

COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS
1017 Lynch St. -- P.O. Box 2896
Jackson, Mississippi

April 8, 1964

Dear Faculty Member:

This letter is being sent to hundreds of faculty members across the country in an effort to involve the intellectual community in America's most serious social problem -- racial discrimination.

The Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a liaison of all civil rights organizations currently working in Mississippi, is planning what it calls the "Mississippi Summer Project." The decision to sponsor the Project was based on our belief that political and social justice cannot be won in Mississippi without massive aid from the country as a whole -- backed by the power and authority of the federal government.

As the enclosed prospectus explains, the Project will bring hundreds of Americans to Mississippi this summer. We hope that a large number of these people will be university faculty members, for we think it is important for the best minds in the country to know first hand what is happening in Mississippi. There are areas of the Project -- outlined below -- where involvement of faculty members will be especially relevant.

A. Participation in the general program areas as observers: Coverage of the project, and thereby increased dissemination of knowledge of the nature of the state of Mississippi, is necessary in as many journals and periodicals as possible. Beginning now, as recruitment and planning are now underway, continuing through the summer and the months following, analysis of the project is important -- analysis that can best be undertaken by university faculty and best placed in journals to which faculty members have access.

B. Staff seminars for Project volunteers: Staff, law students, freedom school and community center teachers could profit highly from nightly seminars in American history, economics, sociology, and political science. This could best be worked out

7. Studies of local health facilities.

8. Democratic party structure -- i.e., patronage and nepotism; the secret precinct meetings; political scientists to interview whites.

D. Political advisers -- "Freedom candidates" will be running in each of Mississippi's congressional districts. Political speeches need writing, campaign literature must be written, platforms prepared, seminars held for election workers, interviews and seminars held for Negro candidates, etc.

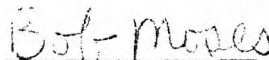
Suggestions dealing with this information, refinements and additions, as well as questions, are most welcome. The precise nature of what can be done in Mississippi this summer depends upon the interests, skills and numbers of those volunteering. For further planning to be done, we need to know of the willingness of people like yourself to work within the general context of the project.

We urge you to come to Mississippi this summer. If you can come, please let us know the area of your interest and what dates you would be available. We can then send you a schedule and make definite plans for your visit.

Yours for freedom,



Aaron Henry
State President NAACP
President, COFO



Robert Moses
SNCC Mississippi
Project Director
COFO Program Director



David Dennis
CORE Field Secretary
COFO Assistant
Program Director

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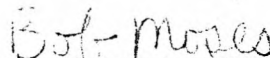
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