

lief that another year may bring the desired results. The Miss N.A.A.C.P. Contest will be an annual affair and will be used as a direct means of procuring our Freedom Fund quota.

#### BRANCH ACTIVITY

There is an apparent decline in the activities of many of our branches, in fact we have lost some of them because of fear of economic reprisals, physical intimidations and the like. It is our design to absorb much of this loss from our smaller branches into our larger ones. We are still faced, especially in the smaller areas, with a degree of intimidation tactics which ultimately make our smaller branches somewhat inoperative.

#### REGISTRATION AND VOTING

Registration and voting have played a major part in the year's activities. A tour of the southern and northern N.A.A.C.P. Branches, setting up registration committees, was highly successful. The enactment of the recent civil rights legislation in Congress has given us a solid foundation upon which we can build a better Mississippi for the Negro as well as the whites.

Rev. W. D. Ridgeway, of Hattiesburg, appeared before the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights to testify in behalf of the Negroes who were denied the right to vote in Mississippi. His appearance, and others, aided Congress in passing the first civil rights bill since Reconstruction days.

With the support of the Federal Government we shall endeavor to get as many registered Negro voters in Mississippi as is possible, despite the fact that in many of our counties there are none. In cooperating with other organizations toward this objective we feel that this great endeavor can and will be one of our most effective weapons in combating segregation.

#### VIOLENCE

Violence and police brutality still have the upper hand in Mississippi, inasmuch as many of the victims are afraid to speak out because of

From Myrlie Evers-Williams and Manning Marable, eds., *The Autobiography of Medgar Evers: A Hero's Life and Legacy Revealed Through His Writings, Letters, and Speeches* (New York: Basic Books, 2005).

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NOVEMBER 14, 1957

Total incoming mail	869
Total outgoing mail	2,474
Total branches visited	32
Total miles traveled	16,622

#### MEMBERSHIPS AND FUND-RAISING

Again, Mississippi has fallen short of its membership and financial quotas for the year of 1957, nevertheless, we are optimistic in our be-