

REPORT ON HALE COUNTY APRIL 27 1966

I HAVE BEEN WORKING IN HALE COUNTY SINCE MARCH 27 1966. THE COUNTY IS VERY APATHETIC AND DIVIDED, ESPECIALLY GREENSBORO THE COUNTY SEAT. IT IS SUFFERING FROM THE SAME SORT OF PROBLEMS THAT SELMA SUFFERED AFTER THE CAMPAIGN THERE. GREENSBORO HAS THE SAME SORT OF SITUATION. DURING THE SUMMER OF 1965 IT WAS THE SCENE OF LARGE SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS (ALTHOUGH A LARGE NUMBER OF THE DEMONSTRATORS CAME FROM OTHER AREAS, EVIDENTLY GREENSBORO NEVER SUPPORTED THE DEMONSTRATIONS TO THE EXTENT THAT SELMA DID.) THE HALE COUNTY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION IS THE MAIN LOCAL GROUPE. REV. DAYS WHO USED TO BE THE LEADER OF THE HCIA IS NO LONGER IN HALE COUNTY. HE IS NOW IN MOBILE AND THOSE WHO ARE CURRENTLY LEADING THE HCIA (AND WHO WERE ACTIVE DURING THE TIME DAYS WAS LEADER) SAY THAT HE MISLEAD THE PEOPLE AND THAT HE STOLE MONEY, THIS IS A PREVELANT BELIEF AND HAS HELPED TO HUNT THE REPUTATION OF THE MOVEMENT. IT WAS VERY HARD FOR ME TO FIND A PLACE TO STAY, -I HAD TO MOVE BECAUSE OF PRESSURE PUT ON THE PEOPLE THAT I WAS STAYING WITH. I AM NOW SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR IN THE HOME OF EUGENE LYLES A BARBER IN GREENSBORO. ALTHOUGH HCIA HAS MEETINGS IN A NUMBER OF PLACES THOUGHOUT THE COUNTY ON A REGULAR BASIS (THE HAVE REGULAR MEETINGS IN GREENSBORO, NEWBERN, MARS HILL, CASEMORE, HAVANA, AKRON, BAY SPRINGS, AND MOUNDVILLE) THEY ARE POORLY ATTENDED AND NOT TO WELL ORGANIZED, THE ONE EXCEPTION TO THIS IS AKRON WHICH I WILL GET TO LATER. AN INDICATION OF THE APATHY IS THAT ALTHOUGH THIS COUNTY HAS AN ACTUAL REGISTRATION OF MORE NEGROES THEN WHITES ONLY ONE PERSON (NEGRO THAT IS) IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE. THAT IS REV. MCCASKILL WHO IS RUNNING FOR SHERIFF. FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES THERE ARE ONLY 4 PERSONS IN THE COUNTY THAT ARE ACTIVLY WORKING OFFR THE MOVEMENT, THEY ARE;

MR. LEWIS BLACK-HE IS A VERY GOOD ORGANIZER, AND IS FAIRLY MILITANT. BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE ARE VERY ACTIVE IN VARIOUSE MOVEMENT AFFAIRS IN AND OUT OF HALE COUNTY. HE IS PRESIDENT OF HCIA, HE IS THE ONE WHO RUNS THE CREDIT UNION, HE IS A PAID STAFF MEMBER OF THE ALABAMA, CONCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS (AND AS SUCH IS OUT OF THE COUNTY VERY, VERY OFTEN), IS RUNNING A S.C.L.C. VOTER EDUCATION DRIVE, HE HAS A LOT OF CONTACT WITH THE WHITE POWER STRUCTURE, HE IS ALSO SOMEHOW ASSOCIATED WITH THE ALA. DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE.

