

National Conference on Religion and Race  
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November 15, 1963

NOTES ON THE CONSULTATION ON JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
HELD ON OCTOBER 31, 1963 IN NEW YORK CITY

A large part of the meeting time was devoted to assessing the crucial situation in Jackson and the few gains that have been made in recent months. Emphasis is now being placed on voter registration and selective buying. Negroes are supporting the latter very well. Street demonstrations are not being used at present.

A fuller record of the discussion is available at the Secretariat of NCRR.

A few suggestions for possible action were made, viz.,

1. Clergy and lay religious leaders are welcome to visit Jackson and their presence at the weekly mass meetings carried on by the Movement will be appreciated. Such visitors should let Reverend Mr. Haughton know in advance of their coming.
2. Mr. Lunney pointed out that the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under Law has been able to arrange for bail bonds through a national bonding company. In case of need for bail bonds, Mr. Lunney may be contacted.
3. Help in finding one or two religiously committed couples with practical imagination and other appropriate experience and skills is solicited by the American Friends Service Committee - (contact Miss Jean Fairfax). Such persons would agree to live and work in Jackson and Mississippi for a three year period.

*Book is already  
out. Miss M. R. W.  
5067 Hoopoe St.  
New York, N.Y.*

(NOTE: The Jackson school system is likely to be ordered to desegregate within the next period of months. Present outlook is for closing the public schools if this happens. Only an aroused and organized movement among the white citizens will prevent this. Probably many white parents would rally to a save-our-schools movement.)

4. Since the meeting, concern has been expressed lest the white congregations that have not rejected Negro worshippers on one or two occasions not be visited repeatedly enough to consolidate the gain. These congregations are under heavy pressure from pro-segregation elements to refuse to admit Negroes.
5. It may be useful at some point to enlist a "high level" group of churchmen to go to Jackson to confer with the local hard-pressed clergymen. We will await further developments and a request from Jackson people themselves.