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SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
208 Auburn Avenue, N. E.  
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
President

Wyatt Tee Walker,  
Director

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Annual Report

October 1960 - September 1961

Mr. President, Officers, Members of the Board, and Constitutency of SCLC:

The past year that I have served you, the South, and in some ways the nation, have been exciting and exasperating. However, no task, great or small, is without this ambivalence. What is more important is maintaining the tenacity to move toward worthy goals in a straight line without whimpering and complaining that somebody, something, or some circumstance kept us from being our best.

From where I sit, it is impossible for me to give an objective appraisal of what has been accomplished. I know full well that what measurable indications there are of our tremendous growth, have not all been to my presence - other people on the staff, this particular moment of history, and the economy of providence have all had their definite impact - but I would add in the jargon of baseball, "I've been around to pitch a few innings". Perhaps it will not be until some distant time in the future that we will be able to determine what has been done. I do know that I have learned a great deal, for I have made many mistakes, and one learns deep and lasting lessons from his errors.

Suffice it to say, for the purposes of this report, that there is more of the road before us than there is behind us, and that the road we have traveled has at times been most tortuous.

P O S T   S H R E V E P O R T

What has transpired since Shreveport, Louisiana? In retrospect, the highlights of the activity, directly and indirectly related to SCLC, might be mentioned here and then alluded to in some detail later in this report.

You will remember, that immediately after the Annual Meeting our President became slightly involved with the Georgia authorities and in the swift succession of a few days was on his way to a chain gang via the Reidsville, Georgia, prison.

This involvement as you know, did not come about without some soul-searching and consideration of the many possible outcomes. Aside from the tremendous drain on the President's physical resources, for which we must be eternally grateful, the by-products of the President of SCLC being so involved were certainly salutary and gave a deeper meaning to what we are about.

Of course, there is the matter of what we proudly call the Freedom Ride. You know that this project was created and executed by our sister organization, CORE (the Congress of Racial Equality). However, we must realistically recognize the strategic role of our affiliate organizations in supplying the hands, the arms and the legs of so many important tasks necessary there-to. The Freedom Ride could not have been continued without Kelly Miller Smith's NCLC, Fred Shuttlesworth's ACMHR, and Ralph Abernathy's MIA. These were the sustaining links of humanity upon which there is no premium or price.

Another highlight of the past year has been the organization and functioning of the Virginia Christian Leadership Conference. This state arm of SCLC under the dynamic leadership of Milton A. Reid of Petersburg, Virginia, has played such a decisive role in the civil rights fortunes of that state, that every official and organizational affiliate has been subpoenaed to appear before the infamous 'Boatwright Committee' for inquisition.

During this same period, our Leadership Training period, outlined to you in Shreveport, has really gotten off the ground. Not only has the program been operative in several communities across the South, but our training center has been established at McIntosh, Georgia. The soundness and validity of such a program has been attested by a grant of nearly \$40,000.00 by the Marshall Field Foundation of New York City to underwrite a year's program. The operation is now in high gear and has added to the staff of SCLC, three new persons, Mrs. Septima P. Clark, the Reverend Andrew Young and Mr. Jack H. Soskis.

We have done something significant in Voter Registration. Our participation in the All Citizens Voter Registration Drive in Atlanta certainly contributed to the smashing defeat of an arch-segregationist mayoralty candidate who promised to turn back - not the clock - but the calendar. The power of the Negro vote was increased by four thousand new registrants during our two month participation. This recent political contest insured Atlanta's role in becoming the leader for the Deep South in race relations.

We must mention the involvement of four of our officials with the Alabama authorities. Ralph D. Abernathy, Joseph Lowery, S. S. Seay, Sr., and Fred Shuttlesworth, too, have felt the 'slings and arrows of outrageous fortune'. We have done as much as knew to do under the circumstances. I am sure that whatever feelings they have in this regard are certainly salutary in respect to the role SCLC has played. The intense involvement of these four of our compatriots has been paradoxically, a means of extending our work and message.

One of the mountain peaks of this year's activity has been our progressive and determined bent toward organized fund-raising. To say the least, it has borne great results. The financial income of the organization during the past fiscal year (including the activity of the N. Y. office) approaches two-hundred thou-

sand dollars. Here again, crisis events contributed to a broader interest in civil rights activity, but the more organized approach reaped great benefits toward sinking a sound financial base as outlined a year ago.

