

MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL OF FEDERATED
ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING COFO:

NAACP, SCLC, CORE, (SNCC)
(MISSISSIPPI UNITS) &
OTHER STATE ORGANIZATIONS

EMERGENCY WELFARE AND RELIEF COM. M.

400 Yazoo Ave.
PAVEN METHODIST CHURCH
CLARKSDALE, MISS.

Dear Friends:

The condition of which I speak to you about now is probably difficult for you to understand. But suppose you were in a situation where your last pay check came to you in early November 1962 and you will not get another until late in May 1963.

This is precisely the predicament many, many Negro farm workers find themselves in this year. As bad as the lot of these sharecroppers and farm workers have found themselves in the past; this year appears to be the worst yet. Usually cotton picking lasts until January or February. This year the crops were almost all in by November. On many of the plantations the owners are using cotton picking machines to gather the crops. This is called automation. In reality it is displacing many Negro workers whose whole life have been spent in this form of occupation. While automation is the greatest contributing factor to the misery of hunger and cold, to some degree however Negroes that have been involved in the freedom movement are the first and the most severely victimized, if their activities are known by the white racist. In many instances this character of white person is in charge of the general welfare programs and the issuance of surplus food programs.

There are many families without fire in the cold winter. Many of the children have no shoes for their cold feet. Perhaps worst of all many go to bed every night hungry and cold. We have appealed to the Federal Government for relief in this situation but to date have not been informed what course they will take.

We are therefore asking you the individual citizens of this nation for immediate aid now, FOR NEGRO VICTIMS OF MISSISSIPPI.

We need your help in trying to ease this human misery. We need FOOD, preserved or canned, CLOTHING, coats, dresses, slacks, underwear, socks, shoes of all sizes and finance to pay utility bills for light and heat.

We would like to ask you or your organization to join food drives already in existence in the New York area, or to initiate a drive of your own. The headquarters of drives presently being conducted are listed below:

Brooklyn CORE
769 Saint Marks Ave.
Bklyn, New York
PR 8 5170

Riverside Democrats
c/o Tom Schmidt
250 West 106th St.
N. Y. N. Y.
MO 6 2146

Fort Washington Unity Democrats
604 West 148th St.
N. Y. N. Y.
AU 6 5562

Harlem Education Project
2547 8th Ave (136th St.)
N. Y. N. Y.
TO 2 4100