

Why Your Support is Necessary

The work being done by the SNCC workers in the South falls into three main categories, voter registration, freedom schools, and community centres. It must be realized that the central aim of the whole project in the South is to overcome discrimination by means of and within Federal and State Laws. The workers are trying to achieve the aim of economic and political integration of the negro ^{in a peaceful} peaceably. The tactics of the opposition range from verbal abuse and economic sanctions to murder and acts of terror by private citizens, and from indifference to outright perversion of justice and authority at the local and state levels.

Classes in voter registration are needed because of the unreasonable requirements made of potential voters. For example, in Mississippi, a potential registrant may be challenged as to his memory and understanding of all 282 sections of the Constitution of Mississippi. Few white voters, if any, would be able to pass this test if rigorously applied to them. However, testing is at the complete discretion of the local registrar of voters.

Freedom schools are needed to supplement the meagre schooling afforded negro areas by the State and local legislatures. Also, they are needed to give the negro student a balanced viewpoint in history and the social sciences.

Community Centers fill a number of important roles. They try to provide the elementary social services commonly accepted in other areas of the United States. For example, pre and post-natal care, infant care, hygiene, vocational training and community recreation. In addition, law students are on hand to give

free legal aid and to use the law as much as possible to protect worker's and negro's legal rights.

Now that the national publicity has subsided and the Southern opposition no longer feel the need to resist voter registration at all costs, the SNNC workers have their best chance of success. A man with political rights and recourse to the law does not feel the need to act violently. Thus for the sake of both white and negro it is important to press for the political rights of the negroes.

The SNNC workers in the South work all day seven days a week. They have given all, including at times their own food and clothing. They suffer personal abuse, continual harassment by the authorities, physical violence and daily run the risk of being bombed or shot. Most are students or graduates who have given up the chance of taking up lucrative careers for this fight.

They are completely dependent on voluntary funds. Many other groups and organisations have decided to "adopt" workers by sending them a weekly sum of \$10.00. The officers of John R. Commons have agreed that the club should sponsor this worthwhile project. As others have given, are giving, and will give so much, we know that you will contribute and so aid them in their struggle

Yours sincerely,

~~Pres. John R. Commons~~ Club ----- John Austen
~~Vice-Pres.~~ " " ----- James Ramsey
~~Sec.-Treas.~~ " " ----- Robert Dills

The Executive Committee
John R. Commons