

TO: SNCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FROM: BRUCE GORDON
RE: TIGHTENING PRESENT PROJECTS, BEGINNING NEW PROGRAMS

ATLANTA OFFICE

The Atlanta office should operate on a 24 hour day basis for the following reasons:

- 1) to keep lines of communication open to people in the field to enhance their effectiveness
- 2) to provide Atlanta office with more effective control and co-ordination of field operations
- 3) to provide a constant flow of up-to-the-minute information to the Atlanta office

All of these measures will save the Atlanta office time in making decisions and in making them more effective; they will provide the field workers with vital information and guidance, plus add greatly to the efficiency of the Atlanta office. Two to three persons could easily work the office through the night. At least one should have authority to make decisions in case an emergency should arise. Office work left over from the day could be brought up to date and more complete news coverage could be ensured.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- I. The possibility of producing an organization newspaper was brought up during the executive committee meeting September 6. If it is definitely decided to undertake such an endeavor I would like to suggest that SNCC seek the services of Mr. John Kifner whom I had the pleasure of working with in the Savannah Movement. Mr. Kifner did an amazing job of producing a newspaper for the Savannah Movement under very trying circumstances. His successful accomplishment of producing this newspaper attests to Mr. Kifner's great ability, stamina and drive. I think that he would surely be an asset to the SNCC team.
- II. The possibility of unionizing the Negro labor forces in the South would be of immeasurable value to this revolution. It would be a tremendous step in giving the Southern Negro greater economic power. I have already embarked on a program, through the Savannah Movement, to explore the possibilities of institution such a program on a local level and expanding such a program throughout the South through our organization.

The following is what has been accomplished: I got in contact with the workers of a certain produce company, through one of the members of the Savannah Movement, and held a meeting to see if a union could be established at their company. The men made up a list of working conditions, pay scale, and general suggestions that they would like to have changed or instituted at their place of work. The following facts were also established:

- a) Negroes made up 85% of the labor force.
- b) The workers were willing to have a union
- c) The workers wanted some safeguard against the loss of their jobs through union efforts

I then proceeded to do the following:

- 1) sent letters to AFL-CIO informing them of the program
- 2) put one of the local men in charge
- 3) sent letters to the Department of Labor asking suggestions and guidance
- 4) informed the men to get a list of all employees desiring a union

The following has been accomplished to date:

The AFL-CIO has sent a written promise to these men for legal aid in case of the companies taking illegal action against them for their efforts. The company has been informed of the workers' plans to form a union. Josh Crofton is in the process of being hired by the AFL-CIO as an organizer for the Savannah area. Mr. Crofton would like to work for SNCC also, organizing in areas that SNCC would think such a program is worth while. I am trying to work out some arrangements with the AFL-CIO now so that Mr. Crofton can work in areas where SNCC is active with the AFL-CIO going Mr. Crofton's expenses. I will report further as soon as I have more information at my disposal.

In reference to efforts along this line that have been successfully executed here in Atlanta, I would like to work with unionizing here in Atlanta through ~~EMENE~~ the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights to gain further information for future operations, both here and elsewhere.

III. SUPPLIES TO MISSISSIPPI

I am sure that we ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ are all familiar with our efforts and the efforts on the part of the people of Mississippi in this struggle. Therefore, I would like to make this final suggestion to aid these people in this struggle: A system of supplying these people should be instituted. The following are detailed suggestions:

- 1) a warehouse should be rented here in Atlanta (or some other city) and staffed
- 2) transportation and communications systems established, staffed and tested
- 3) aid enlisted from northern and western states
- 4) execution

The warehouse would necessarily have to have at least ----- rooms of at least----- dimensions. These rooms would be utilized ~~in~~ for the following processes:

- 1) intake: all goods brought in would be taken here, unloaded, sorted according to quantity and contents of food stuffs, according to size of clothing, according to category of books. Clothing will also be sorted to determine ~~xxxx~~ whether it is ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ dirty or too worn to pass on, and food stuffs will be examined to see that cans and packages are not damaged.
- 2) processing: all goods will be taken here to be packed for sending. Units of food will be packed for families 5, and 9. ~~xxxxxx~~ These packages will be packed to last for 4 and for 7 days. The food will be balanced ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ so that the receivers will have a balanced diet. There will also be packages packed for babies up to one year old

WHERE WAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ?

- ...When Slater King was kicked and shoved in an Albany, Georgia jail in December 1961 ?
- ...When his wife was knocked down and kicked unconscious by ~~public officials~~ law officers in Camilla, Georgia in July 1962 while in her sixth month of pregnancy ?
- ...When his brother was beaten by Sheriff Campbell in Albany, Georgia in July 1962 ?

None of the local officials who committed these acts of brutality and deprivations of constitutional rights will serve a day in jail. But Slater King now faces five years in jail as a result of the action of the federal government when it had King and eight other integration leaders from Albany indicted by a grand jury in Macon, Ga. in August of this year.

--- WHERE WAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ?

On October 7, 1963 in Selma, Alabama, FBI men and members of the Justice Department watched as two voter registration workers were beaten by 15 Alabama state troopers. The voter workers had gone to take sandwiches to persons who had been standing in line all day waiting to register and vote in a county where although 58 percent of the population is Negro, only 1.7 percent of the eligible Negroes are registered. (See 1963 Civil Rights Commission Report.)

WHERE WAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ?

-When four integration workers were jailed under an insurrection charge that carries a possible death penalty in Americus, Georgia on August 8.

11 Senators and Representatives have asked the federal government to act on the basis of its finding in Americus. One of them, Senator Harrison Williams, of New Jersey, made a speech on the floor of the Senate about the young SNCC and CORE workers who are held without bail on a charge which the Solicitor General of Americus admittedly brought "to deny the defendants, or ask the court to deny them bond." (Atlanta Constitution October 21, 1963.)

The young men had been in Americus working on a voter registration campaign. Two of them were beaten by law officials.

In reply to these Congressmen, the Justice Department has consistently stated that it is "investigating." ~~They~~ These students have been in jail since the beginning of August and may remain there many more months without bail.

(The Congressmen are: Senators Gordon Allott and Peter Dominick, ~~and~~ and Representative Byron Rogers of Colorado; Senators Clifford Case and Harrison Williams of New Jersey; Senator Jacob Javits and Rep. William Fitts Ryan of New York; Senator Leverett Saltonstall ~~and~~ ~~and~~ Senator Sam Erwin of N.C.; ~~and~~ Senator Thomas Kuchel of California; and in addition, Governor John Dempsey of Conn.)

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