Field Report--- Mrs. Colia LaFayette

Dallas County April 6, 1963

This is a continuation of the report from March 10- April 6 1963.

We have been informed that the high school students will be out from March 11 to March 15 for a spring break. At this time we plan to double our efforts to get some of these students to work. So far we have promises and no work.

March 10- We gave another get together at our house for Selma U. students, Lutheran Academy and College, and Hudson High school- only three persons showed up and all three were out of school. These persons were interested in getting registered to vote, they all planned to go to the registrars office on tommorow, March 11 and take the voter examination. One of the young ladies promised to help us with secretarial work.
After this little get together we were very pestimistic about getting students in Selma to work. On February 17 when we gave the get-together there were three students present and today not one student. If our plan to get some high school students involved fails theen we will have to move forward .

March 11-
We spent most of thday working on canvass forms. This evening we canvassed in the city. This time we saw no police officers.

March 12-
Today I talked with Mallory Chestnut an eleventh grade student at Hudson High school about the voter education program. Chestnut seems to be interested in the program but has to help his daddy run a grocery store they have on the corner of Lapsley Street and Small Ave. Since he can not work Chestnut is drawing up a list of his friends that he thinks will be interested in the program. There were two other 9th grade students present when I talked with Chestnut- both students expressed a willingness to assist in the project, they are to get their" buddies" together for a meeting at our new home at 1703 Union Street one block from Hudson High school tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.
March 13
We have made a " Lucky Strike" in Selma. For the first four weeks we had no assistance from the local students. We talked at length with college and High school stidents and got no results. But today Bernard stopped a car load of fellows and went directly into the specifics of the voter education program. All the young high school students expressed interest and begun to ask a million questions. Who are you?- Who do you work for?- Where are you from? and How long are you going to be here. They insisted on coming home with Bernard and he gladly brought them to our new apartment.The young fellows wanted to know just what could they do to get Negroes in Selma registered. Bernard outlined to them several things they could do to help:
1. Canvass the city to determine how many registered voters there are and there names and addresss and phone numbers, how many non registered voters and those non registered voters interested in becoming voters, at the same time they would invite interested persons to the voter classes being held at 31½ Franklin Street And Tabernacle Baptist Church on the corner of Minter at Broad Street.
2. They should organize their friends to help with the canvass and to discuss other methods of getting Negroes registered to vote.

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contiuation:

The students sized up this job and decided it was too big for five fellows. Then Cleophus Hobbs, who appeared to be th leader of the group, asked if they could start the canvass immediately since they were out of school forthe rest of the week. He was informed the canvass sheets were already prepared - any time they desired to begin they could.

All the fellows wanted to start at that moment and after a brief instruction period the young students began the canvass assisted by field secretaries. These students had not been on a canvass before so they were shocked at the answers their neighbors were giving to the voter question. They watched doors closed in their faces and men tell them they were afraid. One student said after the canvass for the evening was completed, " I show didn't know there were so many scared Negroes in Selma, its a shame". Cleophus Hobbs 1406 Church Street- junior at Hudson High- was utterly shocked, " Rev. LaFayette how is it people you have known all your life can be so ignorant? You know I think something different about all those people, but I don't know what." He then turned to his friends and said , " Boys we are going to complete this job, and get some of our gang to help" All of the fellows agreed to this enthusiastically.

They decided to meet us Thursday morning at 8 o'clock on the basketball court of the George Washington Carver Home which they suggested as a good area to get a large number of persons registered. The GWC Homes is a federal owned project which has 550 apartments.

March 13-
We met with 8 high school students on the basketball court of the GWC Homes to start the canvass of the apartments. We canvassed the apartment until 12 o'clock and called off until four o'clock that afternoon. We discussed the morning canvass in front of Brown Chapel AME Zion Church. All of the students had questions about the morning canvass. Should we try and persuade Negroe who are not interested? What do we tell people who continue to say they are too old? What do you say when a person call you bad names? We answered these questipns and returned to our apartment followed by Cleophus Hobbs, who said he just had to keep up with us because if we had not come to town he probably would have gotten his boys to rob a bank or something.

