

## Victims of Voter Registration

### A CALL FOR HELP FROM MISSISSIPPI

Two years ago landlords were evicting a large number of sharecroppers and tenant farmers in Haywood and Fayette Counties, Tennessee because they were Negroes and had registered to vote. Many people were without income, food and clothing, a place to live.

Some people in different parts of the United States banded together, put out an appeal, and began to provide floors for tents, food, clothes, loans for planting crops, loans until crops could be harvested, loans to save farm equipment and even houses from foreclosure. This effort soon became known as "Operation Freedom." For two years Operation Freedom has been the mainstay for many people in Haywood and Fayette Counties. "We are very thankful for Operation Freedom," wrote the secretary of one of the civic and welfare leagues recently. "It has meant much to the people here to be able to make their crops without so much worry."

Now, just to the south of Fayette and Haywood, Negroes are beginning to register to vote. However, they live over the state line in Mississippi. They are facing the same sort of violence that Haywood and Fayette people did two years ago. They are being discharged from jobs, boycotted, arrested. Shootings have occurred. Bullet wounds have been sustained.

Operation Freedom, because it is the only organization which has been able to respond rapidly to needs of this kind, has been asked by groups close to the voter registration movement to do the same for people in Mississippi that it has been doing in Haywood and Fayette counties.

At its last board meeting, Operation Freedom decided to give immediate aid in four of the counties where the voter registration has been most active - Bolivar, Coahoma, Quitman, Sunflower. In these counties lie the most need at present. Also in these counties there are groups working through whom it will be possible for Operation Freedom to maintain close contact with the local people.

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This sheet is to inform you of Operation Freedom's plan to meet the new and urgent need in northern Mississippi. We are not as yet advertising this plan, but will do so very soon. We want first to ask some individuals and groups who are already interested, or are likely to be interested, to help.

#### CAN YOU HELP IN THIS PROGRAM?

A considerable amount of money will be needed for the revolving loan fund.

- If you know where gifts of money may be obtained -
- If you can mail copies of the Mississippi appeal to personal contacts -
- If you can enclose the appeal in a mailing you are sending out from your organization-

#### PLEASE FILL OUT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Leave at conference registration desk or  
Mail to Operation Freedom, 932 Dayton St., Cincinnati 14, Ohio