

UNITED Federation of Teachers
LOCAL 2 - AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO

Affiliated with New York State, AFL-CIO, New York City Central Labor Council,
Empire State Federation of Teachers



[4-20-64]

300 Park Avenue South
New York 10, N. Y.
SPRING 7-7500

Dear Colleagues:

This summer, the UFT is again participating in a Freedom School Project in the South. Last summer we established 8 such schools in Prince Edward County, Va., where Negro students were without formal education for 5 years.

This year's Freedom School Project is aimed at providing remedial and enriched instruction for the educationally deprived Negro students of Mississippi whose educational background defies description - even by the lowest standards existing in the North. (Mississippi ranks 50th in per capita expenditures for education)

The Project has been initiated by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a statewide alliance of the major Civil Rights organizations (NAACP, SNCC, CORE, and SCLC) plus over 100 local groups working in Mississippi.

COFO is currently recruiting volunteer teachers to staff these Freedom Schools from various sources throughout the country - particularly from college campuses. It is generally agreed, however, that a sizeable contingent of professionally trained and experienced teachers, committed to the general aims of the Project, could make an invaluable contribution to the success of this endeavor and help lay the foundation for an on-going program after the summer is over.

The UFT, therefore, would like to solicit your support for this summer's Mississippi Freedom School Project, which we see as serving the twofold purpose of providing skilled personnel to function in an area of unparalleled educational need, and testifying to the devotion of American teachers to the cause of human rights.

We are communicating with private schools in N.Y.C. in the hope that you can in some way support this project by:

1. Recruiting volunteer teachers from your staffs.
2. Donating any available supplies and materials.
3. Raising funds to help defray the expenses.
(It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$200 to \$300 to send one volunteer teacher to Mississippi for the summer.)

Please give this matter your urgent attention. Through our collective efforts, New York educators can help win the struggle for human decency in Mississippi.

For further information, write to:

or call (evenings):

UFT - Freedom School Project
300 Park Avenue South
New York, N. Y. 10010

Norma Becker - GR 7-2742
Sandy Adickes - YU 2-7743

Thank you for your interest and co-operation.

Fraternally,

Charles Cogen

Charles Cogen
President, UFT

Dick Parrish
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