

Sent to Julian Bond ✓

Jim Forman

Cleve Sellers ✓

Cluck Hamilton

Operation Bootstrap

A six month program to establish 3-4 new community centers in Mississippi, making maximum use of community resources, and training personnel for construction and development of a program. Divided into 2 phases, 3 months of school and 3 months on location.

Pres. Horne

Jesse Harris

Louis Jones

Braceal

Step 1: Meet with local Movement people in different counties which have shown interest in development of a community center program. Determine local readiness to procure land and raise funds. Interview local people who, with training, could build, develop a program, and operate a center.

Step 2: Recruit 20-30 people (7-8 from each community). Each candidate to have some general leadership potential and organizational know-how. 2-3 in each group to have the kind of aptitude which, with some training, could result in sufficient skill to organize and lead in the erection of a facility. If possible, one should be a local carpenter.

3. Training Program - 3 aspects

- 1) Building construction
- 2) Community center program, organization and administration
- 3) The Movement

All students to receive training in all 3 aspects, with special training in that aspect which they are particularly suited for.

The school will construct an actual center on location,  
or to be delivered and erected in sections elsewhere.

4. Site for School

Must have facility for feeding and housing students  
and instructors

Must have classroom facility

Should satisfy minimum security requirements

Suggested sites:

- a) Adjacent to Mileston Community Center
- b) U.S. Government property
- c) Negro college campus
- d) Actual community center building site

5. Instructors

- a) Construction - skilled Mississippians (Movement people), plus perhaps 1-2 from the North
- b) Community Center - people with some community center experience in Mississippi, plus some carefully selected Northerners
- c) The Movement - Classes by Negro teachers  
Lectures and discussion with Movement leaders  
Workshops - organized with the help of Highlander Folk Center

6. Finances

Approximate cost of program, including buildings:

\$35-40,000.

Sources

- 1) Raising funds in local community to be matched dollar for dollar by Northern sponsoring organizations, like churches or community centers.

2) Grants from private foundations.

3) Government funds for Demonstration Projects under Anti-Poverty Bill?

7. General Organization

Operation to be conducted by Training Committee, consisting of Executive Director, Program Director, some key instructors, and one strong person from each of the 3-4 areas to be worked in.

8. Job of Executive Director - Key to starting the Program

1) Organize Training Committee and supervise its activities

*Training Comm. helps* →

2) Investigate local community, get commitments, interview students

*Shd be separate* →

3) Coordinate national support for Program

This will be a full-time job, and should cost \$3,500 for subsistence, travel and correspondence. Candidates should be Mississippi Negroes if possible, or Negroes who have worked in Mississippi for some time. Northern Negro candidates will also be considered.