



*Give Decency
A Chance
in the
South . . .*

*We need to take some chances in behalf
of decency.*

*We need to set up advance positions, and make
a try at supporting them.*

*We need to believe a little more in the
decency of the common man.*

—AUBREY WILLIAMS

[1960?]



**FOR MORE THAN
A DECADE,
THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
EDUCATIONAL FUND
HAS BEEN WORKING,
WITHOUT SURCEASE OR
COMPROMISE,
TOWARD A SINGLE GOAL:**

*The elimination of
all forms of racial
segregation in the
Southern and
border States.*

WE WORK TOWARD THAT DAY

When second-class citizenship will be a thing of the past in the United States of America.

When racial segregation will no longer place its life-long blight on the bodies of Negroes and the spirit of white people.

When Negro and white Southerners will build together, like the children on the cover of this booklet, toward greater opportunity for all.

THIS IS OUR PAST . . .

Prior to 1946, the Southern Conference Educational Fund operated as a part of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, which was formed in 1938 to seek the way toward economic and social progress for the South. The SCHW turned its energies and its work toward many crucial problems facing the region. Operating as an independent agency since 1946, SCEF has applied itself to only one of these—the elimination of segregation; we believe that herein lies the key to every other problem the South faces.

Always our emphasis has been on interracial activity in pursuit of our goal. We firmly believe that segregation destroys the white people in the South as much as it does the Negroes, corrupting them in subtle ways. We have always been sure that there are many Southern white people who will help to conquer this evil if they can find the way. We have sought to find these people and to bring them together.

We have felt that the struggle for equal rights must not be carried on by the Negro people alone. Not only because it is morally wrong that they should have to bear the burden without help, but also because it is only through joint effort of Negro and white in this endeavor that we can lay the basis for a brotherly society in the future.

AND THESE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Here are a few of the things we have done since 1946:

- Underwrote a test case challenging Georgia's county-unit voting system (1948).
- Distributed 125,000 copies of a graphic study of effects of segregation in education (1947); coordinated an amicus brief in the Sweatt case which broke college segregation (1949); brought together students and educators from over the South for a conference on Discrimination in Higher Education (1950); sponsored an interracial youth conference, assembling teachers and students from 48 southern colleges (1952).
- Conducted study of discrimination in medicine and distributed 25,000 copies of pamphlet on hospital discrimination, "The Untouchables" (1951-52).
- Launched a series of regional conferences on compliance with Supreme Court school decision (1954-55).
- Subsidized voter registration projects in Alabama and Mississippi (1958-59) and South Carolina (1960).
- Presented to U.S. Senate a petition with 21,000 signatures gathered by 800 SCEF friends, asking a change in Rule 22 to end filibustering of civil rights legislation (1958-59).
- Sponsored a Conference on Voting Restrictions in Washington with reports from eight Deep South states (1958). With 15 other Southern organizations, brought voteless Negroes to Washington to testify before Volunteer Civil Rights Commission of distinguished citizens, after court order halted official Civil Rights Commission hearings in Louisiana (1960).
- In cooperation with Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, published brochure telling story of the integration struggle in Birmingham (1959).
- Helped organize Walker-Lassiter Defense Fund to establish voting rights in eastern North Carolina (1958-59).
- Organized support for civil rights legislation in Kentucky (1958) and opposition to pro-segregation legislation in Louisiana (1959).
- Published *Southern Patriot*, a monthly paper covering southern integration news (1942 to present).

THIS IS OUR PRESENT

Today, SCEF is supported by people, white and Negro, in all 17 Southern and border states and the District of Columbia. Eighty-four prominent citizens from this region serve on its board, and 91 others on its advisory committee.

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AND THESE OUR SUPPORTERS

"By working so untiringly to achieve the ideals of freedom and human dignity for all men SCEF has given new hope for the possibility of transforming the tragic midnight of racial injustice into the glowing daybreak of freedom and equality."

—THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"The SCEF is one of the valuable assets in our American life, North and South, which helps us to move with a rapidly changing world in an orderly and creative direction."

—CLARENCE PICKETT

"The SCEF angers nobody except those who are not angered by injustice."

—IRVING BRANT

"... That the SCEF is comprised of citizens of the South actively engaged in the fight for freedom and equality of all people, strengthens our faith that the achievement of the highest ideals of democracy is on America's threshold."

CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.
Member of Congress

"A hideous scar on the American body politic—and one not unnoticed by the uncommitted Nations—is the surviving pattern of segregation and discrimination. For its elimination—and it must be eliminated—there are varied valuable approaches. But one of the most important is that of the Southern Conference Educational Fund. Spot action is needed; but we also need a continuing educational program throughout the area most vividly (though not uniquely) afflicted with this malady, as well as the selected action and cooperative programs maintained by the Fund. It deserves continued support on the part of Americans of all sections."

—THE RT. REV. JAMES A. PIKE

THIS IS OUR FUTURE

Today there is greater need than ever before for SCEF. The 1954 Supreme Court decision against school segregation brought the South a great opportunity, but not enough white Southerners rose to the challenge. A determined minority

fastened new repressions on parts of the region, and in other sections there has been only the farce of token integration.

Now, however, Southern Negroes are moving ahead to claim their rights. Finally more white people are speaking out too, but generally the white South—even its liberals—lags far behind the Negroes. This can only lead ultimately to greater divisions between the races.

Yet in the decency of most white Southerners we maintain our faith. The white South is groping and searching as it has never had to do before. Out of this turmoil, we believe, will come our region's time of greatest achievement.

AND THIS OUR PROGRAM

To hasten the coming of that day, SCEF has expanded its activities.

We are increasing our efforts to reach and bring together the Southern people who are groping for ways to meet the challenge of the times.

In the area of education, we are continuing and expanding our work of providing people with the facts they need in this time of searching. This we do through special publications on specific problems and regularly in our periodical, *The Southern Patriot*.

In the area of action, we continue and expand our efforts to break the silence where it now exists, to strengthen the voice of decency where it now speaks.

Starting with pilot projects in a few states, we plan to organize interracial groups to work for integration in the legislative arena. These groups will work at national, state, and local levels—for positive civil rights legislation in the border states now, against pro-segregation legislation in the Deep South at present. We envision the day when we can work for positive legislation in every state.

We are intensifying our work to help break down voting restrictions and to organize interracial support for the Southern Negro's drive for the vote.

We are continuing, as we have in the past, to help mobilize community support for all moves against segregation—in the schools, hospitals, parks, libraries, restaurants, theaters, on the job, and elsewhere.

YOU NEED SCEF . . .

Wherever you live, you *need* an organization like SCEF.

If you live in the South, you need it because it is working to make your region a healthier and happier place to live—healthier in body, mind, and spirit. You need it to help you find a way to work toward these goals yourself, to find others who are also working. One person by himself often feels very much alone in the South today; when two or three or more are gathered together, much can be done.

If you live in the North, you need SCEF because your own way of life in the North may ultimately depend to a great extent upon the outcome of the present turmoil in the South. There can never be a complete end to discrimination and segregation in the North until the root of the evil is struck down in the South.

AND SCEF NEEDS YOU . . .

If it is to do the gigantic job that must be done, SCEF needs the help of many people.

If you live in the South, it needs your ideas, your suggestions, your time and your energy, your hands and your pen and your heart—whatever and as much as you are in a position to give; and it needs your financial contribution.

If you live in the North, it also needs your ideas and your suggestions, and your time and energy in letting others know about our program and seeking their support; and it needs your financial contribution.

Wherever you live, write to SCEF now. Send a contribution to help carry on this work, and tell us what else you may be able to do. Address all communications to:

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

822 PERDIDO STREET

NEW ORLEANS 12, LOUISIANA

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