

## ABOLISH HUAC

Anyone interested in circulating the following petition is urged to contact Ed Clark, 200a Monroe, 457-6187.

### PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We, workers in the 1964 Council of Federated Organizations Mississippi Summer Project, petition the House of Representatives to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) because it serves as an instrument of segregation and because it is inconsonant with the ideals of the First Amendment.

HUAC and similar legislative investigating committees have been libel-free centers for false accusations; they have dignified irresponsible smears as "official" government findings. They have thus promoted among the white community in Mississippi the belief that civil rights protest is synonymous with subversion and treason. The Mississippi press and public officials consistently smeared participants in the 1964 Summer Project; they relied primarily on HUAC "citations" for their smears.

The pervasive feeling among white Mississippians that the civil rights movement is "red-inspired" enables Mississippians to dismiss civil rights protest as illegitimate, to avoid admitting the existence of or the changing the intolerable conditions of the Mississippi Negro which give rise to such protest, and to rationalize violence and economic intimidation against Negroes and civil rights workers as "patriotic acts." The red-smears make a volatile Mississippi even more dangerous.

In Mississippi in the summer of 1964, we thus met the paradox of increasing federal action to protect civil rights activities while a part of the federal government was helping support and reinforce segregationist beliefs.

Having witnessed the workings of a closed society--where the First Amendment is not operative, where white as well as Negro is labelled "subversive" if he dissents--we feel more deeply the need to oppose threats to free speech and free association in the rest of the country. HUAC, condemning ideas and associations as "Un-American" is the fountainhead of the threat to the First Amendment and an open society. HUAC denies what we went to Mississippi for.