I am happy to report that through the efforts of the President and the Director, the American Baptist Convention have joined with us in a Scholarship Aid Program to students involved in the southern struggle. The Reverend J. C. Herrin, Southern Projects Director has provided us through his convention some \$16,000.00 to be jointly administered by ABC and SCLC. The program is already operative and nearly twenty students have been named recipients of this tangible support.

It has been correctly said that 'the mind can only digest what the seat can endure'. In light of this truism, may I turn to an ordered and perhaps logical relation of the areas with which our hand have been busied.

#### D I R E C T   A C T I O N

The jailing of the President must be classified as direct action for it was in a real sense the 'word become flesh'. In a very definite set of circumstances, much of what SCLC stands for was crystalized in this instance. We cannot claim this as part of our program, planned or anticipated, but the results of the same created and deepened the image of what SCLC represents by the mere involvement of the President. The fact that Dr. King is our President, required a great many tasks to be performed relative to his jailing, that continued for many days.

Without any reservation, it should be said that SCLC's role in the Freedom Ride was pivotal. Here we were able to see more clearly than in any other instance the high value of 'grass roots' organization. All the money in the world could not supply what was supplied in Nashville, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Atlanta. The Freedom Ride, I daresay, could not have taken on national and international import without the mechanics of people being on the scene, countless housing arrangements, the ferrying of 'riders' to and from bus stations, provision of food and comfort, etc. The Freedom Ride drew international focus in Montgomery at the First Baptist Church where Ralph Abernathy is pastor and where Martin Luther King, Jr., was speaking to inspire the ten collegians from NCLC where Kelly Smith is President. SCLC men from around the South had converged on Montgomery to do whatever had to be done to support our young people. Dr. King and others formed a Freedom Ride Coordinating Committee; Abernathy, Shuttlesworth, and others were jailed, invaluable assistance was afforded the Freedom Ride in Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Jackson, by the staff and personnel of the home office. The recent ICC ruling was a great victory in lieu of the Freedom Rides and SCLC shares proudly in this victory, for it was from the President of SCLC that the original suggestion came that the Attorney General seek a ruling from the ICC to resolve the necessity of the Freedom Rides. We are justly proud of the role we played in still another chapter of the social revolution in progress in our Southland.

Some mention should be made of SCLC's role in successfully calming the racial violence in Monroe, N. C. The presence of some Freedom Riders and the eruption of retaliatory violence threatened to scar the entire nonviolent movement in the South. It was under the press of this dire circumstance that SCLC became



innocently involved, probably out of geographic proximity and the desperate call for help from the community itself. It was not the easiest task to assuage the anger of an enraged white community and an equally enraged and exploited Negro community. Some calm has been restored and a definite base laid for the serious ills of a community that had the dreadful experience of what must be honestly termed, unfortunate leadership.

The extension of our work in Virginia through our state unit has been alluded to. VCLC has been doing such a good job that the Committee On the Administration of Justice (Boatwright Committee) is doing everything possible to put them out of business. David Gunter, President of the Petersburg Improvement Association, cannot attend this meeting due to a subpoena he must respect tomorrow. This affiliate, along with the Virginia Christian Leadership Conference, the Lynchburg Improvement Association, the Hopewell Improvement Association, and the Danville Christian Progressive Association have been placed under the onus of producing all records of finances and correspondence from 'Martin Luther King, Wyatt Tee Walker or Milton A. Reid'.

As we look to the year ahead, it appears this is a propitious moment for us to implement the suggestion of the President: the application of the nonviolent philosophy to the area of voter-registration. The pilot-project last October bore some significant results in several cities and coupled with the Federal government's efforts in really doing something where there are voting irregularities has promise of SCLC's impact being broadened in the direct action field.

We have added to our regular staff, James M. Lawson whose civil rights pedigree is well known to you. As Staff Projects Director, working primarily in the area of workshops in nonviolence and community development for direct action, SCLC will be provided with the opportunity of organizing 'nonviolent teams' to service communities where direct action is desired. The possibilities of development of a Southwide mass movement are tremendous.

#### FUND - RAISING

As has been mentioned, our financial income and activity has been breath-taking. We have utilized the basic rudiments of the financial program outlined at the Annual Board Meeting in Montgomery and there have been some measurable results. The return from Crusades has been considerably larger, due not only to the climate in the nation and the South, but also due to a developing pattern of approach outlined by the President and the Treasurer out of their many experiences of appearing around the nation. The Dollar for Freedom envelopes have proven very useful and in one instance were responsible for a sizable return without any field service whatsoever.

