

C. O. F. O.  
100 Rust Ave.  
Holly Springs,  
~~Mississippi~~  
July 20, 1964

Jack Wasserman  
National Sharecroppers' Association  
124 Lafayette Drive, N. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Wasserman:

Our project, based in Holly Springs, is concerned particularly with Marshall, Benton, Tippah, Union, Lee, Lafayette, Panola, Tate, and DeSoto Counties. But there is no other COFO project working Tunica, Yalobusha, Grenada, Jalhoun, Pontotoc, Prentiss, or Alcorn Counties, also Tishoming, Itawamba, and the whole area from Greenwood ~~km~~ across the state to Columbus. Project director is Ivanhoe Donaldson. He suggested that I write to you.

My job is to research the availability in these counties of federal programs, the degree to which use is being made of ARA, RAD, MDTA, ASCS, ACP, FHA, Social Security, etc. I am making no attempt to be comprehensive in my treatment of either the ~~xxx~~ programs or the counties at this time. Rather I want to devote my time to whatever is most likely to pay off in concrete changes. I myself may not be here for more than five more weeks, but what I start does not have to be limited to what I can finish in that time limit, because the Holly Springs office will be on-going. I assume that changes are most readily possible ~~in the~~ <sup>through</sup> ARA-RAD-MDTA programs ~~and~~, and in any cases of large-scale discrimination which we could uncover in the implementation of other programs. I wrote 10 days ago to Mrs. Gould at the ARA office in the Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., asking for the OEDP's, if they exist, for Marshall, Tunica, DeSoto, Tate, Panola, Lafayette, Benton, Alcorn, Tippah, Union, Pontotoc, Lee, and Prentiss Counties; also asked for names on local ARA committee. Could you help us get this material for the counties which I named in the first paragraph above? ~~But~~ If we ended up with two sets of OEDP's for some counties, we could pass the extras on to our Jackson office.

Additional information which I already have: introductory pamphlets on all branches of ASCS especially ACP, <sup>on</sup> the fact that "self-employed" farmers are now supposed to be covered by Social Security, and on ARA, RAD, and MDTA. The only specific information including statistics which I have gotten hold of is the Annual Report of ASCS for 1963 for Marshall County. The questions in my mind now are concrete things not made clear in this elementary-level literature, such as: in ASCS's cost-sharing program, ~~what~~ is there any

definite percentage of the cost that is paid by the government or is this open to variation in individual cases? what does the Social Security literature mean by "substantial services" that can be assessed in place of cash earnings in determining the income, or work record, of sharecroppers--how open to interpretation in individual cases is this?

I have thought that investigating the TVA region might pay off in relatively quick practical results if we learned of groups Negro or white who are not sharing the benefits of the federal government's presence there--we would not have to work through state machinery or through very much red tape in order to point out such inconsistencies.

Please send me any ~~info~~ and all information which you think we could use. As you can see we have not gotten very far either in gathering information or in deciding what to concentrate on. Please make any suggestions you could as to fruitful things to work on; what counties need what that you know of? And we want to know all we can at the start about the machinery by which results can or could be ~~xxxxxx~~ gotten regarding any federal program or any geographical region of the state that we intend to concentrate on--to help us be as realistic as possible in choosing what to spend our time on. Also please tell us of any contacts, any people locally or in Washington or Jackson who might give us information or help or who might make use of what we find out.

I hope that I will hear from you soon and perhaps several times. Thank you very much!

Sincerely yours,

Mary Jennings