

Camden Academy
Camden, Alabama
July 18, 1965

Editor:

Regarding the article written by Paul Good of the Times - Post service which appeared in the July 12 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle and other leading papers which use your services: his story, entitled "A Rights Army on Garrison Duty," contained many phrases (e.g. "the sensation of release...", "Nice Nelly rules", "circumspect image", "frustration is widespread," "simple acts of Negroes' registering...", etc.) which make it obvious that Mr. Good sought to write an article of literary distinction rather than an article which was factually correct and objectively reported. We appreciate Mr. Good's attempt to capture something of the dynamics of the work of voter registration and political education, and the problems encountered by a SCOPE team working at the grass-roots level. But we are appalled by the fact that in his short 24 hour stay in Wilcox County, he gathered what material he wanted to hear and wrote an article that is quite misleading. Our objection is that Mr. Good has taken quotations out of context in some cases, and in others has misquoted persons so as to structure the article to his viewpoint. In what factual reporting he does, there is a good presentation of the background and objectives of the SCOPE project. It is in his interpretation of the work in and around Camden that he seems to suffer from near-sightedness. The context of Mr. Williams' statement regarding white girls living in the Negro community was that this situation resulted in danger to the girls and the families with whom they lived. The one sentence attributed to Williams was in fact two sentences on quite different subjects. Once again, had he spoken to either Mr. Williams or Miss Brooks concerning their respective activities, Mr. Good would surely have discovered that no such thing as a polarity of views exists. Each hold the greatest respect for the work the other is engaged in for the civil rights movement in Wilcox County, and Ethel Brooks has hope (as does Williams) in mediation as a means of easing racial tension. In Summary, we feel that Mr. Good has done injustice to those of us working in the SCOPE project here, by his general inclusion of quotes which misinterpret the situation and analyses which are so unrelated that they preclude any objective interpretation of the movement in Wilcox County.

We address this letter to you with hopes that it will be printed. The article has caused a great deal of alarm to the people who have read it.

Sincerely,

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Miss Ethel Brooks
Voter Registration Coordinator
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Rev. John Worcester
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