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Dear Family

Maryanda kalindinda pada kalinda ka ANTICONOMICA DE LA CONTROL DE I don't know if I wrote you that I was now working in Hale County or not. I was working for a little while in Sumter Conty but they asked me to work in Hale County because the workers that we had here had to leave. Hale County is one of the Black Belt Counties of Alabama. It is about 75% Negro. Over 70% of it's families earn under \$3,900 a year. Mostly these are the Negro families, although there are a few poor white families. To be perfectally honest Hale County is not a pleasent place to work. There is a lot of apathy and a lot of tomming, and a lot of people who are out only for themselfs and are trying to use the movement for that end. The whites that live here are, as usual in a Black Belt County, "crazy". There used to be a white man by the name of May who lived in Sawyerville (a small community in Hale County). His daughter attended the University of Alabama. May always swore thattacks he'd be buried is his grave before he'd see his daughter go to school with a Negro. In 1963 when Vivian Malone was trying to get into U of A he was a fervant supporter of Wallaces "stand in the door" policy. The night after she finally enrolled he shot himself in the head with a .45, true to his word he never saw his daughter go to school with a Negro. There are about 1,000 more Negroes registered here then there are Whites. However only one person is running for office (Sheriff). They fact that there is only one Negro candidate is very indicative of the apathy here in Hale. All the other Counties with Negro voting majorities (and some without) have 5,6 and up to 15 candidates running. I am the only S.C.L.C. worker here in Hale County. There is also a S.N.C.C. worker in the Northern end of the county and we get to see each other every once in a while.

These are very bussy times in the Blackbelt (or they should be). We are trying to set up election committees in each county were we have someone running and in each beat of each county. That is what I am working on. What we have to do for each beat in Hale County is find and train people to be poll wathhers in each beat (there are 18 beats in Hale county, a beat is sort of like a ward, there is one polling place for each beat, with the exception of the two t towns which have two polling places in there respective beats), anyway we have to find and train poll watchers, organize canvassing teams to canvass their beats before the election (on May 3rd), organize a trasportation system in each beat to get people to the poll, and all the other things that have to be done in a Get out the Vote campaign. We are also setting up beat, county, district, and state meetings to decide who we are going to vote for. We are also trying to set up a system wherby we can teach people how to use a voting machine (in the beats that have them) and how to use a bablot in the beats that have ballots. So you see we are pretty busy. Unfortunatly we are severly hampered because the car I was using is no longer operable and it is very hard to get transportation. The car I was using has no brake lining left and is very difficult to stop, and two of the tires are blown out and unreparable and the other two are about to go. The transmission dosent work to well either, so, anyway, transportation is quite a problem.

The white people are pretty antagonistic. I have had to move three times since I got here because they have put pressure on the people that I was staying with,. Most people are afraid to put me up. Right now I am sleeping on the floor of a barber shop in my sleeping bag. Finding somewere to eat is also a problem. Ron Kaufman (the SNCCworker) was told to get out of Moundville (the town he was staying in, in the North end of the county) by the Mayor and the Police. I haven't been able to get any transportation so I don't know what, if anything, has happened up there. He was told to get out two days ago (That is Easter Sunday). It is hard

to find people to work because of the harrasment.

One lady that I was talking to about being a poll watcher had had her house shot up and riddled with bullets because she had tried to have her children be transfered to a White school. The bedroom we were sitting in had about 6 obviouse bullet holes in it. Nobody had been hurt though.

Movement wise this is about the worst county that I have worked, However is physically speaking it is the most beutifull. The NorthEast corner of the county is part of the Talledega Nation Forrest and is a very attractive area. Unfortunatly wereever people have been it is pretty ugly, the tin and wood shacks, the falling down one room school houses (Negro of course) still all in all it is the prettiest county I have worked.

I got the envelope with my mail, I appreciate you sending it. I will probably stay down here during the summer. What are your plans for the summer? I read the article in the magazine about ken. Very Impressive. Well I guess that all

lowe

bruce