

TO: *Southern Staff*  
FROM: *Judi Nusbalum*

SUBJECT: *Research Program*  
DATE: *December 3, 1964*

The first month of the research program was spent primarily in accumulating and evaluating information and material on federal programs, facts about Louisiana, etc. Since then I have begun to present material to the field staff. We now have a growing reference library, with at least some material on every major government program, and statistical information (including census reports) on Louisiana, each individual parish, and some on most other southern states. There is a complete publication index - a card file on all publications in this office including the smallest pamphlets. This file is indexed by topic, and is cross filed. We have several good lists of contacts for all types of information, a large file of lists of local officials in Louisiana Parishes - usually in rural agencies. A file is kept on each parish in Louisiana, and each of twelve southern states. News releases from the U.S. Depts. of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, and Health, Education and Welfare are selected for importance, filed by date and department, and listed on a special index.

A major problem has been selecting the material to send to the field, from the many items that have been accumulated. I don't want to send you a lot of irrelevant material and pass on to you the job of sorting and selecting, which should be done by this office. However, I find that I am limited by my lack of field experience, and so far have had to use guess-work in selecting the information to be distributed. I have been encouraging the field staff to communicate with me - to criticize, comment, request, etc. and hope to hear from you.

The following list includes all items sent directly to the staff in the field by the research office:

- I. The following items were initiated by the research program and distributed to all Louisiana Staff -
  - a. Louisiana Data - 17 Parishes - a 31-page handbook of statistical and other information about 17 parishes of Louisiana (at the time the handbook was prepared, CORE was working in only 17 parishes); includes names and addresses of local rural officials; population, education, agricultural and other statistics, and a large section on federal programs which includes several pages on ASCS
  - b. Information Letters No. 1, 2, and 3 - supplements to handbook; now contains information on 25 parishes; as relevant information comes in, I put it in the information letters rather than sending out too-frequent notices. These letters will be sent whenever a sufficient amount of material is collected, or when there is a time limit on a certain item. They include such information as voter registration statistics, ASCS information, Rural Area Development Programs, etc.
- II. The following special notices have been sent to staff members from the research office:-
  - a. Notice on federal disaster relief to Louisiana parishes after hurricane (information received from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture press release; 500 copies distributed to workers in 15 involved parishes)
  - b. Notice on federal grants to libraries (information received from U.S. Dept. of HEW press release; sent to staff in several southern states)

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- c. Notice on special conservation aid to 10 counties in North Carolina (information received from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture press release; sent to Rev. Cox in N.C.)
- d. Notice on applications being accepted in Public Housing Project in Ponchatoula, La. (information received from news article; sent to Ronnie Moore)

III. The following reports were prepared on request

- a. Facts About Plaquemines - statistical information; supplement to handbook for parish not included in original 17 (requested by Ronnie Moore)
- b. Facts about Caddo - statistical information; supplement to handbook for parish not included in original 17 (requested by Oretha Castle)
- c. Facts About Bossier and DeSoto - statistical information; supplement to handbook for parishes not included in original 17 (requested by Oretha Castle, copy requested by Claudia Edwards)
- d. Non-White Population - Statistics for Louisiana - information (voting potential and registration, population, etc.) for parishes having more than 25% non-white population (requested by Stu House, COFO)

All the above requests were made by people who were visiting the New Orleans Office - no written requests have come from the field.

The most immediate project of the Research Program is preparing a packet of material on federal programs for distribution to all southern staff. I have selected the best publications on all major programs, and have ordered multiple copies for inclusion in the packet. When multiple copies are not available, I am copying the material on stencils. A problem in this project is getting enough money for folders to put the material in. This packet will provide a good reference source on federal programs for field staff, and will also direct you to further information. More detailed information will also be available from this office. The packet will give you enough information to determine what programs you want to look further into so that your requests for information from me or the agencies involved can be specific.

I am also preparing a report on Orleans parish for New Orleans CORE, for use in their effort to obtain funds under the anti-poverty program for the community center they plan to develop.

I am hoping to hold workshops on some of the most important programs, such as the Anti-poverty Program and ASCS, but have not made any definite plans.

I am also attempting to develop a file evaluating films that are available to us, but have only used one so far - a not-too-good film on co-ops in St. Francisville. I have several lists of films that are available for little or no charge which I will order on request, although I do not know how good they are. Field staff needing films on specific subjects, especially concerning farming, should notify this office.

At present, the direction of the research department has depended primarily on the information received here. I hope that in the future it will be more directly influenced by the needs of the field staff, but that, of course, is up to you.