

Mr. Easterling told us that he had seen one to three Government-owned automobiles at the Palm Beach County Welfare Department Clinic located west of Delray Beach—where Leonard Smith of CAF had registered voters—but that he could not say that these vehicles were being used for political purposes, inasmuch as they could have been there on official CAF business.

Dr. Hardeman gave us a copy of a letter dated May 12, 1966, that he had received from the Assistant General Counsel of OEO which stated, in effect, that (1) privately owned vehicles could be used to transport workers to register and to vote, provided transportation was furnished on a nonpartisan basis and the cost could be reimbursed from Federal grant funds if it was reasonable and (2) Government-owned vehicles assigned to VISTA volunteers could be used to transport workers to register, provided transportation was furnished on a nonpartisan basis, but that these cars could not be used to transport workers to the polls.

The OEO Assistant General Counsel informed us on March 29, 1967, that he believed that the use of vehicles for transporting workers to register or to vote, as stated in his letter in May 1966 to Dr. Hardeman, was not in violation of CAF's grant. He stated also that OEO was still working on the problem but he believed that any community action agency, including grantees under title III B, which would now transport workers to the polls to vote would be in violation of Community Action Memo No. 50-A, dated December 1, 1966, which states in pertinent part:

"* * * an employee of a public agency or a CAA [Community Action Agency] may not:—solicit votes, or help to get out votes on election day. * * *"

We reviewed CAF's proposal for which OEO grant CG-0771 B/O was approved on May 28, 1966, and noted the following statements indicating CAF's concern with political action by migrant workers.

"The Citizenship Educators shall give primary concern to enabling the migrant to participate fully as a citizen within the society. He will encourage the adults in the families to become fully aware of the rights and duties of citizenship, both national and state, and help the migrants to see their own needs and problems and the ways in which they themselves can work effectively to bring about a resolution to these problems. He will give special attention to the areas of Social Security, wage and work conditions, *voter registration*, health welfare, rights and opportunities, educational rights, residency and other appropriate areas of concern.

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"Participation in democratic processes involves more than *registering and voting in elections of public officials*. This is certainly important. *Our staff has been responsible for over a thousand Mig-Migrants [sic] registering to vote.* The formation of neighborhood councils, clubs and other types of indigenous groups has been and will continue to be a significant part of the program. Organizations composed of farm workers have sprung up in each of the six regions and have taken action appropriate to their purposes. The Free Will Neighborhood Council in Belle Glade, for example, has worked on a project to secure a tract of land to be the site for homes financed through the Farmers Home Administration. They also conducted a *voter registration drive*, a cleanup campaign, and have promoted participation in home management and literacy classes by holding neighborhood meetings on these subjects featuring speakers with professional expertise. Speakers have come from the Social Security Office, Welfare Departments and local private agencies to this and other such groups and will continue to do so. The Carver Homes Improvement Association, established with the help of the Migrant Program staff and VISTA Volunteers, in the Pompano area has invited gubernatorial candidates to its meetings to hear presentations of their platforms and to discuss them with the candidates.

"One of the most significant instances of establishing indigenous groups was the formation of the United Agricultural Workers of America for purposes of collective bargaining and other protections to the workers. *This group has had the advice and counsel of our staff*, but is now proceeding under its own power.

"Programs aimed at community involvement in such democratic processes currently in evidence in scores of locations will be intensified and multiplied throughout the southern half of the state.

"Each Regional Director and Citizenship Educator will devise a program for training migrants as Aides in citizenship education. This will include *presentations on voter registrations*, social security, organizational techniques, parliamentary procedure, and various facets of community leadership. * * * [Italic supplied.]