

Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc.

NEWS & EDITORIAL OFFICES

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SAM

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Dear Ed:

I was a bit delayed in getting your letter of May 5, because I was out of town when it came. Since then, I've been meaning to write everyday, but kept postponing it until I had a nice clear stretch of time, because I knew it could not be answered briefly. But nice clear stretches of time never come, and this has been a very busy time.

I have worried about the delay, because I was afraid you might take it to mean I did not like your raising the questions you did and was not going to answer. I should have written you just a brief note letting you know I'd answer as soon as possible---but kept thinking I'd get a real letter written.

Actually, I am quite glad you felt free to write me about the various problems on your mind, and I'm glad to discuss them with you. I just wish we could get together to talk, as they could be discussed much more adequately that way.

First, I am sending you enclosed, the copy of the original prospectus of the SNCC project and a copy of Bob's report for last year. He has not yet made a report for this year. I was unable to make extra copies of these for you---so would appreciate it if you could return these fairly soon. Take the time you need to study them over carefully tho.

The prospectus was drawn up in spring of 1961. At that time we conceived as the project operating more or less independently of any organization. Later, as we conferred with SNCC, it was decided to handle through a grant from SCEF to SNCC and let it be entirely under their jurisdiction. Therefore much of the detail was changed after this prospectus was drawn up and no longer applies. I have therefore crossed through the parts that are obsolete. But the purpose in sending it to you is for you to see the original purpose of the ~~project~~ project, and the method of work, in general, which we conceived. These, I think, are still valid.

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cont. May 20

I had got to this point in this letter last night when Jim Forman called from the airport with a two-hour layover in Louisville, and I went out to meet him and visit and by that time it was way after midnight so I did not get the letter finished. Now today I have to get off to Nashville for two days, and won't be back until Wednesday.

So I'll have to postpone writing you about all your questions. I will try to do it just as soon as I get back.

Let me say quickly, for I don't want you to think I'm evading the question, that SCEF is in no sense communist. It believes in democracy, in a real sense, more than most organizations I know---and I think many who attack it are really afraid of democracy, not of communism---altho people are very confused and I'm sure concepts are all mixed up in their minds.

However, I want to say much more than this. I want to tell you---and you have a right to know---the origins of these charges, why they have persisted, and just what SCEF's position---and my own---are on basic questions.

These things I will write about when I write again. Meantime, I'll go on and send you in a separate envelope today some literature: some copies of recent issues of the Patriot, a brochure telling what SCEF is, a couple of other publications including a booklet telling our position on Carl's run-in with HUAC. You may want to be looking over this material---altho there is much more than this to discuss.

I will also send you today a copy of my book The Wall Between which tells about my husband's and my difficulties here in Louisville which are the origin of the communist charge against us (not SCEF), and the book is essentially autobiographical and will tell you something of my basic philosophy, I think.

Let me point out of course that if you do this job with SNCC you will not be working for SCEF---and will not be under our jurisdiction in any way. We make the grant to SNCC but we have bent over backward (and I think Bob Z. will verify this) not to try to tell him what to do or to dominate the project. However, you are right, I think, to try to find out about SCEF and get all these questions straightened out in your mind, for it could certainly be a very uncomfortable situation if you were not in tune with the organization making the grant---or if you felt you had to be secretive in any way about where the money came from. I might add that this would be a very uncomfortable situation for us too; in fact, it would be unbearable.

I want to write next time too about a lot of these questions in general: the risk you would be taking. Everything is a risk, Ed. If you want to try to change society, you cannot expect to have a peaceful and smooth life---at least I don't think you can. On the other hand, let me say from my vantage point of almost 40 years of age that the risk and the suffering are compensated for many times over in the richness of the kind of life you can live. More later. *Anne* A. Braden