

18 Nov 64

Dear Mrs. (?) Kaplow

I am very proud to have received my first check from you. I have been working here in Tallahatchie County since the 21st of July, when we opened this county and plan to continue working here until it is tamed down.

This is a rural county in the middle of the Mississippi Delta, and is supposed to be one of the roughest counties in the Delta. This is the county that lost Emmet Till in the Tallahatchie (Till) River, for a passing, harmless remark to a white girl. His body floated to the surface of the river a few days later. This is also the county in which an insane Negro shot a white deputy in the town of Webb. Within a few hours, his house was surrounded by whites, and the house was literally shot down around him,---a fitting monument to white justice here in the south land--a bullet-ridden pile of boards. One informant says (unverified) that after the body was removed from the pile of boards, each participant in the shooting filed by the body and fired a bullet into it. This last happened only last spring.

Since July, we have progressed greatly. We have had several mass-meetings, and have had as many as over 100 people show up for our best one. This is really great, seeing as how we live in the rural, and only a few people live near the church. The sheriff, Sheriff Dogan is under Federal injunction not to interfere with voter-registration work, and the Circuit Clerk, Cox, is also under injunction and CANNOT give a literacy test. This and Panola county are the only counties in which this has happened. Here, anyone who can read and write may register to vote. We have increased the number of registered voters (Negro) from 1 to over 80. We are also working on various Federal programs--FHA, ASC, Social Security, etc., and have made some gains in getting people to investigate these.

I really hate to say this, but I have to return your second check---you forgot to sign it. Please ?

An interesting ~~thing~~ thing happened in a small town in this county--Glendora, about 8 or 9 miles south of where we are staying. A little old deputy pulled a pistol on some of us just cause a white friend was eating with us. He had an injunction served, and we now understand that he has been fired from his job as deputy--at least he no longer wears his pistol or badge. Also, in Tutwiler, another town in this county, we cannot be served in the negro restaurants, or the white folks will close them down--they don't bother us, but go to the Negroes involved and intimidate them. We are working on this right now.....but we will never turn back, no, we will never turn back, until we have all been freed, and we have equality.

In FREEDOM

SAM

This check  
was not written  
by Sam  
written by  
Fred  
project  
Marius  
director  
AK