



# CORE LOUISIANA SUMMER PROJECT

Although many organizations are now recruiting summer civil rights volunteers, most of these volunteers will either be lobbying in Washington, or will be assigned to do specific tasks in existing community organizations. Of the few programs this summer working in

areas of the deep south where there has still been little or no organization, one of the largest will be the CORE Louisiana Project. Of all the states in the deep south, Louisiana has so far been the most successful in resisting the advance of the civil rights movement. This summer CORE hopes to begin opening up the state, and to establish strong indigenous community organizations throughout Louisiana.

## LOUISIANA

Many people believe that Louisiana will be the hottest front of the movement this summer. Most of the past attempts at civil rights organization in the state have been successfully repressed. The Ku Klux Klan has been growing rapidly. Violence, and the threat of violence has become so great that a Negro self-defense organization, The Deacons for Defense and Justice, has been established in many parts of the state. In two of the communities where CORE will be working, Jonesboro and Bogalusa, The Deacons and the Klan have already come into open conflict. Although in some places, The Deacons have been able to effectively protect civil rights workers, there is no guarantee that they can continue to do so, and in most of the communities where CORE will be working, The Deacons have not been organized.

## TWO COMMUNITIES IN WHICH CORE WILL BE WORKING

### Bogalusa

Bogalusa is a small industrial town, 90 miles east of the Mississippi River, and 30 miles south of McComb, Mississippi. The town's economy is based upon five branch plants of the Crown Zellerbach firm. Bogalusa is totally segregated; there are even separate unions for Zellerbach employees, and all of the Negro employees are frozen into the lowest paying job categories. Although about 500 white women are employed by Crown, there is not a single Negro woman employed. Practically the only employment available for Negro women in Bogalusa is domestic work.

There are three civil rights groups working together in Bogalusa: The Voter's League, The Deacons, and CORE. These groups have come into effective existence within the past few months, and they have already had a great impact. Although there is still not a single Negro church in Bogalusa which will permit civil rights meetings, voter clinics are being held in the Negro Union Hall. There has also been an effective boycott campaign directed at all the downtown merchants, and there have been several civil rights marches through town. So far, the existence of The Deacons has prevented any large scale outbreaks of violence, but tension is high. The Klan has been organizing and Bogalusa already has the highest per capita Klan membership of any town in the nation. On May 7th Klan members from across Louisiana, responding to a call from the Bogalusa Klan, assembled in Bogalusa and marched 12,000 strong.

### Plaquemine Parish

Plaquemine Parish is a small rural county in southeastern Louisiana almost totally owned and totally controlled by Leander Perez. The man's hatred of Negroes borders on insanity, and he is generally considered the state's leading segregationist (He led the Klan march in Bogalusa). It has been reported that much of his property was seized from its original Negro owners after the titles to the land were burned. There is but a single road leading into the Parish, and at times, all cars entering the Parish are stopped and checked. The Parish has three school systems: one for whites, one for blacks, and one for Creoles. When the Catholic Church decided to integrate their school, the school building was burned down, and they were unable to secure a permit to rebuild it. Perez has built a concentration camp for civil rights workers on a swampy, mosquito-ridden, snake infested island.

## THE PROGRAM

During the summer, CORE will be working in 20-25 Parishes in 4 of Louisiana's 8 Congressional Districts. Beginning June 12th, 125-140 summer volunteers will meet in the town of Plaquemine, Louisiana (the town is not in Plaquemine Parish). There they will receive a one week intensive training session which will include both practical field experience, and classes on project development and community organization. After the training session they will be divided into groups and sent into communities in which contacts have been made: some groups working with a resident CORE staff member, and some supervised by traveling staff members. They will not be setting up programs which have been decided upon in advance. Rather, drawing on what was learned during the training session and presenting the community with a wide range of alternative project suggestions, each group will work with the community allowing the community to shape its own individual project.

The primary goal of the summer is to develop strong community organizations and help develop militant indigenous community leadership. CORE workers should consider any community project decided upon less an end in itself, and more a vehicle for development of the community. It is hoped that by the end of the summer it will be possible to establish a statewide federation of community organizations which will be able to effectively lead the Louisiana freedom struggle.

## VOLUNTEERS

Since recruitment for the Louisiana Summer Project began late this year, there are still many openings. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age, and anyone between 18 and 21 will require parental consent. Highest priority will be given to Negro males, lowest priority to white females. Volunteers are expected to be self-sufficient; they should have \$10-\$15 per week for living expenses, and either have \$500 bail money available in case of arrest (this money needn't be brought down south) or be able to give \$50 to a bondsman at the beginning of the summer, who would be willing to bail them out if necessary.

We will attempt to assist anyone who wishes to go south and does not have the finances, but funds will be limited. There is also a scholarship program which some volunteers may be able to take advantage

of. This program is open to graduate and undergraduate college students in humanities, social sciences, and education.

If you wish to go south, you must act quickly. In the East Bay, for information call Anita Levine 654-7643. For those on the Cal Campus, information and applications will be at the Campus CORE table. Others can get information and applications from the CORE Regional Office, 2085 Sutter Street, San Francisco, 567-3430. If you can not go south but would be willing to help raise money, for those going down, or would like to do support work for them, call Anita Levine, 654-7643.

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