

To: Summer Volunteers
From: Esther Heifetz, Northern Campus Coordinator

SUMMER PROGRAM---

Enclosed is a brochure describing our summer program for 1965. The emphasis is on the Washington lobby. We hope to have 1,000 students in Washington to lobby for the MFDP Challenge. The plans for the Lobby look very good. Students will come for ten days at a time, June 13 to June 23 and June 24 to July 4. For the most part the morning will be spent in lobbying. Each afternoon an evaluation of the lobby activity will take place, plus discussions of the next day's efforts. Decisions will then be made about approaches to various Congressmen and some students will be asked to return home for shorter or longer periods to mobilize support in their local district.

Some time in the afternoons will be spent in freedom school situations where various aspects of the movement and the federal government's relation to the South will be discussed. Students may also attend committee meetings and other government sessions depending on what is relevant to their experiences in Washington. Evening sessions will be a kind of orientation for work in the South, but the information and discussions will be geared more toward having students raise questions about the movement, about society, about government, etc.

Enclosed is an application for the Washington Lobby. You should work to recruit local support for the lobby and getting students interested in it. Having spent a summer in Mississippi, you understand the significance and importance of the MFDP Challenge; you should relate this on to your fellow students....in order to see the importance of the Washington lobby, they must first understand the significance of the Challenge.

NEW ELECTIONS---

As it presently stands the voting bill does not speak very tellingly to the problems of violence, intimidation, economic harassment and terrorism which have been traditionally used to obstruct the right of Negroes to vote. The necessity for rapid internal changes in local political offices has been seen as a partial solution to this problem. Therefore SNCC has called for NEW ELECTIONS as a part of the voting right bill.

Many of the states most affected by the bill will not hold state or local elections for two or more years, which means that the bill will be ineffective for the next few years.

- 1) In Alabama the terms of all state and some county officials will not expire until November, 1966. All others expire in 1968.
- 2) Georgia county officers will not stand for election until November 1968.
- 3) The Louisiana general election for county officials will be held in April of 1968.
- 4) Mississippi county and state officials are re-elected in August of 1967. City officials are elected in May and June of 1965, just before the voting bill gets through Congress.

We call for new elections to be held no sooner than six and no later than nine months after the appointment of federal registrars. For within this time, with simple registration procedures and adequate personnel, thousands of southern Negroes can be registered.

You should work to see that the people of your community understand why this call for free elections is being made and get them to begin writing letters and sending telegrams to their congressmen calling for an amendment to the voting bill which will provide for new elections.

The week of May 9-16 students across the county will be having coordinated demonstrations calling for free elections. You should work on your campus to get these going -- rallies, picket lines at local federal buildings, teach-ins, seminars, discussions. The reason for these demonstrations is to put the need for free elections into the public's attention. A continuous educational process should be going on.

ADDRESS CHANGES---

Summer is coming and many of you will be changing residences, if you care to continue receiving mailings from us, please let us know soon of where your summer residence will be.

BOMBINGS IN INDIANOLA---

April 10 a Federal Court issued an injunction in Sunflower County, Mississippi which allows people to register without any literacy test except for copying down four lines of the Constitution. No interpretation is required. The injunction will last a year. The FDP has been having a full scale voter registration program going on since the injunction was issued. As a result four places in Indianola were fire bombed on the morning of May 1 in quick succession. The first place to be hit was the freedom house. Then minutes later the home of Mrs. Magrauder, a Negro woman who was the first person in Indianola to house civil rights workers, was bombed. There were six people asleep in the house when the bombs were thrown. They managed to get out unhurt, but the house was almost completely destroyed. The third target for the fire bombers was the store of Mr. Oscar Giles, a member of the State FDP Executive Committee, and the first person in Indianola associated with the movement. With the help of his neighbors, Giles was able to put out the fire before the fire engines arrived, but the store was almost a total loss. The fourth target for the morning was the home of Mr. Dougly Wilder, another Negro active with the movement. His home was totally destroyed.

The bombings occurred on Saturday, the previous Thursday an article in a local paper entitled "a hint to the white people of Indianola and Sunflower County" had talked about the injunction and ended with a statement that we must do something, not be apathetic, registrar. It is demonstrated here why we are calling for free elections after passage of the voting bill, without a change of local officials intimidation and violence will increase every day.

Indianola would like people to come down to help registrar people. You should come beginning May 4, must stay at least a week, and must have a car for every five people. Contact Fred Winn, 1112 in Indianola.