This afternoon we returned to the project to continue our canvass. Our canvass number has increased from 8 to 11. All high school students eager to work. We canvassed from 4 to five and regrouped in front of Brown Chapel AME Zion Church. The pastor Rev. Minifee who lives next door in the parsonage said a white fellow came to him early that evening an asked what was he organizing in his church. He informed the man his church was open to any group and what went on he consider private. The man left but Rev. Minifee was unable to get his liscence number.
We invited all the students to the voter class at Tabernacle Baptist Church this evening at 7 o'clock.
At seven o'clock this evening we held our, regular voter education class in Tabernacle Baptist Church. Four of the students who worked on the canvass were present at the clinic. They brought with them two of their young friends of voting age and three other students. Other students wanted to come but they had to attend a Debutante Ball. Charles Bonner called his date off and came to the class, so did Cleophus Hobbs.

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continuation:

The students present were:

Charles Bonner	824 Small Ave.	Trinity 46096
Cleophus Hobbs	1406 Church St.	Tr46549 or 22054
Odell Jackson	1129 Church St	Tr 48764
Willie J Williams	1417 Lauderdale St.	Tr 48764
Rosetta Smith	1120 Small Ave.	Tr 47066
Oscar Johnson	1505 Church St.	
Sam Rudolph	1315 Church	Tr 20033
Eva Hines	390 GWC Homes	(old enough to register)
Alice Hines	390 GWC Homes	(old enough to register)

We invited over Miss Maxine Ruffin and Miss Imogene two of our former students who had recieved registration certificates to give the young high school students a boost. These young ladied boasted to the students that they felt like new people. The instructor of the class for the night was Mr. Ulysses Blackmon, an instructor at the Lutheran school. Also present was a student from Selma University. The student would not give us his name and this brought snickers from the high school students.

The students decided to reinforce their team and canvass the GWC Homes again. Many of them wanted to know when would the sit-ins begin. We explained that we should get Negroes registered and then think of sit-ins. I can't say this satisfied these inquistive students. March 14-16 the canvass of the project continued with many more students helping. We could not get across the river to Tipton High school because we had no transportation.

March17-
All of us attended Tabernacle Baptist Church for morning worship services.

March 19-
We had a group of 39 students present (high school students) at the class tonight. We discussed the voter test, each student had to fiil in a blank. After checkimg the blanks carefully- we went into the canvass forms and discussed the techniques of canvassing. After this tutoring and training period was concluded we begun to teach them freedom song from song sheets we had stenciled.
Several of the student have written new freedom songs. One of the songs written by Charles Bonner 824 Small Street and Nathaniel Tate 1411 Church Street [illegible] is " Hallelujah". They have added new verses to some of thefreedom songs also. Enclosed is a song sheet. They have formed to small freedom choirs to carry the message of freedom across Dallas County."We are moving on". Students present were:

Ann Williams 904 Griffin Ave. Tr. 20219
Particia Bender 1505 Church,
Deloris Sanders 1934 Philpot Ave. Tr46636
Aurilla McDonald 1930 Philpot Ave.
Deloris Walker 521 Small Ave.
Mr. Collie Lowery 1423 Franklin
Mr. Hazel Chatman 1531 St. Ann
Nathaniel Tate 1411 Church St.
Leon Sanders 1934 Philpot Ave.
Gary King 1521 Church Street,
Bernice Lilly 824 Small Ave. Tr46096
Barbara Cleveland 1301 Mabry
Claudia Hatcher 821 Meadow Street
Ilean Ezell 1419 -B Pollard
[illegible]
Charles Bonner 824 Small Ave Tr 46096
Clinton Martin 1511 St Ann
Larry Bean 16 C GWC Homes
Cleophus Hobbs 1406 Church Street
Willie Rogers 1617 Kayser St
Beno Stallworth 714 Green St.
Jessie Jones 2023 Eugene St.
Willie Simpson 1545 Green St.
Bertha Mae Williams 704 Griffin Ave.
Viola L. Johnson 1918 Second Ave.
Willie Tabb 1309 Green St.
Booker T Burden 2030 Eugene St.
Leroy Haynes 1115 Sullivan Ave.
Annie Kate Hatcher 821 Minter Ave.
James Remble 1520 St Phillip St.
Darnetta Doyle 301 Small Ave.

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continuation: Student

Delores Williams 704 Griffin St.
Ellis Johnson 1542 Range St
Bettye Parker 302 Small Ave.
Tim Allison 1314 Philpot Ave.
Tommy Simpson 1545 Philpot Ave.
Thedore Foster 825 Small Ave.
Mary Baker 215 Minter St.
Laura Coubtland 1212 Church St.
George Allison 1314 Philpot Ave.
Nathaniel Walker 1304 Church Street
Milton Bailey 415 Green Street
Uzzie Acoff 1305 Freemont Street
Rosetta Smith 1120 Small Ave.

