

March 23

To: Friends of SNCC

I want to pass an idea on to you -- it was used in Westport, Conn. at a house party to raise money for Ruleville. I'll quot directly from Tracy Sugarman's letter:

"We auctioned the drawings (his) in a "Chinese" auction. This is a great fund-raising gimmick, and perhaps you can pass the notion on. We set up a table full of pennies and small silver and encouraged everyone to make change for the auction. Six ladies with baskets ranged around through the room, so no one was more than a few steps from the basket. Bidding starts at 1¢. The bidder throws his penny in the nearest basket. The next bidder calls out 2¢ and throws 2¢ to the nearest basket.

The bidding goes up one cent at a time. The arithmetic works out like this: If the item finally sells for one dollar, you have already collected \$50.00 in pennies! Nobody gets hurt, you make alot of dough, somebody gets something worth much more for a few bucks, and everybody has fun.."

I'm passing this particular "Chinese" auction idea on because it is slightly different than all the others I've ever heard about or seen done...and it seems this would be applicable to some of the fund raising affairs you all will be doing.

Incidentally -- at some point we hope to send out a whole lot of such ideas...and you can help by writing up anything which you feel ought to be passed on to others...

freedom,

Betty G.