

Home Industry Project  
Ruleville, Miss.

During the joint conference in Dorchester, Georgia, which involved CORE, SCLC, and SNCC, a discussion was held on how people can help themselves in a community where economic reprisals have been levied against them. In this discussion an idea was introduced which has an immediate interest. The idea was that the people in the communities could form their own "industry" by making things in their homes and selling them, or by trading them with their neighbors for other goods.

Realizing the economic problem of thousands of Negroes in Mississippi and the tremendous reprisals levied against the Negro people who have attempted to become registered voters, we (CORE) decided, in accordance with the people, to begin such a project in the Delta area of Mississippi. Ruleville was chosen for the community to begin such a project because of the interest of the people and because here many people have suffered economic reprisals and intimidations for their participation in the voter registration drive. Ruleville is located in Sunflower County, which is the county where Senator Eastland is from.

There are approximately sixteen women participating in this program in Ruleville at the present time. These women are making hats, blankets, throw-rugs, and many other beautiful things that are found in the homes of American people. These



people have been making these things for years and many of the patterns are these handed down from generation to generation which make them more valuable. They have very little equipment which to work with. Thread and cloth is very difficult to acquire, but in spite of this they are working with undying determination to make the project a success.

#### THE PROJECT.

The products are now being made at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph McDonald in Ruleville, Mississippi. In the home there are only two foot-pedal sewing machines. Because of this limitation progress is very slow but the results are tremendous.

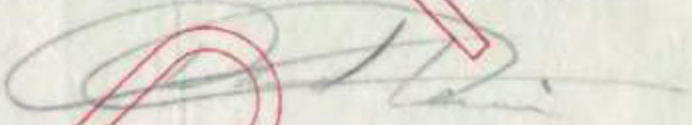
The first finished products are to be sent to the National Office of the Congress of Racial Equality in New York. We are asking them to analyze the products and survey the possibility of setting up a permanent Co-op. If they are we would like for Mr. Eric Weinberger to come in and help organize it. If the products are good enough for marketing our next step would be to organize and attempt to get aid from unions and other organizations. Money would have to be raised for the organizing of the project. Material is needed very desperately.

Two very nice lots have been surveyed in Ruleville on which we would like to set up operations. They are \$500.00 each.

At the beginning we would like to give to each worker a small subsistence until we can become somewhat secure. What the

Co-op makes for a profit we hope to put into a saving to be used to aid families confronted with economic reprisals because of their attempt to register to vote.

This project can serve other purposes besides as an economic relief. It is and can farther create in the minds of these people who have suffered so long and have almost given up a light of hope and respect in their own abilities. For the first since I've been working in the Delta I have seen people plan for a brighter future. May God bless and help them.



David Dennis  
Field Sec. CORE

