WECHSLER, CORE TASK FORCE; FLORIDA
SUBJECT: FIELD REPORT FEBRUARY 1 thru 16, 1965

CIG is beginning to work on the Anti-Poverty Program. Speakers have been brought in and information relative to implementation gathered. An inter-racial meeting is being planned for the last week in February. N.F.C.P. has been asked to work along with CIG on the project and will probably be on any committee formed in the county.

We have heard rumors that a group of white farmers have formed a committee to get anti-poverty money. The purpose will undoubtedly be to see that their source of labor is left undisturbed for as long as possible. The county commissioners are for the most part farmers who have a vested interest in the present system; so that it will probably be difficult if not impossible to obtain any meaningful cooperation from the county commissioners.

On the other hand we have finally gotten some cooperation from the white community. J.Q. Kelly, a quixotic businessman, brother of a segregationist who made an unsuccessful bid for the gubernatorial election has joined CORE and is also beginning a job training for Negroes. He has applied for a loan from SBA in order to set up a regular job training program.

I have been working along with the Florida A&M Multi-Occupational Department project. I have been canvassing on farms. People out there are very eager & concerned about obtaining better jobs. Unfortunately, I have had a harder time talking them into registering. There is still a few of them who fear going down to register have their name put down on the books.

Schools:

It has been reported that the school board is about to make public a plan to desegregate the schools of this county. If past attitude of school board member any indication of what all their plan will be it is safe to say that the plan want be much. Some of the children in Chiehoochee have come in with the idea of a one day bus boycott emphasis their demand for integration. They have asked CORE to help organize it.

FREEDOM NOW
PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION:

Restaurants have been tested in all three towns of Gadsden County. In Quincy all restaurants are serving; in Havana most are not. Chattahoochee testing was postponed because of lack of funds. Of the three restaurants tested two refused service to Negroes.

The results of the tests are being compiled for presentation at the United States advisory commission on Civil Rights hearing that will be held here held in Quincy in March.

CITY COURTS:

I have started sitting in on city court sessions to determine if there are any irregularities in court procedures. The first session was inconclusion of 18 cases called only 4 defendant showed up. (One was a white woman who was charged with failure to have vehicle under control. She had crossed the solid line, but a car continued another 200 ft. & sped into a ditch. The damage to both cars was $425. She was fined.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Wechsler,
Task Force