

OFFICE ONLY

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URGENT MEMORANDUM

RE: Mississippi Summer Project Fund-raising and support work
To: Friends of SNCC and Freedom Centers
From: Betty Garman, Northern Office

Our general financial situation is still very bad...and now that the summer months are nearly upon us we will need to call upon you increasingly to provide funds to support the operations in Mississippi.

To date only \$5,385.20 has been contributed for the Mississippi Summer Project. Of course, this small sum is not nearly enough to cover the financial needs of the project. In addition, SNCC will be providing more than 50% (and possibly much more than that) of the project's budget. Presently we support the projects in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Congressional Districts as well as the COFO office in Jackson while CORE contributes the funds for its work in the 4th district and small amounts to the Jackson COFO office.

We have heard very little from most of you about the fund raising work you've planned around the summer project. It is vital that intensive efforts begin NOW...in order that funds can be raised for specific or general aspects of the summer project.

The following suggestions might be useful in planning a community-wide drive:

1. Publicity, feature articles, etc. on the project and the fund/supply drive.
2. Approach local firms and stores for the donation of materials. A specific list is enclosed and priority needs are listed below.
3. Approach various community organizations and churches to assume responsibility for funds and/or supplies for some specific aspect of the program.
4. Organize a door-to-door solicitation for funds, supplies, etc. explaining the project as collections are made.
5. Setting up tables on streets in your community (if police regulations permit) at which brochures would be available and a leaflet on the need for funds and supplies could be passed out.
6. Organize the students in your community who will be coming South to approach friends, clubs and so forth for donation of funds and supplies. A two-page memo to accepted applicants in the Boston area (done by Boston Friends of SNCC) is enclosed. Several of the suggestions there are also relevant to the Friends groups as a whole.
7. Your own ideas

PRIORITY NEEDS FOR THE SUMMER PROJECT

1. FUNDS of all sizes, amounts, etc. We need funds both for general operating expenses, salaries of field staff (we are now being paid only every other week which means \$9.64 must last for two weeks) as well as for the Southern Negro students who will work for us this summer (some 100 of them) and will need scholarship subsidies in the fall (about \$300 each). These funds can be given tax-exempt; checks should be made out to the ^National Council of Negro Women, marked for scholarships and forwarded to this office.
2. SUPPLIES -- Specific equipment in great need -- equipment that it will be very hard for the Freedom Schools and the project to operate without:
 - a. Tape recorders (30)
 - b. phonographs (all speeds) (30)
 - c. blackboards (30) -- with erasers and chalk
 - d. mimeograph machines (25) with ink, stencils and so forth
 - e. paper for the mimeo machines and for the printing press
-- 8 1/2 x 11, 11 x 17 (offset), 8 1/2 x 14, etc.

SHIPPING MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

All supply items collected should be transported to Mississippi as soon and as cheaply as possible. Some supplies, particularly machines, can be loaded into the cars of the students headed for Mississippi (via Oxford, Ohio where the orientation sessions will be held). Anything that cannot be sent this way or driven down voluntarily by people in your community should be shipped to:

Raymond Davis, RUST COLLEGE, Holly Springs, Mississippi

Any books collected in drives should also be shipped to the above address: It is from there that things will be distributed across the state.

NOTE: It is still not too late to start a drive for funds; in fact, the momentum which is now building up in the press around the summer project should help the organization of a drive. We shouldn't need to keep stressing that the situation is desperate and that maximum energy should be expended on the collection of funds immediately. In addition, we will be continually calling on you during the summer with specific requests for funds and supplies. I will be in Mississippi all summer for the purpose of relaying news events and such needs to Friends of SNCC groups. Within a week we will know where the SNCC office will be and we'll send the address out then.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AROUND THE SUMMER PROJECT

Friends of SNCC groups are hopefully taking action on the memo of press and support suggestions that was sent out about four weeks ago. In several places, Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia, extensive work is being done with the students coming South but we have heard nothing from the rest of you all. For example, Boston SNCC held an orientation session on May 23, has scheduled a press conference for all the students coming South, has arranged a series of interviews with individual students and the press and has placed innumerable feature articles in the local press. In Chicago there will be a press conference and a big fund-raising send-off party for the students. In Philadelphia a program is organized which includes mobilization of the parents of the students going South for various pressure activities.

We want to urge that you at least arrange the following:

1. A meeting of all summer workers from your area sometime before they leave for the Ohio orientation sessions. The Jackson office has been sending out the names of accepted people regularly and will supply an up-to-date list on request. This meeting could be in the form of a pre-orientation or just an informal get together at which Northern support activities could be discussed. ...it is important that the people in Friends of SNCC know the summer workers...that will help you to build summer support activities around specific individuals who are arrested and so forth.
2. A press conference to which all local press, radio and TV people are invited during which the students going South can discuss the project and the reasons for their own involvement, plus the nature of conditions in Mississippi. This is very important and should be easily arranged since the press is very eager to have news about the summer project and the students who will participate. In addition, you need not have the names of every accepted applicant to begin planning these things.
3. The organization of the parents of the students going South. Use the ideas in the enclosed Boston memo as well as any others you yourselves can devise.
4. Collection of background data on the applicants from your area so that you will have it for press work during the summer; also begin keeping records on who has pledged bond money for who and in what amount.

OVER...continued