

FIELD REPORT

Project Jurisdiction: State of Louisiana
Author of Report: Ronnie M. Moore, Senior Field Secretary
Date of Report: January 19, 1965
Period covered by report: September, 1964 - January, 1965

I. Program

Objectives: The Louisiana project is primarily centered around voter registration with emphasis on politically oriented community organization. Communities are being organized through freedom schools, voter registration drives, clothing distribution, implementation of the new civil rights law, attainment of fair hiring and labor union practices and through general endeavors to meet the immediate needs of the community involved.

Permanent organization is the product of a program that is meaningful not only to our staff, but to the people. We are organizing people around their every day needs and at the same time we are attempting to direct such organization toward a long range goal of political recognition and representation.

Activities: Our activities for the above period included the following:

1. Voter registration campaigns in fourteen (14) parishes of the fifth, sixth, eighth, and second congressional districts of Louisiana. The voter registration increase was approximately 1,200 from September to November 4, 1964; little progress has been made since then.
2. Testing the compliance of public accommodations and public facilities with the 1964 Civil Rights Act in Jackson, Ouachita, East Baton Rouge, Rapides and East Feliciana Parishes.
3. Establishment of freedom schools at Jonesboro, Clinton and Plaquemine.
4. Servicing CORE chapters at St. Francisville, Clinton and Donaldsonville.
5. Protest of labor union discrimination and discriminatory practices at Olin-Mathieson Chemical Corporation at West Monroe. The President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity and the Louisiana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission held hearings and are investigating complaints from our plaintiffs.
6. Drafted (now revising) plans for a community center in West Feliciana Parish.
7. Attempts were made to organize farmers at St. Francisville for ASC, FHA and anti-poverty bill participation.
8. Began taking a community survey in Ouachita, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana and Iberville Parishes. This survey should reveal the basic needs of these communities. Precinct meetings will be called to discuss such needs, and precincts will be organized around the needs. The organization should, when possible, be directed toward political activity.

Note: The proposed Summer Project of 1965 is broad enough both geographically and programatically to lay a firm foundation of community organization which can be easily directed toward effective educational, economic and political aims.

II. Staff

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Age:</u>	<u>Position:</u>
Oretha Castle		Field Secretary Covering 4th and 5th Congressional Districts
Henry Brown	27	Task Force Worker
Sharon Burger	22	"
Alvin Culpepper	20	"
Cathy Culpepper	19	"
Claudia Edwards	22	"
Charles Fenton	24	" (volunteer)
Joyce Johnson	22	"
Kenny Johnson	17	"
Steve Miller	19	" (volunteer)
Judy Rollins	24	"
Ronnie Sigal (Miss)	22	" (volunteer)
Christine Wright	24	"
Bill Yates	36	"

All Task Force Workers work in the field; specific duties depend on the community or area to which they are assigned.

III. Facilities

Offices: State office - Ronnie M. Moore
1501½ East Boulevard
Louise Street Station
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
(504) 342-8388

North Louisiana office - Oretha Castle
103 North Tenth Street
Monroe, Louisiana
(318) 325-7610

Alexandria office - Judy Rollins
1406 Ninth Street
Alexandria, Louisiana
(318) 442-7642

Residential headquarters are set up in Jackson and East Feliciana
Parishes:

Charles Fenton
General Delivery
Jonesboro, Louisiana
(318) 7316

Bill Yates
General Delivery
Clinton, Louisiana
(504) 683-5401

Autos:

- Two (2) 1964 Chevrolets leased by CORE from National Car Rental
Monroe (one to go Shreveport)
- One (1) 1964 Comet owned by Louisiana Project (resumption of \$71.71
monthly payments) Alexandria
- One (1) 1964 Ford station wagon owned by Louisiana Project (purchased
by community of Clinton and National CORE) to go to Jonesboro
- One (1) 1965 Plymouth owned by volunteer worker Steve Miller of Antioch
College (gas, maintenance, etc. paid by owner) Clinton
- One (1) 1964 Valiant owned by volunteer worker Ronnie Segal (gas and
maintenance paid by CORE) Baton Rouge

Major items of equipment:

