

To: Friends of SNCC groups, Parents' Committees, etc.

From: Betty Garman, Northern Coordinator

Date: August 20, 1964

Re: Recruiting of new volunteers for work in Mississippi

By now you all know that the Mississippi Project will be continued throughout the year. Around 200 of the summer volunteers have elected to stay in the state for six months or longer and 65 SNCC and 25 CORE staff members will continue to man the 30 project centers we have worked from this summer. The Freedom School program will not continue as a separate entity but will be merged with the community center program and will include night classes and tutoring of students in the regular academic subjects. Community center work will continue at a stepped-up pace, with many new ideas being added to the present programs. In addition, many areas are planning now to build permanent facilities for their centers, since the summer work was done largely in makeshift quarters. The political program--including voter registration, freedom registration and Freedom Democratic Party organizing--will also continue.

In addition to the 200 volunteers who are staying, we need to recruit additional people--people who (hopefully) can support themselves and people who can commit themselves to work in Mississippi for a minimum of two months. It is very important that you stress this latter point when recruiting people since we have found that shorter stays do not allow enough time for volunteers to accomplish meaningful things in terms of community organization.

We are asking that people (1) send application NOW to COFO Personnel Committee, 1017 Lynch Street, Jackson, Mississippi; (2) come to an orientation session (site to be determined) during the first week of any month--the first session to be held in the first week of October; and (3) obtain an interview from the Friends of SNCC group in their area.

We are asking that each Friends of SNCC group do the following things:

1. Begin now--immediately--to get press coverage for the continuance of the project while announcing that applications are available from your office. The summer application should be re-mimeographed with a new heading--The Mississippi Project. Other logical changes should be made, i.e., dates people can come.
2. Establish a PERMANENT rotating interviewing board to be comprised of ministers, faculty members, in some cases students who have returned from Mississippi and any other individuals who you deem qualified to screen applicants. We suggest that you select 10-15 people who could be called upon throughout the year in teams of two-three to do such interview work. N.B.--It is essential to have more than one person at a time interview each applicant so that we have another basis for evaluating the applicant, i.e., a comparison of interview results.
3. It is not absolutely essential that people have a means of support, although they should try to raise funds (we consider \$10 a week to be adequate). In any case, people should apply even if they don't have a means of support. Again, they will be responsible for transportation to and from Mississippi.