

Audio only 1
Tape A
Fort Deposit Mass Meeting, Archival tape-- April 11, 1966.
Apparently deals with goading people into working up the
courage to vote, to buck the system. Tape seems to begin in
the middle of a debate.

Black Male Speaker: Boy, if you sit here, if you sit here
tonight, and say, "Yeah, I'll sit here tonight" and go and
give your report to your white boss, those kids might not
have a future. (murmuring of agreement) If you sit here,
and don't worry about those kids' future, you may be--if you
live another 50, 60, 10 years--however long you live-- you
may be walking behind that same mule. You may be walking
behind that same mule. (murmur, Alright) ----but you know
you want some of that freedom, too. --older folks are more
tired than these young people and white folks are (or
something close to that). See--all the people tried more
than we have. See--I'd rather live with these white folks
for six consecutive years! 40 years and 50 years. So it's
not enough to start dealing with those white folks. --cain't
say, well, you know, "I'm too old to register to vote. In
Birmingham, when they shot that man, that white--he didn't
go out lookin for the old man, he didn't go out lookin for
nobody, registerin to vote, no young man, he went out, and
when he saw some black people, he decided he would shoot.
And he shot a man 57 (?) years old. So, you can easily be
mistaken for somebody that's registered to vote. If
you're black (murmurs of approval). As far as white folks are
concerned, all black folk look alike anyway. (applause)
It's up to you, it's up to you whether white folks ---in
Lowndes County. whether white folks run another Lux Jackson
bein in office next year. Lux Jackson probably braggin
about -- corn likker down here, ---maybe next week or the
week after next. kCause you know how much he like Likker.
(murmurs, "Yeah.") Now if you wanna eat that barbeque, and
then go up there and vote for Lux Jackson, it's up to you.
(murmurs) But you wanna eat that barbeque, or do you wanna
try and take that barbeque and give it to the white folks,
or, however you wanna have that barberque and vote for your
folks, it's a different thing. It's a different thing. So,
it's important--it's important for people in this county to
get registered to vote. It is a shame, if anybody in here
can lift their hands and say, "I'm not registered to vote."
Now, these, these people in the U. P. (?) has opened up the
door if you make it clear that people will go down to
register to vote. (alright!) You make it---to go down
there and fill out --and the white folk as you a hundred
questions. You make it---all you gotta do is go down there
and register. That's all you gotta do. (murmuring of
agreement) But somebody's gonna say, "Well that's too
morrow (??) So, They even took that out. If you can't write
all you gotta do is go down there and make your X. So what
excust you got now. What excuse you got now. I mean what
good is the vote, if you let white folks control it. Hah?
What good is the vote if you let white folks come down here

and tell you who to vote for! ---See, --you people tonight to go in there to register to vote, to come back and give, and give power, give the power right back to the white folks. Is that what you want? So, it's important that once you get the vote, you use right! Now you got the vote, it's important that you get everybody registered in this county. And when the time come to vote, you can get all down there, ---there won't be no competition. there won't be no competition, all these black folks goin down there to register, and those few white folks, who gonna win? (murmurs) Blacks ----! So, it's important that you get registered. White folks, they--I mean, they really don't wanna see you come down there. They scared of you, they scared to death right now, right now, ----talking about ways they can keep them niggers from coming down here to vote. So while we sleepin, white folks up somewhere schemin on blacks. (applause) So it's time for black folks to start scheming. ----see, everybody know how to scheme. I askin---gettin folks registered. We--gettin registered, we can win. We can win! Ain't no doubt about that. Any kind of election that they have in Lowndes County, and we get out and register, we can win! But if we don't win, it's gonna be your problem. And with Lux Jackson -----you should go and tell them try you. Cause if you weren't registered to vote, you have pulled that trigger. You have pulled that trigger. (applause) It's up to you. The fight is yours, if you're not registered, we certainly hope that you will get registered very soon, and I'm gonna sit down, I got this note supposed to tell you sit down I don't know. (laughter) Different voice: ---I wanna say --Dick Gregory --we came into Selma, and Montgomery, and he say that if the man come to give you some barbeque and you love him so well that you can't turn it down, and you don't want to ~~---a meal~~, just go tell him, "Yeah, I'm gonna vote for ya," but you know in your heart who you're gonna vote for! -----You know it's bad to tell an untruth, but they been tellin untruths for so long I wanna tell ya, if you love them so much ---you wanna have a certain amount of loyalty to em, you know, --ask you to vote for em, tell em anything, but you know in your heart you gonnaveote for our candidate. (applause)

"HURT HIS feelings"

Tape slips ahead: Man speaking, invites Miss Connie to come up to speak, give her your undivided attention. (applause)

