

TO: Mr. Richard Haley, Director Southern Office
Mr. Spiver Gorden, Florida Field Secretary,

FROM: Stuart Wechsler Florida Task Force

DATE: April 30, 1965

SUBJECT: Field Report for Gadsden County April 15 through 30

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS: There has been continued testing of the restaurants in the Chattahoochee area. Only two of the restaurants in town are open to Negroes. The others including the Seminole Cafe which is a Greyhound depot and Gallaways which is one an interstate highway refuse to serve Negroes. Members of the Chattahoochee Youth Freedom Movement (CYFM) have been going to the Cafes for a period of about a month and a half. Mrs. Byrd owner of the Seminole has issued statements to the effect that she will serve Negroes but that only one side of her Cafe of the building is for the use of bus passengers the other is a private Cafe for the use of her children and friends. Her private side has higher prices which she says are used to discourage business so that she does not have to work too hard. It is obvious that she has two sets of menus. On the menus that the testers have received she has a two dollar cover charge.

The week after Mrs. Byrd issued the statement stating that she would serve anyone two members of CYFM and I went to the Cafe. As we walked in the door she was all smiles as she told us to sit down at the table and said she would serve us just like anyone else. There was only one entry on the menu and it was a rather high priced dinner. My co-testers asked for Cokes but Byrd said that she would only serve what was on the menu but that if we wanted sodas we could get them on the other side. I told her that I would like some coffee but she said that it would cost two dollars cover and \$1.50 for the coffee dinner even if I just had coffee. At this point two white men came in and sat at our table. Byrd then said that we would have to pay the cover even though we did not eat. I said that if we paid the cover charge I would want a receipt and that unless she agreed to give it to me I would not pay. At that point we got up to leave and she did not say a word. I understand that John Due will be preparing a suit against the Cafe as soon as I get the statements to him.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: A group has been formed by the high school students that have been participating in the testing in Chattahoochee. They have organized themselves and adopted a constitution based upon National CORE'S. Philip Carter Smith, a high school senior is the president of the organization. The kids are interested in doing something both in direct action and community betterment such as the establishment of a viable center program and getting streets paved.

The Negro Progressive Group has been disbanded. The officers expressed their desire to be relieved of the responsibility of maintaining the Center. The reason they gave is that the Center was not being supported by the parents. For the past two weeks the Center has been maintained by members of the CYFM and has been able to build up a small treasury.