- Four (4) typewriters owned by CORE
- Two (2) file cabinets owned by CORE
- Two (2) tape recorders owned by CORE
- One (1) record player owned by CORE
- Two (2) mimeograph machines owned by CORE
- 10,000 volumes (freedom school and library storage room)
- 1,000 volumes (stationed at freedom schools)

IV. Budget

Please see attached supplement

V. Evaluation

The desegregation of public accommodations at Monroe, Alexandria, Baton Rouge and Plaquemine may be listed as a major accomplishment. Other accomplishments include the desegregation of the library at Jonesboro, a school desegregation attempt at Alexandria, and getting plaintiffs to testify before the Louisiana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

One of our failures is that we have not developed approaches in our voter registration program in order to keep the people interested and active. We have not been able to properly train staff and therefore we have not been able to really organize communities as we should. Progress is being made in this area, however.

The racial ratio of staff is out of proportion. We have five (5) whites and eight (8) Negroes on the task force. More Negro staff members are needed. Staff needs training in community organization and in general in order to cultivate creative thinking and programmatic implementation.

I readily agree that the year round project approach to the problems of various communities may not produce CORE chapters designed for the purpose of extending the structure of National CORE. Community units set up by the project may not be labeled CORE, but their objectives and accomplishments are those of CORE.

If we in Louisiana are in the field to organize communities to fight on their own, then the organizational vehicle must be flexible in label, structure and immediate goals but directed toward the same long range goal.

VI. Recommendations and Remarks

Recommendations for Louisiana are as follows:

1. Regional training workshops for staff and chapters
2. More staff in Louisiana in order to insure the setting up of Congressional and party challenges in 1966 and 1968.
3. More staff for the 1965 Summer Project than is indicated in the prospectus.
4. Immediate payment of bills on demand.

This report is general, but I hope it serves a few of the purposes for which it was requested. I will be glad to write supplementary statements to answer any specific questions.

B U D G E T

Amounts spent in November and December, 1964:

<u>Rent</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
Baton Rouge office	\$60.00	\$65.00
Jonesboro residential headquarters	25.00	25.00
<u>Phone</u>		
Baton Rouge office	57.11	62.25
Monroe office	18.70	41.69
Baton Rouge "Freedom House"	9.87	7.60
<u>Auto</u>		
Payment on Comet	71.71	71.71
<u>Auto Operation</u>		
Repairs	55.55	14.94
(Due to financial situation of project, credit cards were used for gas and minor repairs in November and December. Estimate maximum of \$5.00 per day for four (4) cars - two (2) leased 600.00 from National Car Rental and two (2) owned by Louisiana Project)		620.00
<u>Air travel and other travel</u> - None		
<u>Supplies</u>		
Office supplies	208.04	27.48
<u>Other expenses</u>		
Utilities at Baton Rouge "Freedom House"	18.39	14.57
Total.....	\$1,124.37	\$950.24

B U D G E T cont.

Estimates for January and February, 1965:

<u>Rent</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>
Baton Rouge office	\$48.00	\$40.00
Jonesboro	20.00	20.00
Rapides (Alexandria)	20.00	20.00
Baton Rouge "Freedom House"	20.00	20.00
 <u>Phone</u>		
Baton Rouge office	50.00	50.00
Monroe	50.00	50.00
Jonesboro	25.00	25.00
Alexandria	25.00	25.00
Clinton	25.00	25.00
 <u>Auto</u>		
Payment on Comet	71.71	71.71
2 Leased cars (National Car)		
<u>Auto operation</u> (excluding car owned by Steve Miller)	250.00	250.00
Gas - \$5.00 per day for five (5) cars	815.00	770.00
Maintenance	125.00	125.00
 <u>Air travel and other travel - None</u>		
 <u>Supplies</u>		
Office supplies and postage	75.00	75.00
 <u>Other expenses</u>		
Miscellaneous	100.00	100.00
Total.....	\$1669.71	\$1616.71

