

## MADISON COUNTY ACTIVITIES

### The County Convention

The Madison County Movement has set up a county convention for March 27, 1965 at a local man's house by the name of Stokes Ware. All the project's activities have been centered around this coming convention for the past month. The county has been divided up into the same communities that were used for the ASOS Election. This gives the county 8 communities plus the town of Canton. Each of these communities has been worked by COFO workers. The main idea behind this convention is to bring elected representatives together to talk about the things that they want to do in the coming months. It is generally felt that COFO has continued to bring programs to the people to carry out like the Freedom Registration, the Freedom Vote and the Challenge. For the first time, local citizens will be coming together to discuss what they want to carry out themselves. Each of these 8 communities plus Canton, are now electing representatives to represent them at the convention. There is also an educative process going on with these elections. The people are first discussing the merits of such a convention before electing delegates and are also discussing things that they want to see done in their various communities. For example, most of the people in two communities want to see their roads improved and want to talk about having Freedom Schools this summer. Most of the people have been meeting in small groups with a COFO worker to talk about what this convention means and what they want to see done. One community has already drawn up a petition to take to the county road supervisor about their roads. All attention of the project has been centered on this one program and it is hoped that for the first time local people will have a hand in selecting the programs that they want to carry out. It is also hoped that these elected representatives will continue to function in their communities after the convention.

### Sewing Project

A group of about five local ladies have been talking about starting a sewing Co-operative. They can all make shirts and dresses in a short amount of time. They feel that they could start a COOP which would make shirts and dresses to sell to places. There has also been talk of getting some Northern contacts to supply the material. The ladies have now made four samples of their work and it will be sent to various companies in the North to see if they would be interested in this market. The COFO office has two sewing machines to start with and plans are now being made to look into the procedure to set up such a Coop. The ladies are very serious about this project and want to start on it right away.

### Union Activity

There have been several meetings about forming a union at one of the local wood working mills in Canton. This mill employes about 150 Negroes and they work in segregated facilities and for a low wage and long hours. The main problem is trying to get all the employees together. Many are afraid of losing their jobs. George Raymond is going to get more information on how to start a union, plus talk to the head of the Mississippi AFL/CIO. There will be more information on this later. Right now it is just in the talking stages.

*Submitted by  
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