

A Brief Description of Each Element of the CORE Southern Program
To Be Included in the January Workshop (1965)

Community Organization. This is not really a programmatic item, but a technique to be used in all the CORE programs. The technique centers around our efforts to determine:

1. What socio-economic problems are most important to members of the Negro community? (*)
2. How can we adapt CORE's ideas and resources to those needs?

(*) For instance, CORE southern staff tends to regard public accommodations campaigns as superficial compared to such fundamental concerns as job-training. But it is recognized that success in the latter may only be achieved by using public accommodations as a means of establishing solid rapport with the people.

Food and Welfare Program. Many Negroes have lost jobs, customers or local credit because of their participation in the civil rights struggle. Others, already unfortunate, have been dropped from subsistence programs or relief rolls. The CORE Food and Welfare Program attempts to provide sufficient subsistence that these people will not be obliged to give in to segregationist pressure to "Come back in and be a good boy." 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.

Community Center. This may house any number of programs: library, game-rooms, freedom school, nursery, adult literacy program, etc. Its function varies according to needs, available resources and imagination.

Freedom Schools. This institution usually works on a four-point program: basic literacy, communication and mathematics; Negro history; human relations in the immediate community and in American life generally; popular subjects not included in the current curriculum of local Negro schools. In most instances the Freedom School draws exclusively from the teen-age group.

Political Education. There are three areas of inquiry: procedures of voter registration, study of local and state government and local organization for most effective use of the ballot.

Federal Programs. Up to now, most of our concern has been in those programs designed to help rural people. Still to be explored are federal assistance in housing, job-training, community welfare and all the elements of the Economic Opportunities Act.

CORE Policy and Procedures. There are not many CORE chapters in the South. In Mississippi, COFO is a more familiar organization than CORE. The "Project" (Canton, Meridian, etc.) has developed its own modus operandi. Thus it is necessary to acquaint the staff members with many particulars of the organization of CORE.