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return to AW
SNCC

CURRICULUM OUTLINE - TOUGALOO WORK STUDY PROGRAM, 1963

The curriculum has been planned with the object of providing the students with an awareness of important contemporary issues, with some ideas as to the tools available for dealing with them and with the forces that created them, and with their relationship to the struggle for freedom in Mississippi. It is hoped that by the seminar's end the participants will be better equipped to serve in their future roles as leaders.

The principle method to be used is the seminar -- guided discussions of assigned readings. Lectures from the Tougaloo faculty and other guest lecturers will be employed frequently. The student will occasionally be called on to do independent research and report back to the other members of the group who will subject his conclusions to questioning. When appropriate, music and other cultural aids will be used. Trips to federal and state courts are also contemplated.

Students will maintain contact with Tougaloo through visits to the campus for the dual purpose of sharing their field experience with other students and availing themselves of relevant cultural and academic events on campus.

I. ORIENTATION: September 10 - October 1 at Tougaloo Southern Christian College or at Mount Beulah

- A. The Delta and the Mississippi Voter Education Program -- two days study should be devoted to a background study of the Delta as a field of voter education endeavors; progress; problems; history of VEP

- B. The Delta and its peculiarities -- a week study of the Delta as
 - 1. a geographic unit -- what is the Delta? the Mississippi Delta?
 - 2. an agricultural area -- cotton, problems of automation, plantation life; history of the Delta in relation to Mississippi and USA agriculture
 - 3. the Delta politically -- general study of politics in the Delta, how it works, who the key people are
 - 4. the Delta and economics -- sufficient time devoted to this; background data on incomes, jobs, problems, the feudal economy
 - 5. the Delta and education -- study of median education in the Delta, problems posed by lack of education and training, presentation of the literacy program and the Southern Education Center; school desegregation outlook, etc.
 - 6. the Delta as the nation's most depressed area -- summary, what the federal government can do and what it has not done

C. Community Organization

1. What is it?
2. How is it done? Case studies of Greenwood, Albany, Jackson, Tennessee
3. Analysis of a Southern town or community -- students will present their own communities, discuss why it is important to organize, etc.

D. Vicksburg

1. history -- of the town and the river
2. economics
3. politics
4. power structure
5. previous voter education work in the area -- Vicksburg in relation to the Delta and Mississippi
6. problems and peculiarities

- E. Plans for the Year -- some of this will be covered in the beginning sessions of the orientation period. After the three week study, students should discuss what they feel is needed in terms of the voter education work, the study program, and the role of Tougaloo students and faculty

II. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: VICKSBURG October 1-15

Two weeks to be spent in becoming familiar with Vicksburg. Canvassing will begin. Specific procedures to be used during the year will be worked out. Discussions will center around the practical problems of community organization as they are encountered.

III. MISSISSIPPI AND THE FRANCHISE October 15 - November 7

- A. Why disenfranchisement? A study of the history of the state should reveal which interests led to it and to its continuance. And who should desire its abolition. What is the national effect of the triumph of the black belt forces?
- B. The methods of disenfranchisement. A look at the Constitution of 1890. Subsequent refinements.
- C. SNCC projects examined. An inquiry into the possibility of an alliance with white interests. The role of the lawsuit. Past and present actions of the Justice Department. Could it do more? What can we expect of the state in the future?
- D. What path after obtaining the ballot? Examination of Mississippi political organization. Methods of obtaining bloc voting. Study of the dangers involved. Finally, what changes shall our vote bring about?

IV. COTTON: KEY TO THE DELTA ECONOMY November 7 - December 7

- A. The market. How cotton is sold. How prices are determined. The history and probable future of the market.
- B. The dilemma of the sharecropper. His function. The effect of automation. His alternatives.
- C. Ways out. Present state and federal programs. Other possibilities, both long and short range.

V. THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL December 7 - 24

- A. Genesis of the legislation. A discussion of how bills come about. Politics and social forces. The effect of interest groups. The press. The effect of demonstrations.
- B. Contents of the bill. Existing laws compared with it. A perusal of rejected proposals and an inquiry into why they were rejected. Then, the judicial-legislative relationship. Foreseeable enforcement problems.
- C. The institutional problems involved in legislating. How Congress proceeds. Political tactics.
- D. Legislation in the future. How far can government properly legislate. What are the constitutional limits? What other limits are there?

VI. FREE SPEECH. ANOTHER AMERICAN DILEMMA January 2 - February 2.

- A. The tradition - selected early readings. Discussion of the pragmatic reasons for the guarantee. Some examples of its violation.
- B. The American experience. The First Amendment. Attempts at limiting it. The origins of the present dilemma. The investigating committees. Some Supreme Court decisions and the conflicting judicial philosophies. Where do we go from here?
- C. A brief look at the other liberties: religion, assembly, self incrimination, association, academic freedom, picketing.

VII. THE DECLINE OF COLONIALISM February 2 - March 15

- A. What is colonialism? First, a look at its history to be followed by a discussion of the economic and political aspects of colonialism.
- B. Freedom. The forces that lead to it. The means by which it has been achieved. Remaining problem areas. The role of the U. N. Problems that follow independence: economic development, forms of government, relations with the formerly dominant nation.
- C. Some case studies. Detailed examination of various

and variant colonies and former colonies.

VIII. THE NATURE OF SOUTHERN PREJUDICE March 15 - April 5

- A. Prejudice as a function of human personality needs. Psycho-analytic theories of prejudice. Prejudice in contexts other than race.
- B. Prejudice as a function of the sociology of the South. The development of race hate in the South. A consideration of some factors: sexuality, economics, status, ignorance.
- C. A discussion of how knowledge of the nature of prejudice could and should influence the goals and tactics of the civil rights movement.

IX. WAR AND PEACE: THE ARMS RACE April 6 - May 20

- A. The current arms race, its origins and the factors leading to its continuance. A look at arms races and attempts at disarmament in the past.
- B. Closer examination of some of the premises on which the race is based. Can the antagonists trust each other enough to disarm? What is the nature of the chief antagonists? What long range developments can we forecast?
- C. The affect on the arms race of the spread of nuclear weapons. What are the goals of the secondary powers?

X. MAN'S VIEW OF HIMSELF May 20 - June 15

Discussion of some relevant philosophies of man. The position embodied in the Bill of Rights as expressed by Paine, Jefferson, Locke. The modern alienation: Krutch, Sartre, Camus. Christian Humanism.

XI. THE NEGRO IN AMERICA June 15 - July 20

- A. Life as a slave, in the South and elsewhere. The slave revolts and their leaders.
- B. Negro leaders during reconstruction. Were they responsible for the subsequent dark ages?
- C. Post - reconstruction to the present. The Washington philosophy. Back to Africa movements. DuBois and the NAACP.
- D. The modern spirit. Discussion of the various movements of the present and an attempt to relate them to the desires of the Negro today. Finally, an attempt to forecast the future - what we want, and what we can get.