

Koinonia Farm, Americus, Ga.

Sept. 24, 1956

The injunction against Koinonia's summer camp for children has been dissolved by order of Judge Cleveland Rees. The order was issued after almost two hours of sworn testimony by Clarence Jordan at the court house in Sumter County. The Americus Times-Recorder's account of it follows:

#### QUESTION OF KOINONIA INJUNCTION RULED MOOT

Superior Court Judge Cleveland Rees signed an order today dissolving injunctions against Koinonia Farms, Inc., which prevented it from holding a summer camp this year at the Sumter County site on the Dawson road.

In effect, attorneys for both sides agreed in a session here Monday that the entire question had become moot, that is, there was no question to be settled now since the summer has passed and defendant Clarence L. Jordan of Koinonia has declared that Koinonia does not intend to conduct a camp here now.

During the sessions among attorneys here Koinonia was represented for the first time since the proceedings began last June by an attorney. He was Osgood Williams of Atlanta. Representing the Sumter County Board of Commissioners was Hollis Fort, and four Sumter farmers who had brought an intervention suit, Tom Marshall and Tom Clark of Dykes, Dykes and Marshall law firm.

The injunction was filed last June by the Board of Sumter County Commissioners in behalf of the Sumter Board of Health, charging that health facilities were inadequate for the conducting of a summer youth camp. Later four prominent Sumter farmers, including Sherrard Horne, Arch Helms, Wilson Finch and A. H. Jennings, Sr., filed an intervention suit asking to be made a party to the injunction suit of the county, also charging that the proposed camp was immoral.

Several hearings resulted before Judge Rees but each time because of legal technicalities the case was continued and the injunction remained in force.

Then with the proceedings Monday the case was brought to an end with Koinonia not being allowed to hold its camp.

Text of the consent order agreed on by the attorneys for the plaintiff and defendant is as follows:

'It appearing to the court that the sole issue in the stated matter, including original petition and the intervention allowed, is whether the defendant should operate a summer camp for children in the summer of 1956, and there remains no issue between parties and all questions involved in the pleadings have now become moot,

It is therefore considered, ordered and adjudged that the injunctions and restraining orders heretofore granted in this cause be and the same hereby dissolved'."

At no point in all of the proceedings did the real issue--the interracial feature of the camp--come out. The sanitation charge was clearly refuted by Clarence's testimony, based on the inspection report of the County Health Engineer.

The Sumter County farmers charged that the camp would be immoral because children might see "baby pigs being born alive." During the questioning Clarence was asked if he did not believe this was immoral. He replied that he could not believe that the process of birth was immoral without accusing God of immorality. The County Attorney then asked:

"Did you, as a child, ever belong to any group or organization which allowed you to see such a thing?"

Clarence: "Yes, I did."

County Attorney: "What was it?"

Clarence: "The 4-H Club."

County Attorney: "Why would you allow children under your care to witness it?"

Clarence: "We have been unable to guarantee absolute privacy to our 40-odd sows during farrowing season, and because our hogs are rather stupid, we have been unable to teach them to seclude themselves during this act. Furthermore, we have read all of the latest developments on hog-raising, but have discovered no other way of getting baby pigs than by the old-fashioned process of birth."

So, the case is ended, and everybody's happy. Both sides won. The county succeeded in preventing the camp (in Sumter County) by delaying the hearing until the summer was over. Koinonia succeeded in having the camp (at Monteagle, Tenn.) and had a lot of fun and gained much valuable experience.

Cotton and peanut harvest is in full swing now. Our first bale of cotton was taken to an Americus gin, which refused to gin it. The only remaining gin also refused. So we're having to get it done by "air-lift" at Shangri-la. (We can no longer divulge names and places.) Our peanut crop is exceptionally good this year and might exceed 70 tons. But the peanut butter factory won't buy them, and several local buyers have refused. Thus far, however, we have moved them somehow, and hope to get through the season without having to eat them. (We like peanut butter, but not that well.)

The gas and oil situation remains critical. No distributor in Americus or Sumter County will supply us. The use of large quantities of it during harvest in our trucks, tractors and combines makes this pose quite a problem. At present we're getting it by "air-lift" in 5 or 50 gal. cans and drums. The machines are rolling.

Yesterday, another feed dealer, after supplying us for a while, cut us off. "Nothing personal, understand. It's strictly business with me. I can't afford to lose my customers." We asked how many had put the pressure on him. "None, so far. But I'm sure they will." We asked if he were a Christian. "Yes, a Baptist. I admit I don't do a very good job of following Him, but that's not the point here. I just can't lose business." He was reminded that Christians in the past had been called upon to lose not only business but their lives. "Yes, I've read about that."

The economic blockade is now virtually complete. How long it will stand, and how long we can stand, is in God's hands.

You've been asking about our children. (Marguerite Butler, our kindergarten teacher was reviewing her class on the story of creation. "Now who was the first man?" "Adam", piped a small voice. "And who was the first woman?" she asked. Came a second wee voice: "Madam!"

More seriously, it has become necessary this week to evacuate our first Koinonia child. He is 13, in the 10th grade, and the only one from Koinonia attending the local high school. On the bus and between classes the older boys beat him and harrassed him in countless ways. The Bruderhof community, Forest River, in North Dakota, invited him to come up there to go to school. He left Friday night, Sept. 21, after a party celebrating his 14th birthday. The dozen or so Koinonia children in grammar school seem to be faring pretty well at present. There are enough of them to lend moral support to one another.

And editorial concerning Koinonia Farm in the Aug. 23 issue of THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY brought many favorable letters from all parts of the continent. Many sent gifts which, coupled with those from other sources, have completely covered the \$3,000 damage caused by the dynamiting of the roadside market. There was also an article in the Sept. 17 issue of TIME. Accounts have also been run in THE NATION, THE PROGRESSIVE, FELLOWSHIP, and other publications.

One question which keeps running through the flood of letters is: "What can I do to help?" The eagerness of people to share the burden with us has touched us deeply and filled us with great hope. It has brought us joy and encouragement. However, we do not wish all of this good will to remain mere sentiment. In our next letter we would like to deal more specifically with the answer to the question of what one may do to help.

In one letter we mentioned that State Farm had cancelled six automobile and truck policies. Some of you wrote to State Farm and protested. The company replied that the cancellations were due to Koinonia Farm's high loss ratio resulting from young drivers and clear-cut negligence. This is not the truth. At the time of cancellation, the reason given to us was that in the event of bodily injury involving one of our vehicles, it would be impossible to get a fair trial by jury and this would subject the company to unusual risk, which they did not wish to take.

Just a few personal words. Harry Atkinson is recovering nicely from an operation on his back for a slipped disc. It came out of place when he was lifting one of our big watermelons and had to be removed. Sue Angry is up again after the birth of a son, James Edward, to her and Rufus, their seventh. Norm Long's mother, dad, brother and friend visited for several days recently, and Marguerite Reed Butler's parents are here now. The Peace-makers Continuations Committee met at Koinonia the week-end of Sept. 14-16. Eleanor Jordan returns this week to the U. of Ga., where she'll be a junior. Conrad Browne was recently elected the alumnus of the year at Chicago Divinity School. Chris and Jenette Droscher have gone to the West Coast to contact friends, and to liquidate some property they held before joining Koinonia. The Wittkamps and Websters recently attended the annual conference of the Fellowship of Intentional Communities. All of us send warm greetings to all of you.

The Koinonia



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