Frank Holloway and James Austin are taking care of classes in Bogue Chitto tonight. They will submit reports on that arsea.

March 21-

Tonight we attended a mass meeting sponsored by the State chapter of SCLC at Tabernacle Baptist Church . The newly formed young people choir were asked to partiscipate on program. They sang 4 numbers and everyone thought they were very good. We decided to have a get-together for the students the following Tuesday at 7o'clock.

March 23-

We started to canvass a new area today - Soon the intire city will be canvassed.

March 26-

We were given a place to have the get together for the students. Charles Bonner took Frank Holloway to talk with the Father of the Catholic Church. The Father gave them the Catholis Canteen to have the party. About 40 students showed up for the party we got new recruits for the project also. Our number would have been much larger but many of the students had to go to school for a regional contest.

After the meetinf was finished we talked with Father about voter registration. He promised to do everything in his power to get Negroes registered. The young ladies working at the Mission Home have already gone down to take the test. Four of them have recieved voter certificates. The Father said he would talk to the girls at the Catholic hospital and get all of them 21 registered. He invited us to meet the head Father the next day around 11o'clock.

March27- Today we had more forms stenciled and also more of the literacy test. Things are beginning to shape now andmit is possible about 30 will be going to register on April 1st. There are 8 person comimg to register from Bogue Chitto.

March 28-

The students organized tonight. There were 27 students present at the meeting. There aim is to get every Negro of age and qualified registered. They plan to start in Selma and then move to the county. They are not just concerned with voter registration but they are going to start here. The officers elected and the committees are:

President- Charles Bonner
~~President~~
First vice president- Mr Willie Tate
Second Vice President-Miss Jeanette Coleman
Corresponding Secretary- Miss Ilean Ezell
Recording Secretary- Miss RosettaSmith
Chaplain- Miss Gary King
Parliamentarian-Mr. Jessie Grimes

Telephone Committee

Mr. Cleophus Hobbs, Mr. Willie Johnson, Rev. Reginald Patterson, Miss Vivian Martin, and Miss Gary King.

Recreation

Mr. Larry Bean, Miss Bernice Lilly, Miss Claudia Hatcher, Miss Barbara Cleveland, Mr. Hazel Chapman, Miss Aurilla McDonald, Miss Viola Johnson and Mr. Edward Foster.

Group Leaders

Mr. Cleophus Hobbs
Mr. Jessie Grimes
Mr. Willie Tate
Rev. Reginald Patterson
Mr. Charles Johnson
Mr. Larry Bean
Mr. Nathaniel Tate
Mr. Leon Sanders
Mr. Edward Foster

Typing Committee

Miss Annie Laura Williams, Miss Jeanette Coleman, Miss Deloris Walker, Miss Aurilla McDonald, and Miss Viola Johnson.

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continuation:

April 1-
The student went to canvass this evening. They were spurred by the fact approximately 100 Negroes went to register on Monday April 1,1963. Jessie Grimes who is parliamentarian of the group went to register yesterday. He described the number of persons waiting in the long registration line as nearly one hundred Negroes. He stayed around the office of the registrars until late that afternoon. Many Negroes stood in the line until about 4 o'clock. Most of the Negroes were able to take the test. Mr. Grimes had done some canvassing in Sardis , Ala, and most of the Negroes came from Sardis on trucks. The canvass is paying off this is really vigorating the students. Several of the students heard a special news cast saying there were approximately 100 Negroes at the Board of Registrars seeking to register to vote.

April 2-
To night 19 students were out for meeting. They have named their group the Selma Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee. The students present were:
Mr. Edward Foster- appointed to be a group leader
Miss Bennie Ruth Johnson- added to recreation committee
Mr. Collie C. Lowery
Mr. Larry Bean
Mr. John Hunter
Mr. Cleophus Hobbs
Miss Vivian Martin
Mr. Jessie Grimes
Miss Jeanette Coleman
Miss Rosetta Smith
Mr. Charles Bonner
Ilean Ezell (Miss)
Miss Germaine Platts
Miss Sharon Platts
Miss Bernice Lilly
Miss Viola Johnson
Mr. Willie Johnson
Mr. Earnest Swift
Mr. Joseph L. DuBose
Several of the students are planning on coming to the SNCC Conference in Atlanta. They have been trying to get some adults to sponsor them.

