

Mr Blackwell

Kit Clarke

REPORT from Crawfordville, Ga., from Al Luthar, Sun, May 30, 1965
about 10:30 p.m.

or additions

Corrections/to previous reports:

1. The Baccalaureate services of the local white high-school were not called off as a result of the demonstrations there Sunday p.m.
2. Frank Miller, of Community Relations Service, Wash, D.C., is in Crawfordville, went to rally Sun. nite, has been talking to people, in town, and has talked to Willie Bolden.
3. Bob Heard was charged with assault & battery and with failure to obey an officer. (Luthar got this info from a U.P.I. man)
4. Tony Scruton out of jail.

Report on Sunday activities:

Bolden sent people out into the county to get people to the meetings rally on Sunday afternoon.

Meeting was held at the Springfield Baptist Church about 8 1/2 miles out of Crawfordville, beginning around 4 p.m. About 200-250 people attended.

Meeting opened with a gospel song.

Joe Heath delivered a beautiful prayer in song-like style of speaking
Second song was sung - "Where I'M bound".

4p.m. until 5:30 p.m. - Willie Bolden talks spoke, kept talking until Andy Young showed up. Talked about God, and about fact that since he joined soviet haddrawn closer to God.
Talked about St. Augustine, about white folks who understand 2 things - the vote, and money. said local Negroes had to elect a committee of spokesmen. said sov't should be careful not to drive ahead foolishly or blindly.

Tony Scruton spoke - looked awful, tired, exhausted from the jail fast or hunger strike which lasted from Friday p.m. until Sun. talked about non-violence.

Calvin Turner talked - said he know everybody was scared, that he was scared. said we have to understand our physical selves, our stomachs, our fears, but that freedom had to be gotten with the mind.

Bolton then gave rousing talk about - organized people to go downtown in a March after the meeting.

Turner spoke again.

Andy Young then gave fine speech.

After meeting, organized a Car Caravan - 30 cars drove to Housing Project, about 3/4 miles from town. From there, Rev. Andy Young led about 150 (mostly older people) downtown, where they were joined by 50 more older folks in a march to the Court House. Andy Young gave another speech at the court house. Of the 200 marches, about 2/3's were older people.

Plans for Monday, May 31st. (This info supplemented by tel call from Al Luthar, on Mon. May 31st, about 10:30 a.m.)

1. Boycott and picketing of all stores downtown. 88-95-40 people. (local folks) just sent downtown.
7 target stores:
Clover Farm Store
Luncheon Grocery & Dep't Store
Liberty Cafe (this is closed now)
Williams Drug Store

(cont. on next page)

2- Report from Crawfordsville (May 31)

Target stores (contin)

Banner Grocery Store
Laundromat
Chew Furniture Store

Boycott problems expected:

1. People (negro folk) who have credit downtown are going to be closed down. All those who bought stuff on credit from stores are going to be contacted by those stores & asked for the money or the goods returned.
2. Al Luthmer in charge of by boycott busday shopping trip to Washington, Ga., (19 miles away). is trying to arrange for volunteer cars to make the shopping trips.
2. At 10:30 a.m. a Committee led by Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Turner (one of teachers fired May 6) and including about 20 local people, are going to talk to Mrs. Lole Willie, Superintendent of Schools of Tellicoferro County.
3. At 1:30 p.m. A large group will go to the Alexander Stephens State Park, to attempt to swim in pool there.

cc: Ben Clarke
Junius Griffin (SCLC)
Kit Clarke

JUL 6 1965

CCGV Office
Savannah, Ga
4 July 1965

H T Blackwell, Esq, Program Director
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
334 Auburn Avenue, N E
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Randolph:

It seems that I'm to be touring the boonocks for the next three weeks on an evaluation mission, and that may be the end of research projects as far as I'm concerned. What I hope is that still somehow much of what I consider valuable in the way of documentation will still be captured, and that the project evaluation itself won't go by the boards. I could speculate on the reasons for my being sent on this mission, but that seems bootless. Norman Hill is still about somewhere, but as far as I could judge, his position is uncertain; this, however, may well be lack of information on my part.