REV. HENRY MCCASKILL-HE IS RUNNING FOR SHERIFF AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE MOVEMENT IN HALE COUNTY FOR SOME TIME. HE IS PRETTY MILITANT, BUT HE IS A POOR ORGANIZER (AND IS PRETTY DISORGANISED) AND LIKE MR. BLACK IS EGOTISTICAL AND SOMEWHAT VAIN. I FIND HIM HARD TO WORK WITH, IN MANY WAYS.

MR. EDDY LONG-HE IS A VERY HARD WORKER. HE WORKS FOR MR. BLACK ON VOTER REGISTRATION AND PRETTY MUCH DOES WHAT BLACK TELL HIM TO DO. WHEN ANGRY HE IS A FIERY SPEAKER (THE ONLY GOOD ONE IN THE COUNTY) I SUSPECT THAT HE RESENTS SCLC SENDING ME INTO THE COUNTY. I THINK HE SEE ME AS SOME SORT OF THREAT. OUR RELATIONSHIP IS IMPROVING HOWEVER.

MRS. LIZZY BRADLEY-SHE LIVES IN AKRON AND IS ABOUT 45-50 YEARS OLD. IS A VERY GOOD WORKER AND A GOOD ORGANIZER. SHE IS THE LEADER OF THE AKRON MOVEMENT (PART OF HCIA) WHICH IS THE ONLY HEALTHY MOVEMENT IN THE COUNTY. SHE WAS APPARENTLY DEVELOPED BY SNCC BUT DOES NOT AT THIS TIME SUPPORT A THIRD PARTY. (FRANKLY IF I WAS EVER TO RECOMMEND ANYONE TO BE PUT ON STAFF IN HALE COUNTY I WOULD RECOMMEND HER, SHE WORKS FULL TIME NOW ANYWAY)

THE WHITES ARE PRETTY HOSTILE AND THE COUNTY IS GROWING TENSER. (THE ONLY PLACE THAT I CAN GETT ANYTHING TO EAT AT IS A CAFE IN DOWNTOWN GREENSBORO AND FRANKLY I DONT LIKE TO WALK OVER THERE SO EATING IS BECOMING A PROBLEM. I HAVE FOUND NO ONE THAT I CAN HAVE MEALS WITH).

THIS LIST OF ELIGABLE VOTER APPEARED IN THE PAPER LAST THURSDAY. THEY HAD LISTED 4605 WHITE VOTERS AND 4057 NEGRO VOTERS. WE ESTIMATE HOWEVER THAT 4,000 OF THE WHITES LISTED ARE DEAD PEOPLE OR PEOPLE WHO HAVE MOVED OUT OF THE COUNTY. HOWEVER WE FEAR THEY WILL TRY TO VOTE THOSE NAMES. IF OUR ESTIMATION IS CORRECT THAT LEAVES USE WITH A MAJORITY OF 600 VOTES, WHICH IS A PRETTY SMALL MAJORITY.

THERE ARE AT THE MOMENT 2 SNCC WORKERS IN THE COUNTY. ONE OF THEM IS PRETTY INACTIVE AND WANTS TO GET OUT OF HALE COUNTY (I DONT BLAME HIM) THE OTHER WORKER IS FAIRLY ACTIVE BUT HE IS NOT INTERESTED AT THIS TIME IN A THIRD PARTY OR A FREEDOM ORGANIZATION. HE IS WORKING TO GET MCCASKILL ELECTED AND IS DOING A PRETTY GOOD JOB IN THE NORTH END OF THE COUNTY IN GETTING PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THE MOVEMENT. HE IS, NOT HOWEVER, DOING ANY ORGANIZING OF BEATS OR PRECINCTS WITH ANY IDEA OF A GET OUT THE VOTE CAMPAIGN. ALL IN ALL WE HAVE NO PROBLEM KEM FROM SNCC.

