

Undated rough draft of letter home or report.

"Upon arriving in Prince George County we were somewhat disappointed to find a small, well-organized Negro Community. I say 'disappointed' because we felt that there would be little opportunity for community organization in this county. Our job would be to work only as canvassers under the command of the Negro leadership. However, we soon learn about neighboring Sussex County with a 66% Negro population (2nd highest in Va.) of which only 39% are registered as opposed to a 98% registration of whites. Here is a county with twice as many Negroes as whites, yet there is almost no organization of the Negro community. In fact, most of this 'minority group' is living in virtual economic slavery. (See enclosed fact sheet on Sussex Co. for further information on restoration, poverty, power structure, etc.).

The SCOPE project was supposed to enter Sussex Co. but this 'economic slavery' has so many people living in fear that the letters from SCOPE headquarters never received a reply. However, we couldn't ignore the need in Sussex for organization and voter registration. To make a long story short, we managed to arrange a mass meeting in the town of Waverly and with the help of Herbert Coulton (SCLC field secretary for Virginia) we were able to secure temporary housing with a few relatively independent Negroes.

This first meeting was held on Wednesday, June 23. Since that time we have made great advances here in Waverly, where we are centering our efforts for the time being. There has been an avid student response to our project. Last Monday (June 28) we held our first mass meeting for the students at which time they formed their own organization (as yet unnamed) and elected highly capable officers.

On the same evening (June 28), we attended a political rally. Most of the Negro county leaders were present at the meeting. At this time we made the proposal to meet July 5, for the purpose of discussing county wide problems (housing, voter registration, employment etc.). This proposal was accepted with great enthusiasm. This will be the first time that the county has come together to discuss their problems.

(The next paragraph was crossed out)

We are working very closely with the student organization. At their suggestion we have helped to set up a boycott of the local Tastee Freeze. We are protesting the wages (\$0.50 an hour) and sanitary conditions. We hope that if we are successful in this endeavor, that it will set an example for the rest of the community.

The letter or report ends here.