

[1965, May?]

SUMMER PROJECT DIRECTION

The intent of the summer project is to reach more deeply and widely into the problems that face the Negro Community and develop indigenous local leadership to deal with the problems through basic community organization.

The focus of the project is to be on developing local community structures rather than pre-selected program implementation.

Organizing communities around both their immediate needs and long range goals is the best way to get local people to help themselves. Thus, if desegregation of public facilities rather than participation in the ASC election is what a community wants to do, then staff should assist in that program, putting their knowledge and past experience at the service of that community. Rather than specific and uniform accomplishments across the state to conform to a program outline, the goal is total community organization toward whatever specifics the community chooses. Rather than institutors of pre-selected programs, the staff should present the full array of alternatives and allow the community to shape its own individual project. No matter how much a civil rights staff does in a community, success will ultimately rest with the people of the community.

Programmatic Suggestions for Developing Community Structures

I. Voter Registration and Politically Oriented Community Organization

The traditional methods of voter registration-clinics, canvassing, rallies, freedom days, etc. may be used as organizational devices or suggestions for programmatic alternatives. In some communities, precinct meetings to discuss immediate community needs may be of some local interest. In such a case, local per-

sons can be guided toward taking both legal and political action to satisfy their needs.

With the exception of voter registration and local elections in which certain communities may want to be come involved (staff should report if there are local elections in their communities), there are no political activities as such planned for the summer. But the distinction must be made between political programs and political organization. Almost any kind of community organization can turn its interest to a political problem. In fact, it is likely that a local organization which chose to have covered sewers installed in the Negro community or to have better streets or playgrounds would soon turn of its own accord to some kind of political involvement.

Staff is considering the possibility of challenging the Congressional delegation from 4, 5, 6, and 8 districts of Louisiana in 1966. Legal research on the feasibility of such a project is imperative. Challenges or not, basic community organization must begin now in parishes of the said congressional districts.

The entire summer project is a multilateral program. The staff must relate the problems of the community and the programs which can help them to the long range goal of our struggle. The importance of using every program and activity as an instrument of education can hardly be over-emphasized. Yet, it can not be forced. The only meaningful organization and program must at lease be based on, if not emate from, strong local structure and not a superstructure of staff and lawyers.

The summer program is designed for flexibility; the plan to have local people shape to as large an extent as possible. The summer project in their community is designed to maximize their interest and should therefore maximize their ability to learn and relate their interests to overall objective of our stride.

II. Economic and Poverty Program

A. Farmers Leagues

An organization of farmers to deal with their problems.

It can provide a means through which farmers can acquire knowledge about existing federal programs that affect them and how to participate in such programs. The Louisiana ASC elections are held in August giving the summer project a valuable opportunity to work with farmers who want to participate in them and to form leagues as a vehicle for such work. Also for FHA and Agriculture Department loans, and programs under the anti-poverty bill.

B. Employment

Breaking down barriers of employers and unions (use of boycotts, etc.) and getting training under federal programs.

C. Food and Welfare

To assist those who have suffered reprisals from civil rights activities, the food and welfare program attempts to provide sufficient subsistence that these people will now be obliged to give in to segregationist pressure. Staff feels that the program should be directed toward improving

the lot of poor Negroes. The resources for this program are obtained from donations and from such federal agencies as the food-stamp program. Solicitation, transportation, storage, and distribution of these goods are all problems.

A community committee to distribute food and clothing might never need to deal with political issues to simply carry out that function. But it ~~should~~. When those materials are given out the community distributors and recipients should have to think why it is necessary; why didn't the federal government help them? Why are they poor? The staff should inform the community of the federal programs that would enable the people to receive the same materials, administered by the local government, or if they refuse, by a special group set up to receive that kind of federal assistance.

III. Education

A community center may house a number of programs: library, game-room, nursery, drama group, art program - according to the needs, resources and imagination of the locale. The freedom school can be a part of the community center or a separate operation covering basic literacy, self-expression, academic subjects, Negro history, current events-government-politics. Adults literacy programs, Negro history classes, among others, are some that could be conducted either by the freedom school or the community center.

IV. Desegregation

Where communities wish there are three major areas in which they can do desegregation work: public facilities, public accommodations and school. The movement is rich in some tactics for this kind of work but new and more effective ones should be sought, such as a comprehensive testing program combined with an omnibus suit against a city or parish.

V. Medical Assistance

There will be an attempt to recruit volunteer doctors the Medical Committee for Human Rights to come into the state and give medical assistance to staff and poor people. Included where if possible will be medical examinations, prenatal care, health practices, administration of drugs, dietary supplements (vitamins, etc.) and surveying the existing community health and sometimes welfare facilities.

VI. Legal Action

The legal actions mentioned above do not cover the whole range of possible actions. Other can include cut off of federal funds to discriminatory state and local agencies, assist in preparing legal challenges of elections, seek measures such as restraining orders against sheriffs and local citizens who harass and intimidate workers and local people from exercising legal rights, and others.

VII. Area - Twelve (12) Parish Bases (other parishes will be worked from bases)

Bases

1. Fifth Congressional District

a. Ouachita

- b. Concordia
- c. Morehouse or Union
- 2. Fourth Congressional District
 - a. Caddo
 - b. Claiborne
 - c. Bienville
- 3. Eighth Congressional District
 - a. Rapides
 - b. Natchitoches
- 4. Sixth Congressional District
 - a. Iberville
 - b. East Baton Rouge
 - c. East Feliciana
- 5. First Congressional District
 - a. Plaquemines

VIII. Training Session

- A. Place - Plaquemine, Louisiana
- B. Arrival of workers - June 5, 1965
- C. Training period - June 6-13, 1965
- D. Agenda to follow

PROJECT ESSENTIALS

- I. Forty-four (44) subsistent staff workers - emphasis on Negro Louisiana College Students.
- II. Thirteen (13) project cars - One car for each base
- III. Forty (40) Self-supporting volunteers to serve as Freedom

School teachers, to work in Plaquemine Parish and other hard areas needing additional staff, to implement certain phases of the program necessitating specific talents.

IV. Budget

A.	10,000 voter registration form sets .	\$1,000.00
B.	Office Supplies for 12 Bases (Est. \$100.00 per month per base for 82 days - \$250.00 per base)	3,000.00
C.	Telephone - same basis as under subtopic B Two way radio system would help	3,000.00
D.	44 workers - housing and food to run \$2.50 per day totaling \$110.00 per day equaling for 82 day period..... (Self-supporting volunteer cars)	9,020.00
E.	13-cars-gas and care of cars to run \$5.00 per day, per car totaling \$65.00 per day - 82 days period	5,330.00
F.	Car Rental (Excluding five project cars) 8 cars for 2½ months would run \$600.00 per car	4,800.00
G.	Gas and maintenance for volunteer cars	1,500.00
H.	Miscellaneous Traffic violation fee, minor bond, etc.	<u>1,500.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$29,150.00