The most significant and solid improvement in our organized Fund-raising has been the development of a mailing list for Direct Fund Appeal. We have now a live list that approaches 9000 names and addresses. Our goal is 25,000 persons who would be contacted for financial support at two regular intervals during the year, and would also be provided the report of the Treasurer indicating what our income has been for the year. Most of this mail list development has been through the New York Office. There is no way to calculate what Stanley

Levison and Jack O'Dell have meant to SCLC in this regard. The Atlanta office has had the responsibility of codifying and processing the results of the engineering of the New York office. It is a detailed and time-consuming job that pays great dividends. It will not be very long before one member of the staff will have to give full time to this alone.

Benefits, special events, and other means of increasing our revenue is continually being cultivated. In addition to our book sales by our President and Historian, L. D. Reddick, there is now a recording, 'The American Dream' by Dr. King which provides a very definite return for the Conference every time a record is sold. Here again the generosity of the President and the evidence of his sincere interest in building the organization is unmistakable.

I need not mention that there are some areas of our fund-raising that need strengthening. There is an absolute need for expansion of our enterprises presently in operation. It may well be that we will have to have a full-time paid staff member who concerns himself solely with fund-raising year-round.

#### V O T E R   R E G I S T R A T I O N

You know of our involvement in the Atlanta registration drive. Our work has continued in north Louisiana through Harry Blake. We contributed substantially to the drive in Birmingham and the voter registration project of SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) in McComb, Mississippi.

It is imperative that we do more. There follows here an excerpt from prospectus for a South-Wide program that we are presently contemplating for SCLC and several other organizations aimed specifically at an all-out effort covering a two year period. We have moved ahead in this regard with the approval of the Administrative Committee.

#### SCLC and Southwide Drive:

SCLC has done some serious thinking on the prospect of a South-wide Voter Registration Drive in cooperation with other human relations organizations in the field. Our suggestion as to our responsibility geographically would be entirely dependent upon mutual agreement on these areas with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is necessary to mention this reservation because it goes without saying that NAACP has been pioneer in the civil rights struggle of the Negro. Their network of branches and state conferences cover the entire South with the unfortunate exception of the State of Alabama. Our posture remains firm that we would in every instance accept geographic responsibility only upon their mutual agreement. Most assuredly, there are some areas where both SCLC and NAACP are strong organizationally; here we would be amenable to a joint-cooperative project e.g. Virginia. In other areas, we could by agreement function where they are weak and we are strong. The other side of the coin would be the reverse of the last instance cited. The state of Alabama from which the NAACP is presently prohibited from operating could perhaps be served best by the Conference. In this instance, there is some concentration of our following.

In short, this kind of rule of thumb would be used in relationship to the province of each organization, but more especially to NAACP because of its broad organization and extensive following.

#### Geographic Responsibility:

The Conference by way of the following proposals intends only to be suggestive and readily admits that that which appears below must have a high degree of flexibility. When it is indicated that we would assume responsibility for a geographical area, in toto, or in part, it is within the frame of reference that we would be willing to accept responsibility for whatever 'total program' could be reasonably expected for the duration of the drive. If we were to accept one-half the responsibility for a state, this means one-half the program of voter registration, that could be reasonably conducted in that state for a given period of time.

ALABAMA - The Conference is willing to accept the total responsibility of a voter registration program throughout the state of Alabama. We would direct our efforts at corraling the support of already-existing organizations in the field, re-activating those that have become dormant, mobilizing new forces, and gearing the total program predominantly through Negro churches. Key urban communities would be chosen for intensive drives and densely populated rural counties would be primary targets. SCLC would address itself to particularly the hard-core counties where not a single Negro has ever been registered to vote. Especially will we concern ourselves with Congressional Districts that have both a high incidence of potential Negro voting strength and hard-core segregationists as their elected public officials. The same kind of concern will be given to those areas at the state and local level.

