



NORTH FLORIDA CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION PROJECT  
Rt. 3, Box 428-F  
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Phone 627-8458

TO: Mr. Spiver Gordon, Florida Field Secretary, CORE  
Mr. Richard Haley, Director of Southern Office, CORE

FROM: Arlene Bock  
David Dukes, Task Force Worker

DATE: December 14, 1964

PROGRESS REPORT FOR HAVANA, FLORIDA 1-15 December, 1964

I VOTER REGISTRATION:

City registration office, City and County Courthouse offices have all been contacted to no avail. We have written to Washington for figures from the 1960 census. Because of Gerrymandering and the limited time during which city registration books are open (a total of 6 days every year) as well as generalized fear and apathy probably not more than 25 Negroes are registered for these elections. We have taken two individuals to the county courthouse in Quincy, however both were refused registration on grounds of illiteracy.

II COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:

Civic Interest Group: The CIG, centered in Quincy, is attempting to expand into the Havana community thro both citizenship classes and a county improvement program, however, they are recieving very little support.

N.A.A.C.P.: The local chapter of the NAACP meets monthly. The present head, Rev. Fortson, is so abominable as to thwart the community's eager desire to lend support. They will meet again this Tuesday, 15 December, and probably hold elections. If Fortson is removed the group should regain some of its old vigour and be quite easy to work with, if not, the field will be open to use Friday night's scheduled mass meeting to form a CORE chapter.

Possible New Leaders:

Mr. Albert Marshall	539-6669
Mr. Harvey Micke	539-6484
Mrs. Nora Jean James	None (bourgeoisie)

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James Fortson	539-6664	(addicted to violence criminal record, may not have community respect, but seems firmly in movement.)
VonCill Gibson	539-6775	(high school student. Despite youth our reccomendation for Task Force.)

III. FREEDOM SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS:

We are still looking for suitable buildings, but our primary emphasis in these two weeks has been in the direction of Public Accomadations and community improvement, this is the area that has suffed most from our focused attentions.

We have also been working on the outline for a 'Negro History Colouring Book' to be used in teaching Negro History to younger age groups than we are currently able to reach, and for possible use also as a literacy aid. An outline for the first volume as well as suggestions for its possible construction and uses is included with this report.

IV CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT:

Depending on how Tuesday's Naacp meeting goes (see above) we will use a mass meeting scheduled for this Friday night to begin organization of a Core chapter here. Regardless of this meetings results we will form a 'youth-action' group from this meeting.

After Tuesday's protest rally several youngsters and an adult stopped by to request the formation of such a chapter. We gave them literature, and, naturally, agreed to comply with their request.

V POLICE HARRASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION:

On Monday, 7 December, Charles R. Williams and David Dukes were driving in Havana to pick up two students to have them interviewed by the F.B.I... They were followed for several minutes then stopped by the local police. Mr. Williams was arrested for 'Driving with an improper license.'

Tuesday, 8 December: While walking thro downtown Havana a man called to Arlene Bock, told her, 'God Damn you, I'm going to run over you.' He was driving a green pick-up truck, but she was unable to get the license number.

Monday, 7 December, two boys of approximately college age one short, dark, and wearing dark rimmed glasses, the other slightly taller with red hair, stopped by the parsonage where we are staying to ask directions to another church in the area. We subsequently learned that these two had spent some time in Chattahootchie earlier creating a general nuisance of themselves, and eventually trying to start a fight with the task force workers there. They were driving a white TR-4 with red upholstery, Florida license plates No. ??d-8579.

VI TESTING OF PUBLIC ACCOMADATIONS:

Havana Truck Terminal Diner: On Sunday, 6 December, three Negroes approached the diner Arlene Bock accompanied them as an observer. (VonCill Gibson, Johnny Watson, Charlie Hall, and Steve Hendly) They were stopped a short distance from the diner by the attendant of an adjacent gas station while a waitress barred the door. They were told to wait while the police were called, and a few minutes later the manager Rannie Forehand, drove up, removed his shotgun from his car and began to load it, meanwhile threatening to kill everyone present. Charles Hall and Steve Hendly ran off. While Mr. Watson and Miss Gibson were held at gunpoint within a phone booth, Arlene Bock was knocked down and her camera taken from her. When Miss Gibson and Mr. Watson were released, (almost an hour later) the group returned to the parsonage.



