

MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT

Council of Federated Organizations
1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi

FACT SHEET

Through August 1, 1964

MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT - divided into four main phases of programming: voter registration, Freedom Schools, community centers, Freedom Registration.

Freedom Schools - 41 functioning in 20 communities
2,165 students (twice the projected number)
175 full-time teachers - 40 of them professional

<u>community no. students</u>	<u>community no. students</u>	<u>community no. students</u>
Columbus (2 schools) 60	Clarksdale (4 schools) 60	Holmes County (3) 105
Holly Springs (3) 155	Greenville (2) 35	Greenwood (1) 60
Ruleville (2) 50	Shaw (1) 25	Vicksburg (1) 60
McComb (1) 105	Canton (3) 110	Russell Madison Co. 225 (3)
Carthage (1) 75	Meridian (1) 150	Hattiesburg (5) 675
Laurel (1) 65	Moss Point (1) 40	Biloxi (1) 35
Gulfport (3) 75		

Director: Dr. Staughton Lynd (Yale University) Jackson office

Community Centers - 13 functioning in as many communities
61 full-time workers, including 2 administrative staff
Each center attempts four-phase program: literacy; art, music, dance, recreation, day care; library; health.

Locations: Greenville Clarksdale Greenwood Holly Springs Batesville
 Ruleville Mileston Shaw Canton Harmony
 Meridian Vicksburg Hattiesburg

Permanent centers are under construction in Mileston (Holmes County, near Tchula) and Harmony (Leake County, near Carthage.)

Director: Miss Annell Ponder (SCLC) Jackson office

Voter Registration and Freedom Registration -

Figures are not available for voter registration attempts across the state because project workers cannot total persons taking the test who have done so independently, and since many local people who would otherwise have worked to get others to the courthouse are now working for Freedom Registration. Sample figures below.

(Congressional Quarterly, 7/5/63)

Greenwood - Negro population: 13,567 Registered: 268 in Leflore County, over 21
White pop. 10,274 Reg.: 9,535 " "
(our sources)
Negroes who went to courthouse between June 21-July 31, 1964: 144 "
Number of those who took test: 123 "
Number of those who passed: 2 "
Negroes registered on Freedom Registration forms same period: 3,384 "

(Congressional Quarterly, 7/5/63)

Holly Springs - Negro pop.: 7,163 Registered: 90 in Marshall Co., over 21
White pop.: 4,342 Reg.: 3,409 " "
(our sources)
Negroes who went to courthouse between June 21-July 31, 1964: 67 "
Number of those who took test: 67 "
Number of those who passed: unknown as of this date
Negroes registered on Freedom Registration forms same period: 2,890 "

(Congressional Quarterly, 7/5/63)

Canton - Negro population: 10,366 Registered: 500 in Madison County, over 21
White pop.: 5,622 Reg.: 3,021 " "
(our sources)
Negroes who went to courthouse between June 21-July 31, 1964: 22 "
Number of those who took test: 22 "
Number of those who passed: 0 (?) "
Negroes registered on Freedom Registration forms same period: 2,000 "

(Congressional Quarterly, 7/5/63:)

Hattiesburg - Negro population: 7,495 Registered: 24 in Forrest Co., over 21
 White pop.: 22,431 Reg.: 12,000 " "
 (our sources)
 Negroes who went to courthouse between June 21-July 31, 1964: 70 "
 Number of those who took test: 70
 Number of those who passed: 5
 Negroes registered on Freedom Registration forms same period: 3,373 "

Director of Freedom Registration (in conjunction with Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party convention challenge): Dona Richards Moses (SNCC) Jackson office

* * * * *

LEGAL AID in connection with Mississippi Summer Project, but not part of it.

Lawyers' Constitutional Defense Committee, 538 $\frac{1}{2}$ North Farish Street, Jackson. 355-3874, 352-8243. (Works out of that annex to the firm of Hall & Strong.) About 40 volunteer lawyers are expected to have provided legal aid by the end of the summer on a two-week rotating basis through this Jackson office. Others provide legal counsel through offices in Memphis and New Orleans.

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. provides staff coordination for the LCDC program in addition to handling several cases on their own. Same office as above.

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law ("President's Committee") officially represents ministers connected with the National Council of Churches program. Same office as above.

National Lawyers' Guild Committee for Legal Assistance in the South, 507 $\frac{1}{2}$ North Farish Street, Jackson. 352-7281. Provides 60 volunteer lawyers on a rotating basis.

COFO Legal Coordinator: R. Hunter Morey (SNCC) Jackson office.

MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Office: 507 $\frac{1}{2}$ North Farish Street, Jackson. 355-9091. Contact Claire Bradley for information. Director through August 1: Dr. Robert V. Sager. After August 1: Dr. Charles Goodrich. Sponsor: Medical Committee for Human Rights, 211 West 56th Street, New York City.

Works on a rotating team basis with teams presently based in Clarksdale, Greenwood, Hattiesburg, Jackson. Team usually includes: one physician, one psychiatrist, one technician or registered nurse, one dentist.

Since the medical staff are not licensed to practice in the state, their work is mainly: giving advice, developing rapport with local doctors, arranging with local doctors to make immunization available to staff and volunteer workers, in some cases training project staff in first aid and home nursing.

Nine to ten physicians work in the state each week through September 1. The program is expected to expand in the fall, perhaps giving direction to federal assistance on medical and health programs.

* * * * *

MISSISSIPPI CARAVAN OF MUSIC

By summer's end over 25 professional singers and musicians will have toured Mississippi performing and teaching workshops in Freedom Schools, community centers and churches.

