

July 16, 1965

Memo to Friends of SNCC regarding the Poor People's Corporation

The Poor Peoples Corporation is an organization that has formed for the purposes of enabling low-income people to receive the financial and technical assistance that they need in order to initiate self-help groups (cooperatives, improvement associations, etc.) that are designed to off-set some of the effects of poverty.

The enclosed paper answers questions that have been raised about the PPC.

The Poor Peoples Corporation raises money from sympathetic contributors. It issues what is called a Freedom Bond (in \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$500 denominations) and solicits general contributions.

Additional information on the PPC can be obtained from Jesse Morris, P.O. Box 977, Jackson, