

1963?

The following format was devised to assist people beginning work in new areas, especially voter registration. It facilitates reporting and understanding of certain historical conditions when protest groups appoint a committee or a person to research the county or counties in which they are working.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

I. Introduction

- A. Write something about how this report was written: interviews, census books, additional material
- B. Write about yourself, your experiences on the field, in the county, etc.

II. Historical development

- A. Current basis statistics
 - 1. population, Negro and white
 - 2. total voting age population
 - 3. Negro registrants out of total Negro voting age population
 - 4. white registrants out of total white voting age population
 - 5. size of county
- B. History
 - 1. when county was formed, by whom
 - 2. slavery in county
 - 3. history during civil war
 - 4. changes under Reconstruction
 - 5. history of violence in county
 - 6. lynchings
 - 7. KKK activity
 - 8. white citizens council activity
 - 9. famous case histories of denial of civil rights -- U.S. Scottsboro Boys, Anniston bus burning in Alabama, Emmett Till in Mississippi

III. Economic description

- A. Industrialization
 - 1. if so, where
 - 2. what kind of industries
 - 3. where they are located
- B. Rural
 - 1. basic crops
 - 2. seasons of employment
 - 3. sharecroppers, tenant farmers, etc.
- C. Wages
 - 1. average wage of whites
 - 2. what kind of professional class in white population
 - 3. average wage of Negroes
 - 4. what kind of professional class in Negro population

- D. Primary occupations
 - 1. of whites
 - 2. of Negroes
- E. Extent of unionization -- if so, what industries segregated unions?
- F. Unemployment

IV. Political structure

- A. Elected or appointed
give names and descriptions of prominent officials, i.e. sheriff, county judge, tax collector, public prosecutor, etc.
- B. Negroes in any official capacity?
i.e., Negro police, fireman, etc.
- C. Description of white power structure -- what are the most powerful forces in white community -- who, i.e., newspaper editors, local mayors, county officials, etc.
- D. County participation in statewide elections
i.e., does county vote for more liberal candidates
- E. White "liberal" community?

V. Social structure

- A. Schools
 - 1. if completely segregated, what condition of schools for Negroes
 - 2. if somewhat integrated: under court order? parochial schools only, numbers of integrated schools and numbers of Negro students in schools?
- B. Public facilities - description of recreational facilities
 - 1. completely segregated? if not, which are integrated?
 - 2. did integration come voluntarily, through I.C.C., by negotiations, after demonstrations?
- C. Any local protest groups in county
 - 1. if so history
 - 2. local leadership
 - 3. goals of particular protest groups

VI. Patterns of Negro voting

- A. Negro voting after Civil War, 1900, 1930, 1960
- B. Harassment
 - 1. techniques: violence, fear, or eligibility qualifications, or both
 - 2. extent of harassment

VII. Special characteristics

- A. Special institutions
for example, any institution in county which exerted particular influence on county's development -- for example, Tuskegee in Macon County.
- B. Economic institution
for example, steel mills in Bessemmer

VIII. Negro leadership

- A. Business institutions
 - 1. stores
 - 2. insurance, etc.
- B. Educational institutions
large college in area? President's name, description
- C. Church influence
 - 1. how many
 - 2. what type
- D. Political leadership
 - 1. attempts to run for political office
 - 2. "Prominent" Negroes who deal with whites
- E. Private organizations
 - 1. NAACP
 - 2. social groupings
- F. Conflicts in community

IX. Role of Federal Government

- A. Justice Department
 - 1. suits
 - 2. action: pending, finished?
- B. Economic subsidies
 - 1. to schools
 - 2. to hospitals
 - 3. military installations (i.e., Turner AFB in Albany, Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, etc.)
- C. FBI aid in civil rights suits
 - 1. investigations -- come promptly after complaints?
 - 2. action

X. Evaluation

Attach Form (contact form)

SNCC Form 102 --- Please place it in the mail

Name of contact Address
Tel. number Occupation
Business address Business tel. number
Date of contact Contact made by

Comments:

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