LOUISIANA - SCLC is willing to accept the total responsibility for a voter-registration program in the state of Louisiana with perhaps the exception of New Orleans. This exception is mentioned because we know that the New Orleans community is strongly NAACP-oriented and one of the more outstanding areas of their achievement in the Deep South. We would be persuaded by their judgment and in this instance would be amenable to a joint-cooperative effort. Louisiana is our second preference because of the high caliber results of the United Christian Movement headed by Dr. C. O. Simpkins (an SCLC official) and Mr. Harry Blake (Field Secretary of SCLC) in the area of voter-registration complaints that aided in bringing to Louisiana the Civil Rights Commission hearing on voter irregularities in the northern Louisiana parishes. We would honestly have the opportunity to build on a firm base that has already been laid. The same basic approach would be made in each state where the Conference functions as outlined briefly under "Alabama."

TENNESSEE - SCLC is willing to assume one-half the responsibility for the state of Tennessee. As in the NAACP's case in New Orleans, we would feel very paternalistic about Nashville. This is one of the cities where we are perhaps at greatest strength. We recognize the superior record of the Association in Memphis and would defer to them readily. In addition to some eastern rural areas, the Conference feels it could be effective in Chattanooga and Knoxville.

A plausible partition of the state into an eastern and western responsibility may be possible.

FLORIDA - SCLC is willing to accept as much as one-half the responsibility for the projected program in the state of Florida. The eternal presence of the Association provides still another platform for bi-partisan division of geographical responsibility and/or some joint-cooperative effort. CORE has a stronghold in Miami. The Association is naturally present. There exists the possibility of a three-way joint effort in this pivotal city of the state of Florida.

SOUTH CAROLINA - Upon consultation with CORE officials, we learn that they are most strongly organized in the Deep South in the state of South Carolina. Accordingly, this state, with the presence of the South Carolina Conference of NAACP branches, a tri-partite arrangement could possibly be made. The Conference is willing to accept a one-third responsibility for South Carolina.

TEXAS - Since Texas is the second largest state in the union, it is our feeling that there is room for all of the organizations in the field to function. Thusly, SCLC is willing to accept the responsibility for as much as one-third of a program deemed feasible in Texas.

VIRGINIA - The Commonwealth of Virginia is unique in the opportunity it presents, for there in this southern state alone is there the chance for a really joint program. Both the Association and the Conference have here their strongest and most active state units. So closely intertwined are the personnel and the objects of interest, geographical division of responsibility would be a great waste. It is our sincere feeling that a remarkable effort could be made under the leadership of Mr. Robert D. Robertson, state conference President of NAACP, and Dr. Milton A. Reid, state Conference President of SCLC. We trust that this suggestion be given the most serious consideration.

GEORGIA - The Conference, with an understandable bit of selfish interest, is willing to accept responsibility for the city of Atlanta. At this present moment, an evaluation of a city-wide voter-registration drive in this great southern city is being made to determine what impact some of our newer techniques have made. This drive was a joint-cooperative effort of many organizations with a sizable investment of finance and personnel of the Conference. A sound base has been laid in this pilot project and SCLC would reluctantly forego the opportunity to exploit the start that has been made. We are just as willing to enter again into a similar joint effort as of this past summer of 1961 in the city of Atlanta



STAFF\*

DIRECTOR OF VOTER REGISTRATION - General overall supervision of Conference responsibility in total program. Maintenance of continual contact and coordination with Director of Southwide Project (Southern Regional Council Office). Works directly under staff head of Conference and directs personally the program and mechanics of voter-registration. Some field service absolutely necessary. Primary responsibility to oversee and discipline budget expenditures.

SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR OF VOTER REGISTRATION - Normal duties of a private secretary.

FIELD SECRETARY (5) - Upon assignment to specific geographic responsibility, general program of church-oriented voter registration would be applied. Secretary's primary responsibility would be implementation of program as it is suited to particular local community, rural and urban.

CLERICAL STAFF - Four or five part-time stenographic help drawn from home base of state where Field Secretary is on assignment. State program would determine modus operandi as to whether part-time stenographer would be a single person or several different persons in the area of the state being worked.

ORGANIZERS - Local people who would be corraled to do leg work. Modest stipends paid for time invested would be determined by prevailing wage scale of specific community.

\*No attempt is being made at this point to present job descriptions. These represent only the barest details of general function.

(BUDGET APPEARS IN FULL ON NEXT PAGE)



BUDGET

Note: All categories apply for a duration of one year of operation.