THERE IS AS I SAID VERY LITTLE ORGANIZATION THAT IS FUNCTIONING. THE MAIN PROBLEM THAT I FACE IN EVEN TRYING TO WORK IS TRANSPORTATION. I HAVE NO CAR AND IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A RIDE OR TO BORROW A CAR. BEN CLARE IN BIRMINGHAM LET ME HAVE A CAR LAST WEEK (IT WAS A WHITE 68 OLDSMOBILE) I DROVE IT TO MONTGOMERY TO GET SOME MAPS OF THE COUNTY AND I FOUND THAT THE TRANSMISSION WAS SHOT, THAT THE CAR HAD PRACTICALLY NO BRAKES (YOU COULD HEAR THE METAL GRINDING BECAUSE THE LINING WAS GONE, EVERYTIME I PUT THE BRAKE ON MORE THEN A TON THE WHEELS WOULD LOCK AND I WOULD SKID), AND ALL 4 TIRES WERE COMPLETELY SHOT. BEFORE I GOT TO SELMA ON MY WAY BACK TO HALE I HAD TO PURCHASE A TIRE BECAUSE I HAD AN IRREPARABLE BLOWOUT (COSTING MYSELF \$25.78 WHICH I HAVE NOT BEEN RE IMBURSED FOR) WHEN I GOT TO SELMA ANOTHER TIRE WENT OUT. BECAUSE I HAD SPENT ALL MY MONEY TO GET THE FIRST TIRE I HAD TO LEAVE THE CAR IN SELMA. ANYWAY WITHOUT TRANSPORTATION IT IS VERY HARD TO ORGANISE BEATS FOR THE ELECTION.

ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT I HAVE IS THAT I AM WORKING ALONE (I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT HALE COUNTY IS THE ONLY BLACK BELT COUNTY WITH CANDIDATE RUNNING IN IT THAT HAS ONLY 1 STAFF MEMBER) CLARENCE OWENS WAS ASSIGNED TO HALE COUNTY BUT HE HAS NOT BEEN HERE FOR THE PAST 2 OR 3 WEEKS AND THIS REALLY WASN'T THE KIND OF WORK THAT HE DID WELL ANYWAY. AS I UNDERSTAND IT HE WAS RE-ASSIGNED TO BARBOUR COUNTY ABOUT 3 WEEKS AGO AND SINCE THEN I HAVE BEEN ALONE. THERE IS ALSO NO MONEY FOR ME TO PAY FOR GAS EVEN WHEN I CAN GET SOMEONE TO DRIVE ME AND I HAVE BEEN PAYING THIS OUT OF MY POCKET. HOWEVER IF I DO GET A CAR I WON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FROM MY SUBSISTANCE CHECK TO COVER GAS. ANYWAY NO MONEY HAS COME TO HALE COUNTY WHILE I WAS THERE FOR ANY SCLC WORK.

HERE IS A LIST OF WHAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO SINCE I ARRIVED.

- 1- I HAVE GOTTEN AND HAD MCCASKILL TURN IN, A LIST OF 40 PEOPLE TO BE POLL OFFICIAL. THAT IS I WAS ABLE TO GET AT LEAST 3 PERSON IN 4 BEATS TO VOLUNTEER TO BE POLL OFFICIALS. (NOTE- THERE ARE 16 BEATS, 3 OF THEM HAVE NO NEGROES. THERE WERE 2 BEATS THAT SHOULD HAVE HAD POLL OFFICIALS TURNED IN BUT DO TO LACK OF TRANSPORTATION I COULD NOT GET TO THEM)
- 2- I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BEGIN SOME BEAT ORGANIZATION IN 6 OF THE BEATS.
- 3- WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A COUNTY WIDE MASS MEETING, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH BEAT, ON MONDAY APRIL 28, 1966 TO INTERVIEW THE COUNTY CANDIDATES AND TO DECIDE WHO HALE COUNTY NEGROES SHOULD VOTE FOR IN THE COUNTY RACE. WE DECIDED ON A LARGE MASS MEETING RATHER THEN A SMALL COMMITTEE BECAUSE WE HAD TO INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE.
- 4- I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ATTEND A MEETING EVERY NIGHT.
- 5- ONLY 3 OF THE BEATS ARE ADEQUATLY ORGANIZED AT THIS TIME. UNLESS I GET TRANSPORTATION AND HOPEFULLY COMPETANT HELP, I WILL FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO ORGANISE ALL THE BEATS THAT HAVE TO BE ORGANIZED. ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT I WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE TRAINING POLL WATCHERS AND OFFICIALS, AND OTHER THINGS.