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The camera was returned, but its case was destroyed and the film removed.

The County Prosecutor and State's Attorney (W.D. Lines and Hopkins) have refused to issue a warrant for Forehand's arrest.

Remedial Action: A meeting held Wednesday night of interested community people resolved to boycott the diner's kitchen and Forehand's Pure Oil station, and to send representatives to Tallahassee to see Mr. Hopkins (this last measure failed). We also have a call-in underway, as well as a petition circulating in the community (a copy of which is enclosed). We also are attempting to gain support of the boycott through truckers' Unions in the North, and are writing to Pure Oil as well. Handbills will be distributed later this week. We have been promised support from Leon County, we hope to use this support in the form of contact with truckers (most of the clientele is migratory) Several other measures are being contemplated.

Legal Action: Sworn affidavits have been sent to the Justice of the Peace, County Prosecutory, States Attorney, and several others, in an attempt to gain Forehand's arrest. Suit is being contemplated against the county.

Cavalier Restaurant: On Thursday evening, 10 December, Mrs. Nora Jean James, Mr. James E. Fortson, and Mr. Leroy Browning entered the Cavalier Restaurant and were served without incident.

Havana Motel Restaurant: Wes Graham, manager. On 15 December Arlene Bock entered the restaurant to scout it out. Had lovely discussion with the manager over large number of recent deaths in the area. This may be a very difficult place (the manager has sworn he will 'die and go to hell' before serving Negroes--we'll see.)

Also to be tested:

Altschul Drive-in--Mr. and Mrs. Strickland managers. Probably no trouble.

Byrd Drive-in--Mr. and Mrs. Byrd, managers. Near Georgia border--we expect quite a bit of difficulty here.

FROM THE PEOPLE OF HAVANA AND SURROUNDING AREAS, TO MR. WILLIAM D. LINES, GADSDEN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, MR. WILLIAM D. HOPKINS, STATE ATTORNEY, AND JUDGE A. B. BLACKBURN, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, GADSDEN COUNTY:

On the afternoon of December 6, 1964 three local students went to the Havana Truck Terminal Diner on Route 27 just north of Havana to dine. They were cursed, threatened with a shotgun, told they would all be killed by the manager of the diner, Mr. Rannie Forehand. While all this was happening a man who identified himself as a policeman stood by and watched. The county and state prosecutors have refused to issue a warrant for this man's arrest, despite these witnessed offenses and despite Mr. Forehand's witnessed threat, made at the same time, to kill the next negroes who attempted to exercise their legal right to eat at any restaurant open to the public.

We, the citizens of Havana and surrounding areas, are deeply aware of the speed and efficiency with which the officers of the state and county have acted before the moral right of the Negroes to just and equal treatment had been confirmed by the legal right as stated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We would like to remind you, however, that felonious assault has been considered illegal as well as immoral since biblical times.

We ask, then, only that justice prevail. We ask that the law made for all men be applied to all men, without regard to race or color. We ask that a warrant be issued immediately for the arrest of Mr. Rannie Forehand, manager of the Havana Truck Terminal Diner on the following charges: Assault with a deadly weapon with intent to do bodily harm; Simple assault; Open profanity; Disturbing the peace; Disorderly Conduct; and Defamation of Character.

SIGNED:

Two columns of horizontal lines for signatures.

TEAR OFF HERE

TO THE CITIZENS OF HAVANA AND SURROUNDING AREAS: Stand up for equality and justice now. Sign this petition and return it to: Erlene Bock or David Dukes in Havana (Palace AME Church)

-or-

Freedom Hall in Quincy (On South Adams Street)

-or-

Community Center in Chattahoochee (The old 77 Sunset Strip)

-or-

Mail it to N.F.C.E.P., Rt. 3, Box 428-F, Quincy, Florida