SALARIES

Director of Voter Registration	\$ 7,500.00
Secretary to Director	4,000.00
Field Secretaries (5) @ \$6,000.00	30,000.00
Part-Time Clerical Help (5) @ \$1,200.00	6,000.00
Organizers (No. undertermined) part-time	
Leg work, Misc. duties \$2,400.00 per office	12,000.00

OFFICES

Rent	\$ 35.00	
Telephone	20.00	
Light	10.00	
Postage	20.00	
Supplies	15.00	
Pro rata \$100.00 per month		6,000.00

TRANSPORTATION

Director	3,000.00
Field Secretaries (\$1,000.00 per)	5,000.00
Field Service (Organizers)	
Gas & oil \$2,400.00	
Auto 1,600.00	4,000.00
Car Pools (to registrar's office)	
Gas and Oil	4,000.00

PRINTING

Stationery, placards, handbills, throw-aways	
Fliers, posters, invitations, cards, etc.	10,000.00

<u>CHURCH WORK &amp; CONTINGENCIES</u>	3,000.00
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PUBLICITY & ADVERTISING

Newspapers	\$ 1,500.00	
Radio	1,600.00	
Public Address	900.00	\$ 4,000.00

TOTAL	\$98,500.00
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The proposals herein contained are only suggestive and not definitive. It is our opinion that a realistic Southwide program demands at least a two-year period. The proposals made had no intent to exclude mention of the other organizations to be involved. We have addressed ourselves primarily to the role of the NAACP because of the similarity of organizational function. We have not presumed to say what the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee or the National Urban League or the Southern Regional Council, etc, would do. We have the inclination to supplement what any organization may do and be supplemented until every citizen is guaranteed the unhampered right of the ballot. In short, SCLC pledges the total resources it can muster for a dynamic Southwide Voter Registration Program.

#### LEADERSHIP TRAINING . . . .

Our organizational brochure declares that the Conference works on two fronts: "On the one hand, it resists continually the system which is the basic cause of lagging standards; on the other hand, it works constructively to improve the standards themselves. There MUST be balance between attacking the causes and healing the effects of segregation."

Thusly, through our Leadership Training Program and the Citizenship Schools, we address ourselves specifically to improving the standards of the 'grass roots' community. When we encourage our people across the South to 'register and vote', we are telling them to run when they can hardly crawl. Many, many people cannot register to vote because they cannot read and write. In Atlanta alone, there are 30,000 Negroes who are illiterate.

The heart of the Leadership Training Program is geared to drawing the second-line leadership of individual communities to our chief training center at McIntosh, Georgia, and other training centers where they are intensively trained in the basic skills of Adult Education. Aided by travel scholarships and through the participation of their local community organizations, they return to the local scene and in turn set up Citizenship Schools where people are taught the fundamentals of reading and writing. Thus, the 'grass roots' community has an opportunity to lift itself, coupled with the motivation for learning- securing the right of the franchise. The whole areas of 'good citizenship' is explored to equip every person that he might move with confidence and assurance in the coming integrated society we seek. Ignorance of welfare benefits and Social Security laws are but two of the great mill stones around the neck of much of the Negro community in rural and urban areas.

The nearly \$40,000.00 grant from the Field Foundation subsidizes the present program operative at McIntosh. The great need of the moment is the interest and cooperation of our affiliates to provide us with the raw teacher personnel who can be trained to return to their respective communities. Further detailed information on this total program is readily available through Mrs. Dorothy Cotton, our Educational Director.

It is our hope that as we provide the training under the grant, that local communities will find a way to subsidize the local schools. We are working very hard to provide some means to give financial assistance to communities where this presents a serious problem.

Mrs. Dorothy Cotton, our Educational Director, is chiefly concerned with recruitment and scheduling the training sessions; Mrs. Septima P. Clark, recently of the Highlander Folk School, has joined us to supervise the Teacher Training Program in the schools; the Rev. Andrew Young will serve as administrator of the grant and will work at promotion and expansion of the general program; Mr. Jack H. Soskis handles the stenographic chores.

All things considered, this is a tremendous opportunity for us to aid in the uplift of our Negro community. Realistically, we must face the fact that the results cannot easily be measured in a year or two, but over a period of several years, with normal growth and expansion, the Leadership Training Program and the Citizenship Schools will pay dividends yet uncalculated.

It is my sincere hope that our affiliates will take seriously what we are about and participate in this meaningful and far-reaching program.

