



Council Of Federated Organizations

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Jackson, Mississippi 39203

March 2, 1964

Mrs. Norma Becker
51 West Ninth
New York, New York

Dear Norma,

I'm writing to you again concerning the curriculum conference for the Freedom Schools in the Mississippi Freedom Summer project. By now I've had a chance to talk to Ivanhoe Donaldson about your connection with the United Federation of Teachers and I also learned of your experience with the Prince Edward County project. So you're no longer a name on a list, and I want to ask further favors of you. I got two more names as UFT contacts: Mr. Bailan and Sid Harris (from Ivanhoe). I'm sending you more copies of the material we sent with invitations to the conference in the hope that you'll pass the stuff on to them. By now the general prospectus that John O'Neal wrote is ready and I'm sending you a few copies of that, so that if you know someone who is ~~pot~~ potentially helpful and interested, you can give them a little better idea of the plans. In return, I'd like some of your stuff. We need more detailed information about the Prince Edward project, because of the many similarities to our problems. Please send me anything you have written up on it, along with your own comments about the actual working of the project.. I'd be grateful for that stuff immediately, so that we can incorporate it in our preliminary work for the conference. Also, we're constantly on the prowl for people with experience and ability to work on our curriculum. The Prince Edward project would be a fruitful place to look, I believe, but I can get only a general picture of what happened and who was involved. Specifically, I have two names, a Dr. Peaco of the Virginia State Teachers' Association, and a Dr. Redding of Queens College. I don't know anything ~~ex~~ else about these people, not even their addresses. If you know these two people, as well as others, and you believe that they would contribute to a working conference, I would be very grateful if you would invite them to attend, or send me their addresses so that I can. Thanks.

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Penny Patch asked me to write to you about a few other things not directly concerning the curriculum conference, namely housing, facilities and materials--what to expect with the Freedom Schools. Teachers in the day schools will probably live with families, although if some towns have unfriendly townspeople and we can get the money, we may lease houses. The arrangement we are presently making with people calls for \$10 a week for room and board, which we think is reasonable. The conditions probably will not be luxurious in most cases, but I imagine you don't need to be told that. The facilities are harder to describe because we don't have them yet. The day schools will probably be leased houses, churches during the week days, empty store buildings, etc. The boarding schools will probably be on some college campus which is no longer being used. The prospectus gives this in more detail. There are four or five campuses which are not used since the colleges went out of business, and we hope we can get at least two of them. The boarding schools will include dormitories where the staff will live with the students, and kitchen arrangements. We are developing a list of needed materials. We know we'll need general supplies, etc. We expect more materials requirements will come out of the curriculum conference, particularly textbook requirements. We anticipate that we will be able to depend upon the school sites to provide almost nothing. Also, since our financial situation is desperate, as usual, we hope that you will be able to think of some way for teachers to raise their own materials, to some extent at least.

Thanks so much for your interest. I ~~know~~ the information here and the stuff enclosed is helpful.. Write if you have questions, especially about the curriculum conference, and I'll reply right away.

Freedom,

Lois

Lois Chaffee

Enclosures:
Invitation letters
Preliminary curriculum outlines
Freedom School prospectuses

P.S. About the people you know -- educators, etc. -- who come to the conference----- Please give us a rundown on what their specialties are, etc., so that we can plan the sessions ahead of time and know where we are short, etc. Stanford University is working on a similar project, and we'd like the two projects to supplement as far as possible. I'll write more about this when we start getting acceptances and we can tell in more than a general way who will be there. Very important.

Just got your letter - Thanks. I've been holding this up because the mimeo broke down & we didn't have the stuff.