

PROPOSED FIELDS OF WORK FOR SCEF IN PERIOD AHEAD

The following areas of work were discussed as possible concentration points by the SCEF staff at its meeting in the summer of 1963. The staff decided at that time to recommend this program to the board and, if approved, to use the program as a guideline in its work. It is understood, of course, that it might not be able to carry out all of the proposed points, depending on money and manpower available. Because of the emergency nature of the fall, 1963, board meeting and the fact that it dealt almost entirely with the new attacks on SCEF, there was not time to present these proposals for discussion. They seem, however, just as valid in the spring of 1964 as they did when adopted by the staff---with the obvious addition of a point on a fight-back program around the SCEF case itself (this actually would come under Point 4 of the original proposals).

1. Assist in development of economic programs where needed---such as coops, credit unions, home industries, development corporations to attract industry, etc. (The need for this has been especially evident in West Tennessee and Mississippi, and SCEF has already done some work along these lines.)
2. Assist in more and better interpretation of the integration movement, its goals, etc., to the general public---leaflets brochures, etc., especially in crisis situations. A great need.
3. Expand the Patriot as soon as feasible, by attempting to double the circulation with an eye toward increasing the frequency to twice monthly.
4. Continue program of education in civil liberties and the relationship of civil liberties to civil rights. More workshops such as one held in Atlanta last summer.
5. Legislative activity, building grass roots support for civil rights legislation, national, state, and local. The Western States project was a program along this line.
6. Political activity--support for civil rights candidates on a non-partisan basis, building political activity at the grass-roots. Some of this is already in progress.
7. Helping, through education and the stimulation of idea exchange, to broaden the objectives of the movement to encompass political and economic issues, general reform of society.
8. Parochial visitation---that is, individual contact with people, building a framework and a network of key people in communities across the South, people who can be moved into simultaneous action when issues call for it and who can have some manner of contact with each other.

9. Encouragement and help of militant local movements where possible.

10. Encouragement and help to labor movement and peace movement in the South, where possible.

It is obvious that most of these fields of work are ones in which SCEF has already worked in varying degrees. Formalizing them into a program simply gives the staff a clearer framework in which to work.

The staff also discussed the need for SCEF to strengthen its own organizational structure. For a number of reasons, in line with the board discussion at Gatlinburg in the fall of 1962 it was not ready to recommend a membership organization as a way of doing this. Rather it recommended the systematic building up of a list of key persons with whom regular contact would be kept---possibly through about one action mailing month. (This is in line with Point 8 above.) A goal was set that we try in the immediate future to find at least one key person in each main city to fit into this framework, or about 5 to 10 to a state. The hope would be that these key people would commit themselves to reaching other people and organizations in their communities on various issues as they arise. This list would reach into states outside the South too, but a special organizing effort would be made to build the key list by personal contact within the Southern and Border states. The staff agreed that to do this effectively it needed more people and a division of the South into approximately four areas for such work.

The above organizational work has not really been implemented, except in a haphazard way here and there, at least partly because of the confusion and emergency needs created by the raids and arrests in New Orleans. It still seems valid and needed, however, whenever it becomes possible to implement it.

Another decision at this staff meeting was that in order to implement SCEF's expanded plans each member of the staff commit himself to spend a certain portion of the year, at least two or three months, to intensive fund-raising. It appears that this will be even more necessary in the coming year.