



NORTH FLORIDA CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION PROJECT

Rt. 3, Box 428-F

Quincy, Florida

Phone 627-8458

October 18, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
2211 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Haley,

Several problems have come up in the last few days, and I feel in a frustrated sort of position. Rev. Cox will be back tomorrow, but I am afraid that he will be unable to do anything. You are aware of the attitude he showed when you were here--and it seems that this attitude continued until he left for North Carolina. When he left we were plagued with a staff problem which he could have solved, but instead he left it in my hands, with the suggestion that I call you if I had any trouble. All I have been able to do is smooth things over temporarily until he returned, but I am afraid he will do nothing when he does get back. We are going to need someone to take care of the problems I will outline after Cox leaves, or earlier if possible.

The first problem concerns Doris Rutledge. As you know, she left Live Oak and came to Quincy for a few days. While she was here she complained that she couldn't find anything to do, though several things were suggested to her. Not only was she unwilling to do anything, but she greatly annoyed everyone on the staff in Gadsden County. Finally Rev. Cox suggested that she go to Jefferson County to work with Sidney Daniels. After two days we got a call from Sidney saying that he had left her in Madison because of some disagreement about the car. I talked to both of them and they were apparently able to work things out for the time being. Yesterday the same thing happened again--this time with a local resident of Jefferson County. She had gone with him to Tallahassee to buy mimeograph supplies, and for some reason he drove off and left her there. She took a bus back, and called me. I could do nothing but talk to her and explain the policy on the use of the rented cars. Again, I think that things are temporarily back under control. But the problem is not solved, and I'm sure another incident of this sort will occur.

The second problem of staff concerns David Dukes and Sadie Jones. As you know, they are both members of the NAACP in Madison, and it seems that their allegiance is split. At the first mass meeting in Madison, the NAACP took all of the money collected, though we had a tentative agreement that we would get a share. At the second meeting, we had an agreement that we would get 2/3 of the money collected. About \$42 was collected, but when we finally received our share, we got only \$12.15. I asked Dave about it, and he told me that we had paid about \$10 for dinners for guests (we were under the impression that the NAACP was to pay this), and that



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we had paid for transportation for one of the speakers. This is but one example. We had a staff meeting last week to exchange ideas on "get out the vote" programs. We waited four hours for Sadie and Dave to show up, but they never appeared. I finally phoned them, and Dave told me that they were too busy to come. He said that he "didn't think about calling to tell us" that he and Sadie couldn't come. It seems that their main interest is not the CORE project, but whatever program of their own they may have set up.

Actually, the problem seems to boil down to this: Except in Gadsden County (and even here we have serious problems), the progress that has been made in voter registration has been superficial. No real program has been followed, and now that the methods to be used are not as obvious as they were during registration (it is possible to get people to register by using only one technique--canvassing, or mass meetings, etc., but to develop a voter education program, or to set up a carpool for election day requires a planned program, using various techniques), it seems that the project is falling apart in these counties. The staff meeting we had seems to have helped. Doris has gone back to Jefferson County with new ideas, and she is attempting to get something going. But she finds that she has to start from scratch, since no foundation had been established during registration. After Nov. 3 the problem is going to be more severe, since we will all be working in areas with which we have had no experience. It seems that various problems, such as ties to local groups, in Sadie and Dave's case, or just pure frustration and exhaustion in Doris' case, have brought the project to a standstill or at least to the point of stagnation in these counties.

The problem is not going to be solved by hiring new staff, since the local people who have applied for the staff are good, hard workers, but they have shown little initiative in the past. They are able to do a job effectively, but they seem unable to come up with new approaches or ideas. Also, I fear that these local people are quite tied down to their areas, and have too many ties which might interfere with their work. Unless they are sent to counties other than their own, I am afraid that they will end up devoting only part of their energies to the project.

What we need to get us out of this predicament is someone with solid experience in voter education and in community action, someone who will inspire the staff into action. I think this should be tackled before you consider expanding the project or hiring new staff.

Our financial position is much better now--if we can be assured that we will have the money to pay for the rented cars next week we will be in good shape. We are having trouble with the bank, and it seems that the solution is to move our account to the Lewis State Bank in Tallahassee. This would make deposits more difficult,



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but at least we would avoid checks bouncing when we have ample funds in the accounts, etc. If we are to keep the accounts in the Quincy bank, we will need a letter from you authorizing another signature on the account, since the bank refuses to put another name on unless you authorize it. If I were arrested, there would be no one to sign a check (Rev. Cox would not agree to put his name on the account).

I reported the accident in the rented car to National Car Rental, and they informed me that we are responsible for the first \$100 if they are unable to collect from the person who hit us. We are to pay for the repairs (\$178.45), deduct \$78.45 from our bill for next month, and they will refund us the other \$100 if they can collect it. While on the subject of cars, I might mention that if CORE would pay for it, we could put my two cars in shape. I think this would pay off, since my old Chevy gave us 10,000 miles of use, with only about \$45 in repairs before we had to junk it. I have a 1960 Volkswagen, which is in excellent condition except that it needs engine work, which will cost about \$100. It should give us practically no trouble after this work is done. My other car is a 1958 Ford, which needs about \$50 in repairs. It has a set of new tires on it, and should also be a dependable car. I intend to repair it this week, and if CORE will pay for it, they can reimburse me later.

I've been unable to contact John Due, but I'll keep trying. We really will need someone here on Nov. 3, if only to intimidate the election officials into compliance with the law. Also, the community will be reassured that we do have legal help if a lawyer is present. We expect that there will be trouble from the police, since we will be going to the farms to pick people up. Also, I imagine that several people will be arrested on trumped-up traffic charges. We will need a bond reserve for that possibility.

I will write up the report on Sidney's paycheck this afternoon and put a copy in with this letter. I hope that it is only a misunderstanding of some sort, because Sidney has done an excellent job so far.

I'm enclosing the list of people who have applied for the staff, or who have expressed a desire to apply. We need application forms-- they have simply written the information on a blank piece of paper so far.

I hope that this letter makes some sense. I know I have rambled on, and I may be all wrong about what I've said. I do know that something is wrong, and something has to be done if we are to continue successfully. I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours in freedom,

Steve McVoy
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