Sponsor: New York Council of Performing Artists, 25 Montgomery Street, New York City.

Artists having participated so far: Julius Lester, Len Chandler, Jackie Washington, David Segal, Dick Davy, Jim Crockett, Cordell Reagon, Bob Cohen.

Currently working in the state (artists work on a rotation basis): Eastgate Singers.

Artists to come: Peter, Paul & Mary, Chad Mitchell Trio, Staple Singers, Greenbriar Boys, Judy Collins, Gil Turner, Carolyn Hester, Pete Seeger, Guy Carawan and others.

Director: Bob Cohen, Jackson COFO office.

FREE SOUTHERN THEATER

A company of eight, integrated, begins its tour of Mississippi Freedom Schools in McComb August 1. By August 20, thirteen towns and cities throughout the state will have had performances of "In White America," a documentary historical play by Princeton professor Martin Duberman. Performances are free and offered in connection with Freedom Schools.

The theater was first conceived of by three SNCC workers last spring. Two of them, Gilbert Moses and John O'Neal are now directors of the theater along with Richard Schecter, editor of the Tulane University Drama Review.

Schedule: August 1	McComb	August 13	Greenwood
August 2-4	Hattiesburg	August 14	Greenville
August 5-6	Gulfport	August 15	Jackson
August 7-8	Meridian	August 17	Ruleville
August 9-10	Canton	August 18	Clarksdale
August 11	Vicksburg	August 19-20	Holly Springs
August 12	Lexington		

* * * * *

There are three specialized projects, among others, within the Mississippi Summer Project: Federal Programs Research, White Community (pilot) Project and Law Students Project.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS RESEARCH: 15 summer workers are engaged in research on existent or potential federal programs for Mississippi.

Greenwood - Four volunteers research school lunch programs, social security benefits, and federally assisted child day care centers.

Canton - Five persons research farmers' unions, farmers' cooperatives and other programs related to farmers.

Itta Bena - One worker researches the development of community center facilities.

Jackson - Six researching public health programs, small business government assistance, cooperatives and agricultural development programs.

Carthage - Three volunteers research farmers' loans and social security benefits.

Director: Jesse Morris (SNCC) Jackson COFO office.

WHITE COMMUNITY PROJECT: 25 staff and summer volunteers are working in a pilot project in Mississippi white communities. Most of the workers are white southerners.

They are based in Jackson, Greenville, Meridian, Vicksburg, with the bulk in Biloxi.

Their aim is two-fold: to interpret the summer project and the civil rights movement, along with trying to bring about some awareness of the rapidity of social change in America and the need for change in Mississippi;

to canvass for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party among white Mississippians.

Director: Ed Hamlett (SNCC, originally from Tennessee) can be reached through Jackson COFO office.

LAW STUDENTS PROJECT: 15 law students work on assignment from COFO to project offices around the state. All students are supplied by the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City. The students are primarily responsible for gathering data on arrests, collecting evidence on voting discrimination, taking affidavits and contacting federal agencies. In addition, they clerk for lawyers handling COFO cases in those areas. COFO provides overall policy and direction.

They are based in: Jackson (three with the COFO office, three with LCDG, two with the Guild committee), Greenwood, Canton, Columbus, Hattiesburg, Ruleville-Cleveland, Southwest (McComb), and Biloxi.

* * * * *

Formal Northern Support for the Mississippi Summer Project, and recruitment this past spring for summer volunteers, comes mainly from FRIENDS OF SNCC groups across the nation. The Friends help raise funds and educate their communities about the project.

There are seven area (for example, Chicago area, New York, Boston) Friends groups which are staffed. About 43 others are maintained solely through community volunteers. While most of these groups were active before the start of the Mississippi project, their major concern presently is support and pressure around the project.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: By the end of the summer about 400 ministers from across the country will have participated in a program directed by the National Council of Churches' Commission on Religion and Race.

Office: 507 1/2 North Farish Street, Jackson. 355-9091. Resident director: Rev. Warren McKenna.

Commission on Religion and Race: 475 Riverside Drive, New York City.

The largest number of ministers act as minister-counselors to volunteers in projects around the state. The self-paid clergymen in addition work to develop rapport with local clergy, make jail visits and help to boost northern support.

In Hattiesburg and Canton ministers work on a one-week rotating basis adding manpower to voter registration drives. The effort in Hattiesburg has been continuous since SNCC conducted the first Freedom Day in the state last January. Since then about 250 ministers have aided that vote drive.

* * * * *

PROJECT PERSONNEL: Mississippi Summer Project

The number of volunteer workers fluctuates as some who planned to stay only one month leave, and new workers come into the state. A relatively stable figure is about 650.

The number of staff varies with movement of some staff in and out of the state. There are about 100 staff from civil rights organizations; close to 70 are SNCC staff.

In addition are the lawyers, doctors, ministers and performers for whom there is no final tally available.

Director of the Mississippi Summer Project: Robert Moses
Communications Director for the Project: Francis Mitchell

* * * * *

Members of the Press: PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE of the summer project is available through the SOUTHERN DOCUMENTARY PROJECT, 8 1/2 Raymond Street, N.W., Atlanta 14, Georgia. (404) 688-0331. Director: Matt Herron. Information and rates: Jeannine Herron at the above address.

Four professional photographers work for the S.D.P. and an additional four professional photographers are affiliated with it, all of whom have been based in Mississippi this summer. Prints are available at short notice.

* * * * *

For further information:

Communications Section
Council of Federated Organizations
1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Press phone: 355 - 3276