Woman speaks (Miss Connie?) I hope more --of you get excited when ----piece of paper --not so much I ---very short and brief, to proveto you that it's not what you know its just what you think."To the President, --Lowndes County Commission (?) for Human Rights---I won't ---me again, trying to bring you something that I has to get, hoping that you will agree with me on----- Which I have have crosen to talk to you from.----- I do hope that each of you will agree with me and --I have talked to you from this--non-violent soldier headed for the union. We have

been working very hard, trying to do some things, we have been working very hard, trying to bring some souls to Jesus, love, prayer and peace, with Jesus' guiding hand. So we all can be the same. We are headed for this one path, that no individual can ----- . We shall walk until our nations have seen the anger of the Lord face to face. Then we all can get his--"peace be unto all mankind." The end has not yet come. Our work has just begun. We will continue to use ourselves until the Lord in His grace and mercy, and he will come, and he will not turn away from us. We are heading for this end, because the Lord is standing at the gate! To swing it wide open. To let all of his children come in. Then we all can look back and say: "Lord, we've come from a mighty long way, but you have kept us from darkness in light. -----be strong all you people, of the land, say the Lord, and work I'llm woth you, fear you not. Headed for the --, we all should have kind ness in our hearts, for our enemies, a heart of forgiveness for one another, even after Christ sake has forgiven us. ---Heading for this end, we must continue to rootout the bad path, for we have been standing so long, we have stood there for so long, until, we eyes and were blind---. Years and good years, talk and good talk, feet --to walk. But now those days are gone. (applause) Every night a new day, a better --tomorrow, that means, if you talk I talk, if you walk I walk, if you sleep, then let us all--together. We are but one flesh and blood, ---He made the white and he made the black. But as the color of our skin, they always have refused to give us equal rights. We'll change things around now. Trying to learn them how to walk and talk. --they've been standing on--so long. This is what we all must do. First, we got to learn about 12 ounce of common sense. 10 oz of consideration. one oz of -behaving ???----second, when we do that, we will then boil it down to love. ----. Use but a little self respect, and gentle behavior (I guess??) But be sure to sweeten it with manhood and race pride. (applause) Third, you can then give them the prescription, how to take it. And use it. We want them to take nine drops, three times a day. (laughter, applause) Before to take it before each meal. Then bow down on their knees. Use it with prayer, use it with prayer, and when prayin, we want them to use common sense. -----And don't forget to say, that this is for all mankind. We want all of them to pray. And be sure to fill this prescription up, at the House of Understanding. Next door to Reason, and then reason with one another. Be sure it is taken according to directions. When this have come to pass, you better bet that this will make the road we traveling run into a connection pass (?) (laughter) Don't think we are tryng to be tough because we are trying to wake some of you up. But the time has really come that the Negro must wake up. I have been wondering in my mind, why some of the Negroes still asleep? Why are some of the Negroes still asleep, or has he lost his good mind? No doubt he is asleep, and his dreams are full of ----. But

in 600's eyes

*great
recipe
metaphor*

it's time for him to wake up, because there is plenty for him to see. Wake up and ---. It's no time for us to shirk. Let each of us put our shoulder to the wheel, and help those who are trying to work. We have some Negroes with plenty of good talent. Education and plenty sense. But we never ---an investigation that really keep the Negro on the bench. But if you don't learn to help yourself, there's nobody care for you. A big name doesn't make the man. Your --is a better friend (?) You must learn to wake up. In order to make the future, men. Tonight, I'm talkin to ---. the friends of ours. We only need a ---friend, to to let our flag wave so high. Let the white race tip their hat. After our race go marchin by. (applause) Don't drop yo head because you're black! Lift your head up high! Because black is honest, and God knows it's no sin. Because you're black, don't think it's something bad. The Bible says Solomon was black. And he was the wisest man we ever had. When born on the face of this earth, a black mother gave him birth. So you can really see black is something! We do hope that you will invite us to come into your church again. So we can co-operate together. Cause that is what we need. So if you fail to respond to what I have said, -----then you are most certainly like some ---and the fish. It takes some old---to grind some of your own tar (?) And some of you are like the wire fish, and that is a dumb fish. And it look only one way. (applause) You always looking to get the white man outta his plan. When you can't see your --shining bright as day. Some people are --~~running~~ about right there, just like that. A help of church folk, and nothin to em but their mouths. (applause) I want each of you to bear this in mind: this will help you to drive all fears away. There's a hill up on the mountain. It's very steep, and wide, but Jesus standing up thee waiting, to see His children go marching by. jWhen we pray, let it all be true, for Jesus know just to do. We have kept Him through all these ---, and He will guide you all the way through. Never stop and look back. Keep makin step and always turn right, for Jesus knows our every need. He's --the wind --- . Let us not wait so long to decide, in our mind to do the thing. This Thing is ----. Let us start, let us step into ~~line~~, and show everyone behind. There's no need to keep sittin like an old rotten stump. Nothin to you but only look (?) When a white man speak, you ready to move. That is because you been sittin so long on that old rotten stoop. (laughter) Pick it up! and give it a right hand to em! Let the Lowndes County white folks know we not gonna run. (applause) Since the Lord is our right, and your salvation, then whom shall you fear? He is also the strength of your life. Who shall you be afraid? So let put our minds, on higher plans. Do some thinking for yourselves. Both women and men. We can do just as much as anyone, else, if we examine ourselves. ----- It's not that the Lord has ---. Can;t you see now there's a brighter day ahead.? We have been misled, so long by the white man.