Andy said to me yesterday when I sat in on his in an access of despair that one's aim with SCOPE must be to survive the summer, doing all that one can and not letting oneself become incapacitated through agonizing over what one cannot do. Good advice and sound, too, but my temperament or faith or something doesn't seem to fit. Not, I believe, that I shall become incapacitated, but my frustration and regret level is likely to remain rather high.

The principal purpose of this is to report on a parallel canvass effort in Taliaferro County (Crawfordville). The enclosed ditto form is used instead of the standard VR canvass sheet (incidentally, it seems that our minds were in remarkable accord on the canvass form, which I saw with something of a shock), and apparently quite successfully. This county does have some advantages that make it peculiarly suitable for this type of work: enough workers, a working organization, a small population; but it seems to me it might work for others as well. The VR information section is quite adequate, and has the advantage that other household voters are automatically included; and the economic and social statistics may be useful in DOA applications, rebuttal, community mobilization around the issue of deprivation and so on. It takes a bit more time, of course, but in this situation this can be done: they expect to have the county completed within a week; they're hard workers.

Another parallel effort on the same tour has to do with school desegregation, and again, given the conditions mentioned, this seems feasible, although detachment of personnel may be necessary in other places. This bears directly on the thing I sketched out about desegregation a few days ago, and the successful experience in Crawfordville during the regular VR canvass is heartening. The deadline there for transfers is 15 July, and I don't really have details on applications actually submitted and so on; I do know that they have a goodly number of interested people, on the basis of the number of info sheets which constitute a semi-commitment to apply (it's an AFS form, I understand, although they tell us they have a better one in the works). Hosea is discouraging any activity not directly connected with SCOPE goals, and this is being interpreted pretty narrowly, specifically in a way to preclude the sort of canvass for schools I've described. This seems foolish to me on the basis that community organization does not take place in a void, but must organize around issue/s or joint efforts, and school desegregation certainly

qualifies. What he really fears, of course, is having the project get into a balls-up with demonstrations and so on, particularly since in many projects the personnel are quite green and unable to distinguish among causes for direct action; to say nothing of the fact that action may seem a good deal more attractive than plodding, and is the stuff of heroes. Which is sound, I believe, but as usual he tends to throw out the baby with the bathwater. Granted, there is such a thing as spreading one's efforts thin; but, given any sort of favorable circumstances, I feel that the sort of canvass being done in Crawfordville is very valuable for the political education and organization sides, and should be encouraged where appropriate.

Since Holden has the forms with him, I can't comment or suggest improvements, but you'll have no trouble with that. I'm sending one copy to Moses with a memo suggesting consideration for other projects, and one can't tell what will come of it.

See you in a few weeks.



Pierce Barker

October 6, 1965

Telephone report from Dana Swan in Crawfordville, Taliaferro County, Ga. 12:20 p. m.

C 35 Negro students went to the buses this morning in three groups. There were 60 state troopers, 40 whites. One group of students blocked the underpass, was dragged away by troopers. At a signal, all three groups broke for the buses. Frank Manago, 16-year-old local youth, got within five feet of the buses, was thrown to the ground by troopers, arms twisted, ears pulled, generally roughed up, then placed under arrest. Charges and bond unknown. Troopers also kicked some girls this morning.

C 100 Negro students went to the Negro high school. The back door was locked, they were blocked from entering through the front door by state troopers, sang freedom songs for half an hour and returned to the church. Newsmen estimated that less than 100 Negro students were in school today.

O 15 minutes ago, J. T. Johnson was arrested at the Freedom Center on two peace warrants signed by the Hubbard brothers, allegedly for threatening the Hubbard brothers. Two warrants are also out for Willie Bolden, but they haven't found him yet. Dana thinks he is working in the county today.

P (While this report was being taken, J. T. Johnson called on another line from the sheriff's office. They want to try J. T. and Bolden at 12:30 today, have sent officers out to pick up Bolden. Attorney Alexander was contacted from this office, will attempt to postpone the trial for a week, or at least until 7:30 tonight when a hearing will be conducted for the other students arrested this week.)

Y