

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

To: SNCC staff, FDP, county movements, everybody
From: Betty Garman, SNCC federal programs...

In April 1965 the Congress passed a new EDUCATION ACT. This new law does many things. MOST IMPORTANT, THE ACT GIVES MONEY TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR EDUCATION TO HELP "LOW INCOME" CHILDREN -- or what they call "culturally deprived" children.

MOST COUNTIES (and school districts) IN THE SOUTH GET A WHOLE LOT OF MONEY UNDER THIS NEW ACT. For example, some counties in Mississippi and Arkansas get as much as ONE MILLION DOLLARS to help educate poor children.

Below is a summary of the Act, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY YOUR COUNTY GETS under Title I (the part of the money for poor kids), plus some thoughts...

THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

TITLE I. This section gives money to school districts for education to help poor children. The total amount of money for the whole country is one billion, sixty million dollars. The more poor kids living in a school district, the more money it gets. YOU KNOW THAT THE SOUTH GETS ALOT OF MONEY!! (In the Act "low income" or poor children are those who live in families making less than \$2,000 a year.)

YOUR COUNTY (_____) can get as much as \$ _____ children in
name /families (from
under Title I. This is based on _____
US Census figures) making less than \$2,000 a year in your county. If there is more than one school district in your county, then the money will get divided up according to how many poor kids are in each school district.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL BOARD GET THE MONEY? The School Board in your are must send a plan for using the money to the State Board of Education. The State Board will approve the plan for using the money -- and is supposed to reject the plan if it does not meet the educational needs of poor children.

HOW MAY THE SCHOOL BOARD SPENDTHE MONEY? The Act is very broad. It really says that the mney can be spent on anything (except things like a gymnasium which will be used to make profit, etc). The Act was passed this way to allow local school districts to do anything for their area which they thought would help poor kids. So, the money could be used for libraries, free text books, free lunches, science labs, reading classes, newteachers, new classrooms, health centers -- ANYTHING WHICH WILL HELP POOR KIDS. It is likely that, in the North, school districts will plan new programs and will experiment with new ideas. In the South, though, since there is so much wrong with the Negro school, school boards will probably use the money to make the regular program better.

WHO IS THE MONEY SUPPOSED TO BE SPENT ON? The Act says that the money is to help poor children. But the rules for enforcing the Act say the money must be spent "primarily" on poor children. Thus, the money could be spent on one group of poor children (whites) in a district -- or it could be spent in one school in the distric with only some poor children in it. This is where you come in....

BECAUSE YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS MONEY NOW, THE SCHOOL BOARD AND WHITE PEOPLE WHO RUN YOUR COUNTY CAN'T FOOL YOU. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW HOW THIS MONEY WILL BE SPENT.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO TALK ABOUT HOW IT SHOULD BE SPENT AND TO DEMAND THAT IT IS SPENT THE WAY YOU WANT. THE MONEY IS FOR YOUR CHILDREN! over...

MAKE SURE YOU FIND OUT WHAT THE SCHOOL BOARD IS PLANNING. Maybe it would be a good idea to get parents and students in your town to meet and talk about how they think the money should be spent -- and then go and see the school board, the PTA folks, and the principals. AFTER ALL, WHAT PEOPLE KNOW BEST WHAT THEY NEED IN THEIR SCHOOLS? Certainly not the white people who have never set foot on your side of town and never have seen the inside of your schools! The students who go to the school and the parents of those children know best. THAT MEANS YOU.

There are four other parts of the Act. They are outlined below. They will help to supply schools with a little bit more money for certain things -- but remember that most of the money comes under Title I which was explained above. Also, the money under these sections is for all children -- not just poor children.

TITLE II. This section of the Act gives money for helping to build libraries and to give free text books. Each state in the South gets about one million dollars here and that gets divided up among the school districts. So, each district might get around \$10,000. The one important thing here is that STUDENTS CANNOT BE CHARGED MONEY FOR BOOKS BOUGHT BY THIS MONEY.

TITLE III. This section gives money to each state for building "additional educational services or centers". So, the state could use this money for science labs or health centers or anything like that. Again, since each state gets around one million dollars under this section, each district will get around \$10,000.

TITLE IV. This section gives money to individuals to do special studies on new education ideas and programs. It will go to teachers and graduate students at colleges to do research work.

TITLE V. This money goes only to State Departments of Education. They are supposed to use it to hire more workers so that they can take care of all the new education money under the first three sections of the Act. For example, they can hire people with special skills to get new ideas for helping poor children get a better education...if they care about that.

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ACT -- or have any questions of any kind, please write to me:

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