

James Kolb [Undated, assumed to be August 1965]  
Rt 2, Box 90

To the U.S. Justice Department  
Civil Rights Division.  
Washington D.C.

We the undersigned feel that the Crenshaw County board of registrars is practicing discrimination against Negroes in an attempt to keep Negroes disenfranchised. We would like you to order them to get more Negroes registered or to provide Federal Registrars to insure that there is no discrimination. We feel that this is necessary for the following reasons;

1. According to the statistics provided by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in the 1964 presidential election 86.4 % of the White residents of this county were registered. Only 22.3 % of the Negroes were registered. Almost all of the Whites were registered before the difficult literacy test was instituted.

2. As of the 1964 Presidential election there were only 492 Negroes registered to vote.

3. This summer there has been a voter registration campaign aimed at increasing the number of Negro voters.

On June 7 18 Negroes went to the court house to register to vote all were processed and only 2 passed

On June 21 13 Negroes applied and 5 were passed

For the 4 registration days beginning July 6 and ending July 9 145 Negroes applied for registration, 120 were processed and 36 passed.

On July 19 75 applied for registration 57 were processed and 6 passed

On August 2 (this was under Alabama's "new fair test") 67 persons applied, 34 were processed and 9 passed.

Thus up until the voting rights bill went into effect, in the 9 registration days in June, July, and August, 318 applied to register, 242 were processed, and only 58 passed.

August 16 was the first registration day under the new <sup>bill</sup> test. we brought 175 people to the court house to register. However the registrars ~~only~~ processed only 50 of them (note this is less than they process under the old literacy test on July 19), all of those processed passed. With the exception of a few (4 or 5) ladies who were ill and were taken out of turn no one who arrived at the courthouse after 10:00 A.M. in the morning was processed even though they waited all day (until 4:00 P.M. when the office closed)

We feel that this failure to process more than one-third of those who applied for registration is discriminatory and an attempt to prevent significant numbers of Negroes from registering. This is especially obvious in light of the fact that in neighboring Alabama counties the registrars were able to process well over 100 applicants and the Federal registrars in Dallas, Marengo, Hale, & Lowndes were evidently able to process over 200 applicants.

Inclosed in this envelope is a list of everyone who went to the courthouse, whether or not they were processed, the time that they arrived at the courthouse, the number that they were in line, and their address. Also included is 66 affidavits attesting to the fact that they waited to see the registrar but were not processed.