

FREEDOM FORCE

TO: Mississippi Cofa Staff
From: Barbara Jones

There are almost 60 people known by Atlanta who need subsistence. The Freedom Force was first conceived of as a means of supporting volunteers who remained in Mississippi and needed money. We thought there would be a lot of groups and individuals who would be willing to give \$10 a week to a volunteer. But after assigning about 44 people to different Northern groups, it became harder and harder to get people to say they would support a worker.

The Freedom Force idea was mentioned to the Friends of SNCC groups and a mailing was sent to all ministers who worked in Mississippi, all the organizations and groups who had given recent contributions, with the idea that they would want to send money. There has been no answer from them yet. I also sent a plea to the Friends groups begging them to start trying to get people to send money.

The present procedure for getting subsistence to volunteers is:

- a. The names of the people who need money are sent to Barbara Jones.
- b. These names are matched with groups who want to support volunteers.

But it takes a long time between giving your name and getting the money because first you have to see if the groups can give money, that is see if they can get people to give money. Secondly, you give the group the name of a person who needs money. Thirdly, you sit back and wait for a week and then see if the person who needs the money has gotten it.

A lot of the problems in the Freedom Force now are a result from a new person handling it. Betty Garman did most of it until two weeks ago, then she turned it over to me. It would help me if the people who work in Miss. but come from other states would try to think of groups or people at school or in their community who would give money if you asked for it. Maybe you could send those names to Atlanta or write to them yourself and let Atlanta know when you do. If anyone can think of anyway to make the procedure work better, please discuss it at your meeting and let me know.