April 4-
At the class meeting on Thursday evening we recieve canvass reports and evaluated them. After this we discussed who would be going to Atlanta to the SNCC conference. Three students said they were being sponsored by their parent. Hazel Chatman, Charles Johnson and Leon Sanders. The two students chosen by the group to attend the conference were Germanie Platts and Jessie Grimes. Other students coming to the conference are Charles Bonner, president, Cleophis Hobbs, chairman of group leaders, Miss Ilean Ezell, corresponding secretary, and Miss Claudia Hatcher , chairman of the recreation committee. The record " Freedom in the Air " was played for the group. Many of the students are selling the records. They are asking for donations of five dollars or more with which the person will be given a copy of the record as compliments of SNCC. All finance will be sent to the National Office.
See you at the SNCC conference.
Keep us abreast of the Miss., Ark., and Georgia situation. The students are drafting letters to the president and attorney general of U.S.

We need some finance immediately, please get those checks cashed.

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cinuations:

Class on Franklin Street

Name	Address,	Phone
rained out	rained out	rained out

March 14

Miss Evelyn Nettles	1210 Washington Street	Trinity 45366
Rev. A. Perry	Rt. 1 Box 761 Selma, Ala.	Trinity 46463
Rev. A. B. Douglas	Rt 1 Box 766 Selma, Ala	Trinity 22876
Mr. George Walker	1504 Church Street	Trinity 49889
Mr. Major Washington	Rt 2 Box 21 Selma, Ala.	

March 19

Miss Mary James	1227 Philpot Ave.	Trinity45562
Mr. A.D. Bush		

March 26

Mr. A. D. Bush		
Mr. Major Washington	Rt 2 Box 21 Selma , Ala.	
Mr. Johnnie Sims	326 South Ave.	
Mr. Robert Wormly	1216 St. Phillip	Trinity 44733
Mr. Willie Evans	1417 St. Ann Street	Trinity 48447
Mr. Walter Heard	1318 Small Street	

March 28

Mr. Johnnie sims		
Mr. A. D. Bush		
Rev. J.H. Stewart		
Mrs. Janey Skinner		
Miss Jessie Brown	1628 Church Street	Trinity 47609
Mr. Major Washington	Rt. 2 Box 21 Selma, Ala.	

April 2

Mr. Major Washington	Rt. 2 Box 21 Selma, Ala.	
Mr. A.D. Bush	Rt. 3 Box 46 E Selma, Ala.	
Signa Brown	102-C GWC Home	
Miss Juanita Smith	1607 Vine Street	
Miss Bessie Jackson	3029 Magazine Street	Trinity 47296

Class at Tabernacle Baptist Church

March 14

March 14

Miss Eva Hines		
Miss Alice Hines		

March 19

no students	no students	no students

March21

Mass Meeting	Mass Meeting	Mass meeting

March 26

March 28

Mr. Joe Louis Johnson	Rt. 4 Box 172 Selma, Ala.	Trinity 47066
Mr. Roy Smith	1804 Washington St.	
Mr. Robinson Walker	1422 Pollard At.	
Mr. John Crear (class instructor)	1209 Lapsley Street	

April 2

April 4

Mr. Thedore Sherrer	104 Minter Ave.	
Miss Alberta Ash	1400 Pollard	Trinity 48846
Mrs. Elizabeth Hicks	1425 Tremont Street	Trinity [illegible]

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rooms taking the voter examination