#### A F F I L I A T E   P R O G R A M . . . .

At the beginning of this administration, we could count 14 affiliate organizations. Today, there are nearly seventy. We confess that the larger growth of our affiliate program was arrested due to a shortage of personnel and the two great crises of the past year, the jailing of Dr. King and the Freedom Ride. There has been simply no opportunity to do what needed to be done.

This is a field ripe for harvest, for in addition to the great potential for affiliate development here in the South, there is an incessant clamor for affiliation from allied groups in the North, the Far West, and the Midwest. This presents the very real consideration as to whether we ought not seriously consider national organization to embrace the many people who wish to be identified with us. Again it is my sincere thought that the business of us becoming a 'membership' organization ought to be carefully reconsidered. There is also the matter of state conference development which presents us again with the need of some definite relationship being formulated between the parent organization and the conference of state units that will inevitably develop.

This office sees the grave need, as does the President, for the immediate future, for a Director of Affiliates who will be in a very real sense and organizer to corral the groups who want to join us in the nonviolent struggle and who can provide the week to week and month to month field service necessary to weld us together as a functioning and coordinated Conference.

#### L E G A L   D E F E N S E . . . .

SCLC seldom, if ever, initiates court action. Most of the time, our involvement is involuntary and defensive. Dr. King's jailing and the legal matters thereto were handled by the Legal Defense & Education Fund, Thurgood Marshall, Director. We are sincerely appreciative of their efforts in his behalf. Our chief involvement legally, other than the Freedom Ride, has been in the libel suits already mentioned. Litigation continues until this very day although the onus of three remaining suits have been removed due to their transfer to Federal Court. We are a party to five cases in Alabama of one sort or another in conjunction with the Freedom Ride. One of these is a case similar to the injunction sought in Mississippi by the NAACP. Another is a set of criminal

actions against the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Director for their role in fostering and aiding the Freedom Ride in Alabama. The other three actions are related in some way to the Freedom Ride itself in Alabama. Our Attorneys in Montgomery, Fred Gray, S. S. Seay, Jr., and Charles Conley have performed yeoman tasks, especially Mr. Conley in the libel cases.

We should mention our involvement with Fred Shuttlesworth in Birmingham and the students in McComb, Mississippi. The supporting role in these two instances has been considered involving some several thousands dollars.

The Monroe incident has also been costly, but the burden has been lightened by the presence and interest of the American Civil Liberties Union. Our association with William Kunstler, Esq., of their staff, has been most helpful in this instance. Many of the problems that we face in the legal field will be discussed in the Lawyer's Forum and Seminar that has been instituted at this Annual Meeting by our General Counsel, I. M. Augustine, Esq., of New Orleans. We trust that their intimate contact with those of us in the direct action field will provide a deeper understanding and sympathy for needs legally in this period of social revolution across the South.

#### DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

It might be well to mention a bit of the personal involvement of the Director as it relates to my responsibility to the Conference. I am sure by now you are aware that I have been a bit involved with the authorities in Alabama and Mississippi. The latter jail term was made a bit easier by the presence of Mrs. Walker across the courtyard in the Hinds County Jail. It was the privilege of the Director to present one of the oral arguments before the Interstate Commerce Commission in the special hearing which resulted in the decision handed down last Friday. We performed some duties as Chairman of the Carl Braden Clemency Appeal that visited the White House this past summer in protest of what we clearly see as a violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution. One Van M. Vickery slugged and knocked the Director on two occasion, from the Court House steps in Monroe, North Carolina during the assignment aimed at calming the racial strife in that city. The network ABC Bell & Howell Close-Up, "Walk in My Shoes" provided still another opportunity of national exposure for the organization. All things considered, it has been a challenging and exciting year. This is truly, a great time to be alive.

#### PROGNOSIS . . . .

I would be the first to confess that our growth has not been as great as it might have been. The next year seems to hold great promise. It will depend upon many, many things. Above all it depends upon you. We trust that the concern of the Board and every affiliate and SCLC supporter will be deepened that we may redeem the soul of America before it is too late.

I cannot close without paying tribute to the Staff. We have our problems, as does any staff, but in the real crises they have supported this office in a magnificent way. I shall always treasure the frank counsel and advice of the Board Members who have drawn close. Dr. King, our President and Dr. Abernathy our Treasurer have been long of patience and deep in understanding.