SOME OF MY PERSONAL PROBLEMS -

IT IS HARD FOR ME TO FIND A PLACE TO EAT AND GREENSBORO IS A PRETTY BAD PLACE TO WORK. I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO WORK IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION ALONE. IT IS HARD FOR ME TO FUNCTION WHEN THERE IS NOBODY THAT I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH AS A FRIEND AND WHO IS SORT OF ON MY LEVEL IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. WHEN CLARENCE WAS HERE HE WAS OF SOME HELP IN THIS BUT NOT MUCH. THIS SENSE OF BEING ALONE (THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY SCLC FIELD SUPERVISOR OR ANY OTHER SCLC STAFF COME TO HALE COUNTY WHILE I HAVE BEEN HERE) IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASON THAT I HAVE BEEN COMING TO SELMA ON WEEKENDS (ALTHOUGH EACH TIME I HAVE SOME SORT OF VALID EXCUSE THE REAL REASON IS THAT I WANT TO GET OUT OF HALE COUNTY AND IF AN EXCUSE OFFERS ITSELF I TAKE IT). I ALSO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH MCCASKILL.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I DO NOT THINK THAT SCLC IS GETTING FULL USE OUT OF ME IF I AM LEFT ALONE IN HALE COUNTY WITHOUT TRANSPORTATION. IF IT IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH THAT I AM IN HALE COUNTY THEN I SHOULD BE PROVIDED SOME RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION SO THAT I CAN WORK. IT WOULD ALSO BE NICE IF I COULD HAVE SOME HELP. I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT I BE GIVEN A CAR (AND SOME ARRANGEMENT MADE ABOUT PAYING FOR GAS) OR TAKEN OUT OF HALE COUNTY. NOW I AGREED TO WORK IN HALE COUNTY UNTILL AFTER MAY 3RD AND I WILL IF YOU WANT ME TO (EVEN WITHOUT A CAR IF YOU WANT ME TO). HOWEVER I THINK THAT IT IS A WASTE IF I AM LEFT THERE WITHOUT A CAR AND I WILL HATE IT. I DO NOT WANT TO WORK THERE AFTER MAY 3RD IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT FOR THE RECORD THAT IT IS DANGEROUS FOR ME TO BE IN HALE COUNTY WITHOUT A CAR, AND ALONE. I ALSO WANT TO SAY THAT AT THIS TIME I WOULD GUESS THAT THE ODDS AGAINST MCCASKILL WINNING ARE ABOUT 60%.

I WOULD LIKE TO ATTACH TO THIS REPORT A LIST OF CONTACTS IN HALE COUNTY THAT I HAVE DEVELOPED, SO THAT FUTURE WORKERS ASSIGNED TO HALE COUNTY WILL FIND SOMETHING MORE USEFUL IN THE FILE THAN GAS BILLS AND TELEPHONE REPORTS OF OLD DEMONSTRATIONS. FRANKLY FOR SOMEONE WHO IS ASSIGNED TO A COUNTY THE FILE ON THE COUNTY (BOTH IN SELMA AND ATLANTA) IS TOTALLY USELESS IN PROVIDING ANY USEFUL INFORMATION.

