

Report from St. Fransville- Hardwood Plantation

This summer I left San Francisco as many others have to work in the Civil Rights Struggle in the South. Presently I'm working in Plaquemine, La. on a voter registration project, as a field worker for CORE.

I thought perhaps you may be interested in a day's work for me, while canvassing on a plantation in La. Lately St. Fransville has received much of our time. We have clinics set up every tuesday and thursday evenings to instruct and train the people the voter registration forms.

The people of St. Fransville that mainly attend our clinics are farmers. These people are fearless, for there lives have been threatened by the K.K.K., and sence than h_ove carried out many of the threats. Other than tell you of the sition in St. Fransville I would prefere to give you an idea of a typical plantation I worked on one afternoon.

One cannot believe what culture and society has done to corrupt man's mind to such a degree of disgusting desplay of injustice , that I have witnessed while canvassing on the Hardwood, Plantation which is located some 10 miles South of St. Fransville, La.

The landowner who pretends to call himself a human being, runs a plantation consisting of some 2,000 people, who live in pure apathy of the world that revolves outside the walls of the Hardwood Plantation. These people are forced to continue being exploited by the White Power Structure in this country. If only it were possible to explain and convey how one feels seeing such injustice exist such as in Hardwood.

When my co- worker who is a Negro girl from Plaquemine and I attempted to communicate with the people on the plantation it was nearly impossible, for fear is so instilled within them. One women exposed the landowner to us , by telling us if anyone attempted to register to vote they would be put off the land. Wood stoves burning in front of the shacks, children running around under the most unsanitary conditions, and old men sitting

around looking quite complacent.

How can we ever emphasize the importance of this Revolution and stress the immediate demands to end this apathy and injustice to our fellowmen. And our government is trying to free other countries, it is always beyond me how this country can tolerate such conditions to exist against fellow Americans. They have not faced reality by confronting themselves with the American Negro and his problems.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to continue canvassing the Hardwood Plantation for the white supervisor put us off the land, informing us he didn't want any CORE outsider's coming in and stirring up his people with foolish ideas. We are intending on returning to the plantation although we must find different means of contacting the people.

For the first time I have seen the ~~white~~ girl the unity of the Amer. Negro, for at last compromise is ~~known~~ longer the solution.

The struggle has passed the bootcamp stage of mass demonstrations and sitins for simply a few lunch counters, ~~and~~ⁱⁿ a few theaters. Jobs and decent housing are the goals that are being strived for now. Although protests will continue until demands are met, only not on such a large scale level.

At times I am so ashamed to be white, I wish it were possible for every white person to experience and live among the Negro people as I have the past 4 months. Perhaps than the White Power Structure in this country might possibly be able to comprehend some of ~~the~~ real problems that really exist in the LAND of the FREE.

Sympathy is always a