	Name	Address	Date	Comments
1	Miss Maxine Ruffin	905 Winter Ave.	February 18	Registered
2	Miss Imogene Childs	703 Green St.	February 18	Registered
3	Miss Bessie Jackson	3029 Magazine Street		
4	Miss Sadie Mitchell	1404 Church St.	February 18	Registered
5	Mr. Morris Harrell	Rtl Box 132 Browns, Ala.	March 18	to hear from board
6	Mr. Gus Tab	Rt 1 Box 125 Browns, Ala	February 13	Failed
7	Mr. Eddie Griffin	Rt 1 Box 37 Browns, Ala.	February 18	Failed
8	Mrs. Sarah Griffin	Rt 1 Box 37 Browns, Ala.	April 1	to hear from board
9	Mrs. Averlene Jones	Rt. 1 Box94 Browns, Ala.	March 4	Failed
10	Mrs. Lucy Jackson	Rt 1 Box 136 Browns, Ala.	March 18	to hear from board
11	Mrs. C. King	Rt 1 Box 97 Browns, Ala.	April 1	to hear from board
12	Mrs. Lillian T. Kimbrough	Rtl Boxll3 Browns, Ala.	April 1	to hear from board
13	Mrs. C. Tyus	Rt. 1 Box 97 Browns, Ala.	April 1	to hear from board
14	Mrs. Elnora Washington	Rt. 1 Browns, Ala.	April 1	to hear from board
15	Mrs. Rebecca Anderson	Rtl Box98 Browns, Ala.	April 1	to hear from board
16	Mr. Leroy Taylor	Rt.1 Box 197 Browns, Ala	March 4	to hear from board
17	Mrs. Della Taylor	Rt.1 Box 119 Browns, Ala	March 4	to hear from board
18	Mr. Arthur Gardner, Sr.	Rt. 1 Browns, Ala.	March 18	to hear from board
19	Mrs. Ethel Washington	Rt. 1 Browns, Ala.	April 1	to hear from board
20	Miss Avelyn Etheridge	211-B G'C Homes	March 4	Failed
21	Rev.JH.Stewart	515 Winter Street	March 4	Failed
22	Rev. L.R. Harrison	17-A Grey St.	March 4	Failed
23	Mr. Steven Gee	Church Street	March 4	Failed
24	Mr. Major Washington	Rt. 2 Box 21 Selma	January 18	Failed
25	Mr. Jessie Grimes	713 Lawerence Street	April 1	to hear from board
26	Rev. J.T. Anderson	1416 Vine Street		
27	Mrs. Francis Hatcher	426-A G'C	March 4	to hear from board
28	Miss Francis Craig	1414 Sylvan Street	March 4	to hear from board
29	Mr. Lawerence Williams	1622 Henry Street		
30	Rev. Mathew Jackson, Sr.	206 Winter Ave.		
31	Miss Jean Pritchett	513 Winter St.	February 18	Failed
32	Rev. C.J. Hunter	1509 Sylvan Street	April 1	to hear from board
34	Miss Bessie Collins	Apt. 409-B G'C Homes	February 18	Failed
35	Mr. Calvin Jones	307 Dallas Ave.	February 18	Registered
36	Miss Clementine Murphy	Apt. 224-A George Wash Carver Homes	Feb.18	Registered
37	Mrs. Vivian Myers	1312? Winter Ave.	February 18	Failed
38	Mrs. Mary Peoples	1721 Vine Street	February 18	Failed
39	Mr. William Coleman	Rt 5 Box 254-B Selma	March 4	
40	Mr. Claude Porter	1614 Church Street	February 18	Registered
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MOVE ON

Segregation been here from time to time
Now we just ain't gonna pay it no mind.

(Chorus)
It's moving on (It's moving on)
It's moving on (It's moving on)
It's moving on, It's moving on,
It's moving on, Move on, Move on,
Move on.

I thought they were jiving about Jim
Crow was gone
I went by his house and he show weren't
home

(Chorus)

Jim Crow moving on down the track
He got his bag and he wont be back.

(Chorus)

They say we in Selma been way behind
But now we say we are stepping in line.

(Chorus)

Negroes in the dark and almost blind
We call you here to say we got freedom
on our mind.

(Chorus)

You can beat my head and throw me in
jail
I can get my freedom without any bail.

(Chorus)

* * * *

On My Way To Freedom Land

I'm on my way, to Freedom Land
(repeat 3 times)

(Chorus)
I'm on my way, OH Lord I'm on my way

If you can't go, don't hender me
(repeat 3 times)

(Chorus)

If you can't go, going anyhow
(repeat 3 times)

(Chorus)

I'm asking Selma, come and go with
me (repeat 3 times)

(Chorus)

If you don't go, let your brother
go (repeat 3 times)

(Chorus)

* * * * * *

FREEDOM

(Tune of Amen)

Let everybody say Freedom
(repeat 3 times)

(Chorus)
Freedom, Freedom

Let everybody say Liberty

(chorus)

Let everybody say Equality

(Chorus)

Let everybody say Justice

(Chorus)

* * * * * *

HALLELUJAH

Written by-Nathaniel Tate &
Charles Bonner

Well Hallelujah (Hallalu, Hallalu)
Glory Hallelujah (Freedom my Lord)
I believe I'm gonna see my (Freedom
again)
Hallalu, Hallelujah

I stepped out the room (but I didn't
stay long)
When I got back (My Freedom was gone)
I believe I'm gonna see (My Freedom
again)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

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