

TO: Mr. Richard Haley, CORE Southern Director; Mr. James T. McCain, Director of Organization.

From: Spiver W. Gordon, Field Director, CORE - Florida

Date: April 30, 1965

Subject: Field Report for period April 15 - 30, 1965

The N. F. C. E. P. - CORE directed its attention to two areas of concentration. The first was having conferences with county officials with regard to hospitals and recreational facilities. The second aspect dealt with a 9th Congressional district workshop. The finishing touches are ~~being~~ ^{made} at the close of this report.

GADSDEN COUNTY HOSPITAL

On April 28, 1965, Staff members of CORE went in to have a talk with the hospital administration in regard to their policy of compliance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We discussed the following: (1) patient assignments, (2) personnel and staff with regards to promotions, (3) duties and the lunch room facilities. To all inquiries, we got positive answers. Since our visit, we have had several reports of people being dismissed, who had been told either by doctors or hospital officials that they should be in a hospital. It is our feeling that these people (hospital) are afraid that some Negroes will request transfer to the so-called white ward or these is a concern to keep the Negro ward as less crowded as possible, as so to maintain segregation. We are investigating these reports and hopefully we will arrive at positive approach, after we have had an opportunity to see what's the story.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

A letter has been sent to all cities in the Ninth Congressional District with regards to recreation facilities and their compliance with the Civil Rights Law. Following our visit to the hospital and our letter demanding that all recreational facilities be open to all persons. The City Commissioners of Quincy called in a delegation of Negroes of the city to discuss in their words City improvement, which lated amounted to: (1) The hospital being open on a voluntary basis, (2) the only two Negro policemen be given a car to patrol, instead of walking a 500 ft. beat up and down Adam Street, or "Colored Street", (3) Recreational facilities be open on a trail basis. Although CORE had approached the City officials about these changes, we were not invited to this special meeting. However, we were well represented by Rev. Crutcher, who in no uncertain term demanded that the swimming pool be open to all this summer. Staff feels that if we can paddle the City officials in making changes, we don't care with who, as long as they ~~are~~ ^{make} changes.

SCHOOL DESEGREGATION

Jefferson County has been the target of protests for the past week. A number of citizens went to the superintendent's office to find out why they had seen or heard of Jefferson's plan to desegregate the public school system. Their protest was backed by the fact that one prior students and parents requesting a transfer to come in and sign a transfer and preference card to which school they wish to attend for the coming year, a joint protest has been filed against the County school board by the local PTA and CORE. The complaint is ~~exposed~~ ^{exposed} in this report. Also the Jefferson County Voter Group has had a little difficulty with some of its executive members and their relationship with CORE Task force workers. It seems that one or two members are only interested in getting folks registered and nothing else. The matter was settled by the whole Body at a general election and the whole body voting in favor of CORE's program in Jefferson County. There is a move at this point to get rid of the principal of Howard Academy which is one of the leaders of an Anti-CORE program. It is our feeling that we shall not be moved for a long time.

VOTERS REGISTRATION

VR has been very, very slow for the past two weeks due mainly to a lack of funds to properly run the project. For instances, the lights at the Freedom House have been off for five days.

WORK SHOP PROGRAM

For some time leaders in the Ninth Congressional District have expressed a desire to have a joint meeting with all leaders in the district, ~~SO~~ staff decided to try and get folk together from all areas in the 9th District. A work shop was chosen to be the main issue of discussion. The following areas were chosen: (1) Anti-Poverty, (2) Civil Right Law and Civil Rights movement, Community involvement, and organization (3) Legal problems, and (4) Equal job opportunity and federal programs. ~~Participate~~ IF nothing else is accomplished for these workshop, these community leaders will get a chance to at least meet each other and share their problems together. Several of these counties have power to be very successful counties and we have received commitments from all areas contacted to be present. Enclosed is the outline of the program.

POLICE HARRASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION

Quincy, Florida; several staff members have been stopped and given citations for minor things on vehicle. Sidney Daniels was arrested on a speeding charge and fined \$35.00. Johnny Watson was called in and questioned. Later found to be wrong person, when he refused to go to the city hall. Ralph Fritz was arrested and charged with possession of obscene literature, later released when court trail proved that he only had a letter received from a friend with a few curse words in it. A more detail report is enclosed. Monticello, Florida; David Dukes has been followed by chief of police and new sheriff deputy.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) The following persons be added to regular Task Force: (1) Johnny Lee Watson
- (2) Cassandra Williams and (3) Smith, Phillip
- (2) Need I say we need money. We have a telephone bill for \$80.00, which must be paid by the 10th of this month or service will be cut off. We have about half of it. We owe two months rent on our office - \$75.00.
- (3) ~~XXXX~~ Try and get Jerome Smith here or someone from the Southern Office for the work shop on May 8, 1965.

Veter Registration Situation		
Counties	Contacted	Registered
Leon	30	15
Jefferson	60	35
Madison	65	10
Gadsden	100	20
Liberty	32	12