

SNCC SUMMER PROGRAM

The Student Nonviolent coordinating Committee program for the summer of 1965 is generally one of expansion in the rural South. SNCC will continue political work in the black belt counties of Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia with the emphasis on building organizations so local leadership can emerge. The organizing efforts will include voter registration, testing of the 1965 voting bill, political education, freedom schools, and a special "Washington lobby" in support of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party challenge and free elections in the South.

SNCC believes that local people should be able to make decisions about their own lives. Thus, a series of People's Conferences will be held in Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas and Mississippi. These meetings will bring together people from across each state to share movement experiences and hold workshops on their problems. The meetings are also designed to provide local people with a forum where they can shape and direct programs for the movement. SNCC then stands ready to provide field organizers, volunteers and other materials so that their expressed needs may be met.

WASHINGTON LOBBY

Recognizing the importance and validity of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party challenge to unseat the five Congressmen from Mississippi, SNCC feels that a concentrated three week "action" program in Washington, D.C. is essential to the success of the challenge. It is also important that lobby activity be planned which forces national recognition of the need for new and free elections in the South. SNCC believes that the 1965 voting bill will not be meaningful unless it contains a provision requiring each state and its political subdivisions to hold new elections six to nine months after a federal registrar is appointed to alleviate discrimination in voter registration.

1,000 students are now being recruited to work in Washington, D.C. from June 13 to June 23 and from June 24 to July 4. During each of these ten day sessions, students will lobby Congressmen after receiving instructions on lobbying techniques and information on the MFDP challenge. Volunteers will evaluate their efforts each day and will attempt to determine the Congressman's position, whether further lobbying is needed and whether people would return home to mobilize additional support in the home district.

As work continues on the challenge, students will also be undergoing orientation for work in the South. This will include Negro history, freedom school workshops, discussions of community organizing, sessions on the political, social and economic structures in the South, and on nonviolence and Southern law enforcement procedures. Some students will be assigned to work in the South if local people request volunteers.

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ARKANSAS

The Arkansas SNCC staff is planning a summer program under local leadership supplemented by 50 to 100 volunteers. Political organizing will be done in 31 Arkansas counties. A Freedom Center program will be implemented in four cities: Pine Bluff, Little Rock, Helena and Forrest City. Classes will be held for young people and adults on voter registration, political issues, Negro history, literacy and various skills. Community meetings will shape the growth of independent political organizations. The project will run from June 1 to September 1.

MISSISSIPPI

SNCC will work with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's summer program. Some 300 volunteers and 500 SNCC, MFDP and COFO staff members will do intensive political organizing. The program will include holding workshops on political questions, building block clubs and strengthening FDP county organizations. The most important task will be to create an atmosphere where local people can develop leadership skills.

ALABAMA

Expansion will also occur in the Alabama black belt. 35 SNCC staff workers are presently organizing in ten counties and by the end of the summer local movements should be active in triple that number. The emphasis will be on opening up areas for further work, on the People's Conference, and as well on building organizations which are run by local people.

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA

Organizing efforts will continue in this, SNCC's oldest project area and new ground will be broken in adjoining counties. Economic, as well as political, organizing will take place. Programs similar to the development of a maid's union in Americus last summer will continue. A People's Conference will be held in May.

MARYLAND - EASTERN SHORE

The SNCC staff on the Eastern Shore, in conjunction with the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee, will intensify organizing efforts on the Maryland Eastern Shore. 15-20 volunteers are being recruited for work on federal programs, employment opportunities and political organizing.

For further information on all these programs contact
East Bay Friends of SNCC, 5929 Grove St., Oakland