

A REPORT FROM THE SOUTH

by the SCEF Staff

Dear Friends,

We have made very rapid advances in building our staff and expanding our programs. We'd like to tell you about our work.

People in the civil rights movement have been talking for years about organizing poor white people. SCEF is doing this job. We are teaching people that before they can overcome economic and political oppression, they must first break down the dividing wall of racism.

We hope you will take the time to read the following report of SCEF's program. We feel sure you will realize the tremendous importance of our work. We need your help to continue this work.

THE DEEP SOUTH

Four people on our staff currently work out of New Orleans -- the center of our Deep South activity. Bob Analavage travels across the Deep South reporting Movement news for THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT. Jack Minnis is working on research and staff education. Bob and Dottie Zellner are establishing one of the most exciting parts of SCEF's program: the Grass Roots Organizing Work (GROW) project.

GROW is built on the idea of organizing white and black people into strong coalitions working for political power. SCEF's major thrust is among white people.

GROW is now in its infancy. In January, we purchased a building where we are establishing an educational and meeting center. In February, GROW held its first workshop -- an interracial meeting of poor people from the Mississippi Delta. We have all learned from this meeting that it is possible for poor people to break through the walls of racism and mistrust and work together for political change.

During the coming months, the GROW project will expand. We need to complete work on the new building and begin a collection of Movement books for the library. The Deep South staff will be making organizing trips into new areas: Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana. We plan for more study and discussion sessions.

THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS

Late summer 1967, Al and Margaret McSurely, SCEF organizers and Joe Mulloy, now a member of the staff, were arrested for sedition in Pike County, Ky. A few days later, Carl and Anne Braden, SCEF executive directors, were also imprisoned, on the same charge.

SCEF is being harassed and red-baited in the mountains because we are working for basic change in the political structure on a county level. The people of Appalachia are at the mercy of a few men: the coal-mine owners and the politicians. Together they fight to maintain the status quo. Strip-mining is wrecking the land and further impoverishing the people.

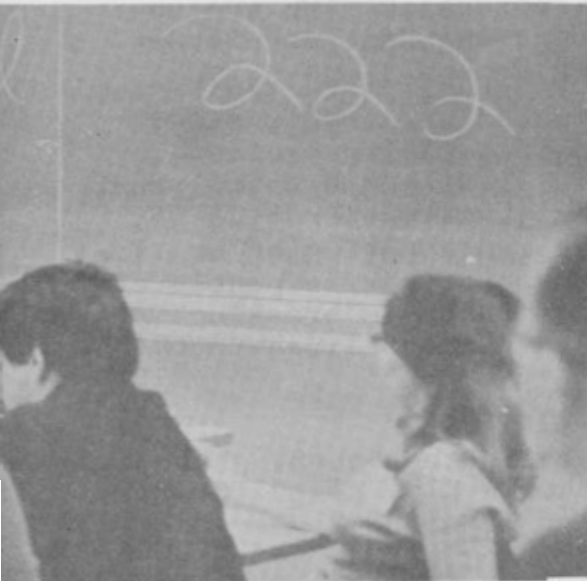
We are determined to stay in the mountains. We have helped in the development of community newspapers and begun open discussion of the war in Vietnam and the war on poverty. We have exposed the tactic of red-baiting for what it is. We are offering our support and resources to strong local people who are courageously facing the powerful coal interests. It will be a long, hard job for the people of the mountains, and SCEF is committed to seeing the work through.



*Al McSurely of the SCEF Staff.
Kentucky at the Kentucky Con.*

THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT

This year is the 25th anniversary of the founding of THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT.



*Leads a workshop on Eastern
rence on the War and Draft.*

Through this publication, SCEF reports the real news of the South. THE PATRIOT is not a house organ for SCEF. It offers honest and consistent coverage of Southern Movement news.

Through frequent press releases to over 400 news outlets, we try to keep the general public aware of the every-day struggles of the Southern people. This news service is an important part of our informational program.

PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Reductions in the poverty program and increased draft calls have brought home the issue of the Vietnam war. Now is the time to educate and organize for peace.

Last year, SCEF and SSOC* (Southern Student Organizing Committee) co-sponsored a program of travel to Southern campuses. We began open discussion of the war and American foreign policy with students who had been willing to accept the status quo -- at home and abroad.

Karen and Joe Mulloy are now working with the Louisville Peace Council on organizing grass-roots resistance to the war and draft. They have distributed information, begun dialogues on foreign policy and established draft counseling centers.

In February, SCEF played a key role in co-sponsoring the Kentucky Conference on the War and the Draft. Over 500 Kentuckians participated in this meeting. The silence that has typified the South is being broken.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

All of us feel an increased urgency about civil liberties in the face of new and qualitatively different government repression. The entire radical movement is threatened.

SCEF and the National Committee to Abolish HUAC have been working together to fight this repression. We are now circulating a petition to stop the upcoming Eastland investigations of the MFDP, NCNP and other groups.

Since January, SCEF has participated with SNCC, SSOC, MFDP, SCLC and other Southern groups in building protest against government attacks -- especially directed at militant black leaders. Recently in Nashville (a city terrorized by the police) SNCC, SSOC and SCEF organized a series of meetings of black and white people. Lawyers came to advise people of their legal rights. The Nashville community is breaking through the fear and isolation that have immobilized them.

WITH YOUR HELP, THIS WORK WILL GO ON

There are 40 million white people in the South. Who will organize them? George Wallace and the Ku Klux Klan? Or the Freedom Movement?

SCEF is on the front lines of the great moral and political challenges that face this country. We are doing a job that no other group is doing: reaching the white South.

Only with the help of many people can we continue our vital work. The educational center in New Orleans represents a huge financial commitment. Then there are the day-to-day expenditures of subsistence salaries, travel money and printing costs.

SCEF needs money badly right now to get through the Spring and Summer. If you can respond now, there could be no better time. Please send your contribution in the enclosed post-paid envelope today.

Cordially,

The SCEF Staff

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