

THE AMERICAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Educational Leaders of ATA

FROM: George W. Jones, Executive Secretary, ATA

IN RE: THE ENCLOSED QUESTIONNAIRE

The American Teachers Association is currently engaged in a project, the results of which will be of tremendous benefit and value to all of us. We are seeking to determine the voting strength, and voting potential, of Negro educators in the South.

This is a mammoth task, and we need and respectfully solicit your assistance. Enclosed you will find a questionnaire which we are asking that you complete, and using the enclosed self-addressed business reply envelope, mail right away.

You will note that the envelope is addressed to the office of the Voter Education Project, Atlanta, Georgia. This organization has been kind and gracious enough to contribute significantly to this survey.

You will also note that some of the questions on the enclosed form require more space for an answer than is provided. Please feel free to use the back of the form, or a separate sheet of paper for your answer.

2 You may or may not wish to identify yourself, your school, or your county. This is your choice, and we leave that up to you.

All this requires is a few minutes of your time. And I think you should know that whether or not you take the few minutes necessary to complete and mail this form may mean the difference between greater or lesser security for the Negro teacher in the South.

You asked that ATA DO SOMETHING concrete, positive, definite and valuable for its membership. This is one of the many projects in which we are engaged which will help us do what you ask.

Your cooperation is urgently requested.

Thank you kindly for your time and understanding.

GWJ:ek

12-17-62

Enclosures

QUESTIONNAIRE*

school _____

1. How many Negro teachers are employed in your ~~county?~~ _____
 - (a) How many are registered voters? _____
 - (b) How many of those registered have paid their poll tax, and thus qualified to vote? _____
 - (c) How many have been denied registration in your county during the past five years? _____

2. Is there any organized plan to get Negro teachers to register?
_____What is the plan and how effective has it been? _____

3. Do teachers appear to be reluctant to qualify for the ballot? _____
If so, does this reluctance seem to stem:
 - (a) From lack of confidence that the ballot is an effective way to register dissatisfaction with conditions; _____
 - (b) From apprehension that there will be reprisals; _____
 - (c) From lack of knowledge about the potentiality of organized political action? _____

4. In the past year or so have teachers seemed to take a more active interest in registering and voting than they did previously? _____
If so, to what do you attribute this changing attitude? _____

5. Is there any opposition from citizens of the community to teachers registering and voting? _____
 - (a) Give cases to verify your answer. You may use back or separate sheet for your answer.

6. Do the laws of your county or state have any provisions which make it difficult for Negroes to register and vote? _____

7. How does one proceed to qualify for the ballot? _____

8. Is there a Board of Registrars? _____
 - (a) How is the Board selected? _____
 - (b) What is the length of term of office of Board members? _____
 - (c) How often does it meet? _____
 - (d) Is accommodation adequate for Negroes who appear for registration? _____
 - (e) Are there separate facilities for Negro applicants? _____
 - (f) What discriminatory practices are noted in the registration of Negroes? _____

You may use back or separate sheet for your answers.

*NOTE: Please return this questionnaire, after it is completed, to:
Mr. Wiley Branton, 5 Forsyth St., N.W., Rm. 206, Atlanta 3, Ga.