COUNTY WIDE LEADERS AND WORKERS AND INTERESTED PERSONS

MR. LEWIS BLACK (AND MRS. BLACK) 624-7119 20 WASHINGTON ST. GREENSBORO

REV. MCCASKILL 624-7924

MR. EDDY LONG 624-7638 301 DEPOT ST. GREENSBORO

BEAT 1 (ALL HAVE AN ADDRESS + GEN. DEL. HAVANA)

THOMAS LEE

MRS. TREAN HAPPER VOLUNTEERED TO BE POLLWATCHERS

MRS. ALBERTA WILLIAMS

REV. LEE A. LEE -ACTIVE WORKER

BIRLEY FOSTER -ACTIVE WORKER

BEAT 2 ADDRESS IS GEN DEL AKRON

MRS. BRADLEY (ACTIVE OVER ENTIRE NORTH END OF COUNTY VERY GOOD WORKER) 372-3095 GEN DEL AKRON

MRS. CHEEZBROUGH (VERY ACTIVE WORKER, ESPECIALLY IN SCHOOL ORGANIZATION) 372-3615 AKRON

MRS. CARRIE HARRELL

MRS. LARGENIA HOLLY POLL OFFICIAL VOLUNTEERS

MRS. VELMA TAYLOR

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BEAT 4 (GREENSBORO)

TERESA BURROUGHS (PRETTY ACTIVE WHEN NOT WORKING) 624-6241 540 DEPOT ST. GREENSBORO

MRS. EUGENE LYLES (OWNS BARBER SHOP AND A LOT ELSE) 624-7632 (HIS BARBER SHOP IS CURRENTLY HEADQUARTERS FOR THE MOVEMENT IT IS ON TUSCALOOSA ST.)

MISS ROSEETA HADORS 1406 CENTREVILLE RD.

MRS. LEONA WALKER

E.H. HOLIFIELD RT 3 BOX 124 GREENSBORO

BEAT 5

MRS. ELLA B. MCKINNEY (ACTIVE, SORT OF SHE SAYS) BOX 176 NEWBORN

ARTHUR KELLY (MOST ACTIVE WORKER IN BEAT 5) BOX 246 NEWBORN

T.B. HICKS RT 1 BOX 205 NEWBORN

(I AM NOT GOING TO INCLUDE ALL OF THE POLL OFFICIAL VOLUNTEERS JUST THE MAIN MAIN CONTACTS IN EACH BEAT)

BEAT 6

SIDNEY LYLES (BEAT LEADER) 624-7827 MILLWOOD RD.

MRS. BEULAH HOWARD (POLL OFF.) GEN DEL. SAWYERVILLE

BEAT 7

ABE BENSON

C.A. SHAW RT. 2 BOX 243 624 7716

HENRY MICKENS RT. 2 BOX 242A 624-7716

MRS. SARAH CABILL RT 2 BOX 243 GREENSBORO

BEAT 8

FLOYD DAWSON RT. 1 BOX 208 GALLION

BEAT 9

ARTHUR JOE RT. 1 BOX 34 NEWBORN

SUEY LEE WILLIAMS RT 1 BOX 51A NEWBORN

MRS. CHARITY PAGE RT 1 BX 75

BEAT 10

MRS. CECIL AVERY RT 1 BX 157 GREENSBORO

REV. D.L. THOMAS RT 1 BX 151A "

BEAT 11

MR. HUDSON POOLE RT 1 BX 132B GREENSBORO

MRS. EMMA RYNES RT 1 BX 133 GREENSBORO

BEAT 12

ARCHIE LEE JAMES

JESSE WALTER RT 2 BX 48 MOUNDVILLE

WILLIE VAWTERS P.O. BOX 31 CYPRESS

FRANK MILLER (STUDENT, ACTIVE WORKER)
371-2663

BEAT 16

MRS. JOHNNIE MAE JACKSON GEN DEL STEWART

MRS. NATALIE COLLINS GEN DEL STEWART

NOTE-THERE ARE NO RECORDS IN BEATS 13, 14, AND 18
THERE ARE NO BEATS 15 AND 17

YOURS

BRUCE HARTFORD

c.c.

BRUCE HARTFORD HOSEA WILLIAMS