B I L L S O N D E M A N D
January 19, 1965

Office rent:		
Baton Rouge office.	\$ 65.00	**Dec. 12
Baton Rouge office.	65.00	**Jan. 12
	\$130.00	
Office supplies and equipment:		
Pelican Office Supply, Baton Rouge	\$659.81	*Nov. 27
Standard Office Supply, Monroe.....	89.46	*Dec. 28
"Royal Furniture Co., Baton Rouge.....	53.32	*Nov. 1
	\$802.59	
Automotive:		
Payment on Comet.....	\$ 71.71	**Jan. 30
Robinson Bros. Inc., Baton Rouge....	48.31	*Dec. 28
Moran Motor Co., Baton Rouge.....	36.88	*Nov. 20
Bolds Two-Stop Service, Jonesboro...	4.00	*Nov. 2
Long's Service Station, Monroe.....	9.37	*Sept. 3
Rose Oil Company.....	15.28	*Dec. 20
	\$185.55	
Workers:		
Gulf States Utilities.....	\$ 19.23	*Jan. 15
Spiver Gordon.....	5.97	
Ronnie Moore	42.47	
Ronnie Moore.....	20.45	
Christine Wright.....	10.49	
Sharon Burger.....	10.10	
	\$108.71	
Miscellaneous:		
A & A Print Shop, Monroe.....	\$ 11.70	*Nov. 30
Admiral Blueprints, Inc., Baton Rouge	6.95	*Nov. 6
Western Union, Baton Rouge.....	3.04	*October
East Feliciana Community Relief Fund..	250.00	***Nov. 28
Mrs. Gladys Jackson, Plaquemine.....	97.50	***Oct, 26
	\$369.19	
Total.....	\$1,596.04	

* last billing date
 ** date payment due
 ***date last payment made

Chronology on Jonesboro

Jackson Parish

July 7, 1964 - Ronnie Moore and Mike Lesser were driving from Jonesboro to Monroe when three cars of whites tried to detain them on the highway. Moore was driving and was able to get away from the three cars by making a u-turn and slightly knocked against one of the other cars. Then there was a chase back to Jonesboro at 105 mph. Moore and Lesser got to where the CORE workers were staying at Jonesboro. The three cars passed back and forth in front of the house. The Chief of Police was called along with the Sheriff but they did not respond until the FBI was contacted through Marvin Rich in New York. Then the Sheriff's deputies arrived along with the Chief of Police. The next day in Monroe, James O. Smith filed a warrant for Moore's arrest on the charge of reckless driving and hit-and-run. Moore later filed the same against James O. Smith.

July 10, 1964 - While canvassing Talbot Street in Jonesboro, threats of intimidation from the Sheriff's deputy and construction workers who told CORE workers to abandon work on voter registration in that area.

July 11, 1964 - Cathy Patterson, Robert Weaver, Bill Yates, Calvin Williams, Fred Brooks, and a local worker Doris Davis were apprehended by three Jackson Parish Deputies, one Lincoln Parish Chief Deputy, and one Louisiana State Trooper on U. S. Highway 167 and held for approximately two hours. They were made to pose for pictures taken by one of the officers, while standing outside of their car which was impounded by Jackson Parish Sheriff, although the incidents occurred in Lincoln Parish. The group received threats from these authorities when they refused to cooperate. Workers, Yates and Miss Davis were held under arrest by Jackson Parish authorities pending investigation of their identification, but were released without charge.

July 13, 1964 - Three white youths stopped at the Freedom House and engaged in a conversation with CORE workers and policemen. Upon becoming rude they were asked to leave, but only after they had made threats on the lives of the occupants of the Freedom House and Robert Weaver in particular.

July 30, 1964 - The KKK members burned crosses throughout Jackson Parish and nearly 50 or more Klansmen marched through the Negro section of Jonesboro, Louisiana holding burning torches in their hands lead by a sheriff's patrol car. The Negro section witnessed this and organized a group called the Deacons of the Defense of Justice.

November 15, 1964 - A cross was burned about two blocks from the Freedom House Saturday morning at 2 O'clock and five shots were fired around the House. Reports were made to the FBI. An investigation was made by the FBI and the Justice Department, Thursday evening.

In Early December - Jackson Parish library system was desegregated.

January 4, 1965 - Talking plans were made to desegregate public accommodations in Jonesboro, and three ministers agreed to allow their churches to be used for voter registration purposes.

January 17, 1965 - Sunday morning at 1 a.m. two of these three churches were burned. These churches are Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Pleasant, Louisiana and Bethany Baptist Church in Bethany, Louisiana.