

Jan. 23, 1964

ACTION MEMO

FROM: Jim Dombrowski, Executive Director
TO: Friends Everywhere
INRE: Desperate Need for Food in Mississippi

Virtual starvation in the Delta area of Mississippi has become so widespread that three new receiving centers for food have been set up. You are urged to ask your church group, civic club, trade-union, and other concerned organizations and individuals to send food at once.

It has been a rough winter in Mississippi, especially for those who have been displaced by machines in the cotton fields. The worst victims, of course, are persons who have tried to register and vote.

These people can't look to state and local officials for help because Mississippi segregationists fear the voting power that Negroes will soon have, and they hope the Negroes will leave the state.

One man came to a neighbor's house in Leflore County last Saturday night barefoot, hungry, and crying because he had no food to give his large family. In Sunflower County, where Senator Eastland lives, there has been absolutely no work for males since the cotton picking ended and there will be no work till late March or early April.

The minimum need for a family for one month is four pounds of lard, three cans of meat, three boxes of milk, two sacks of flour, and 15 pounds of meal. And there are thousands of families to feed.

Some groups and individuals are already sending food to Clarksdale and Greenwood, Miss.; you are urged to also send food to the following, who will distribute it in various counties:

Amzie Moore, 614 Chrisman, Cleveland, Miss.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, c/o I. Johnson, 820 Quiver St.,
Ruleville, Miss.

Warren County Improvement League, King Solomon Baptist
Church Hall, Vicksburg, Miss.

It is asked that you send food rather than clothing, but shoes would be greatly welcomed. Food and shoes are desperately needed. So please act at once.

President Lyndon Johnson should also be asked to order extra funds for the Federal school-lunch program in the area, and to increase the amount of surplus commodities available for the unemployed and those on relief.