PITIFUL

FRONT

Common Sense

1307
We ~~bother~~ what the white man says. Let us do some thinking,
and be womens and men. Cause we done slept too long
-----again. (applause)

recorder skids ahead.

Side A has three or 4 more speakers, including John Hulett and a Mr. Logan, all running for office. Logan uses nice metaphors, about cleaning the woodlot, planting the seeds that are given him (the votes), and is well received. Hulett sounds similar to our interview with him, Matter of fact and clear. Side A ends about two-thirds into the tape.

Ft. Deposit Mass meeting 4/17/66 Side B

First speaker is a woman running for tax collector.
Well-received.

Justine Wagner is second candidate for tax collector. Or is it Josephine Wager.

Nellie Smith is next candidate.

Frank Meyers, Jr., running for office of tax collector. ¶If I get to be tax collector, some of that domino playing at the courthouse is going to be cut out." Tells a story about black janitor at an all-white church.

Three places on the Board of Education. Nominate candidates for these positions. A woman, John Hanson, are candidates, "I've seen enough of these shacks we call schools." Another candidate runs.

More elections. Stokely's name is mentioned by a male candidate (Marantz #131). Asks for more candidates, more competition, in the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (later to become the Black Panther Party) Discussion earlier of the flaws of Democratic and Republican parties, as far as blacks are concerned. This was a Sunday-night meeting. Speaker sounded like John Hulett. "Time for a change, the time is now." "Housecleaning" "Put some things out in the sun." "Fresh air."

We are now going to listen to Nathaniel King, the final speaker for the movement. (applause)
Lots of organizational talk, Hulett again. Ends about halfway into tape with a brief bit of We Shall Overcome. Interesting to hear the energy and optimism of organization.

SIDE A of
this tape is all
wonderful singing,
ENDS PT 397

TAPE (B)
SIDE B

This is side B of the 4/17/66 Prayer meeting tape at Fort Deposit, Alabama, but this is Archival tape the "B" in a circle.

Eugene Pritchett is doing the taping; kReverend Johnson makes some introductory remarks; Stokely introduces Mrs. Morse to introduce John Tillson.

Mrjs. Morse (??): Mr. Tillson is a guest in our home, and this is Mr. John Tillson, from Boston, Massachusetts, which is a friend of Jon Daniels. jAnd when I heard that he was a friend of Jon Daniels, I knew, that he was a friend of ours. So Mr. Tillson. (much applause)

Tillson speaks. Thank you very much. Stokely said he was going to do this, and I didn't really believe him. (laughter) I belong to a church, and I work for a church, full-time. I'm not a preacher. I keep the money for 200 Episcopal churches in Massachusetts, but it makes me very humble and very ashamed to receive the hospitality that I have received in Lowndes County yesterday and today. To be the only white man present in this place and be as warmly greeted as I am tonight, and know that 30 miles from here, there are churches that are segregated all I can say is you're on the right track, I told Stokely today perhaps in November they're going to write the last chapter in a book called, "The Miracle of Lowndes County." God bless you. (applause)

Stokely: I just want to say that Mr. Tillson has been doing quite a bit in terms of getting money for the land that we've been buying in the county. He's raised quite a bit of it, on his own, in Boston, for Lowndes County and for the Black Belt, and he's been very much involved in the movement. (applause) The second speaker--but before I introduce him, we have other staff people--Julius, Julius Hobson and Jennifer Lawson, from Wilcox county. Jennifer, and those little things, some people who have seen them call us colored people? Jennifer helped write that with Cortland Cox, everybody knows Cortland. They're working in Wilcox County now, trying to get a Black Panther party --a Wilcox County Freedom Organization. (laughs) Sorry. Yes, sir.

Others are introduced by another man.

Stokely: The second speaker has been in Lowndes County before, he was here about a year ago, when we first started, and we had the first meeting up at Raymor Baptist Church. He is known to the people in SNCC cause he works for SNCC affectionately as the Reverend Willie L. Ricks. He's a firestorm, so, since Ricks is back in Alabama, we thought that he would speak tonight. He said he would, and so, Reverend Willie Ricks. (applause)

I will transcribe Ricks' address -
a full - name - Daniels referred to and,
near ~~King~~ beginning - "the preacher"