

GRD 4/2  
No. Field Report - page 18

Jan thru June, 1965  
Mr. Oliver Wells, Hammond, La.

Mr. Moore, Hammond, La., Phone: 345-4753

Carolyn Robinson, 1106 Natchez Street, Hammond, La.

Meeting Places:

Rev. Lucien's church in Hammond

Conway Butler's church in Amite

Washington Parish (continued)

On January 22, local Negroes including Robert Hicks, Gail Jenkins, L. C. Dawson and Andrew Moses representing the Civic and Voters' League, talked with CORE staff to review the conditions in Bogalusa. Segregation exists in restaurants, Theater, Libraries, Hospitals, schools, and public accommodations. Crown-Zellerbach, the economic main stay of Bogalusa, is completely segregated. Negroes can not rise into white jobs no matter how well qualified. Facilities within the plant are segregated, and no Negro women are hired there although many white women are. The labor unions are also segregated into separate locals. The people in the community are subject to harrasment from both the police and the Klan. CORE was asked to help test restaurants.

Following on the bad publicity of the Brooks Hays incident (when a speaking invitation extended by some whites to Congressman Brooks Hays was rescinded under pressure from the Klan) the city authorities, at the request of Crown-Zellerbach, told the Negroes of the Bi-racial Commission they could with official protection test some restaurants for compliance with the 1964 Civil Rights Law. CORE agreed to assist and outlined an initial program of four days testing to begin January 25.

Three CORE workers (Bill Yates, Steve Miller, and Ronnie Moore) addressed a mass meeting in Bogalusa on January 25. Before the meeting Andrew Moses told them the Commission had insisted on a single day of testing and the leaders had accepted because of the police protection offered with it. In the course of their addresses the workers found the majority of the meeting agreed with them that the day of testing should be only a beginning. On Tuesday, January 26, Yates and Miller supervised the day's testing which brought service in eight restaurants, two theaters, and the library, and refusals of service in seven restaurants and lunch counters.

Deacons of Bogalusa:

Sam Manne

D.L. Hagan

Reese Perkins

Anna Perrow

Rayon Morris

Joe Butler

Myzell Butler

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On the following Monday, February 1, Yates and Miller spoke at a victory rally. During the course of the rally it became apparent that the mass of those present were not willing to accept the limitations that Moses and a few of the leaders have accepted. The CORE workers perceiving that Moses now no longer wanted them in Bogalusa and the people did, they challenged Moses on the issues of further immediate efforts for equality and of the organizing of the youth. The rally ended in disorder.

Since then there has been much re-organization. Andrew Moses has now resigned and new men are now leading the Voters' League in a major struggle for full equality. There are two new organizations. There is a youth group which is an adjunct of the League and a chapter of Deacons for Defense and Justice. The calling of national attention to the conditions in Bogalusa has resulted in the formation of two committees, one in San Francisco and one in Boston to bring pressure to bear on the Crown-Zellerbach Corporation and on the city authorities.

In May the Bogalusa Commission Council agreed to comply with demands made by the Civic and Voters' League. However, during the agreed on "cooling off" period the Merchants met and decided to cancel the scheduled meeting with the Voters' League. Picketing therefore, resumed on May 28.

After the murder of O'Neal Moore in June there was a mass motorcade to Baton Rouge to protest police brutality and non-protection. This was held June 12.

Community Organizations: The city has been canvassed to get support for the Voters' League and to stimulate interest in small meetings among the people to be addressed by speakers from the Voters' League. However, the executive committee has shown little interest in this activity itself. Nonetheless the block captain system in Bogalusa grew spontaneously from just such a small meeting in the Ponderosa section of the community.

Housing:

Miss Alberta Newman, 60 Bogus

Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Marks Avenue

Mrs. Mamie Tillman

Myzell Butler

Mrs Mary Williams

Base of Operations: Residence of Robert Hicks, 924 East 9th Street,  
Phone: 732-7449

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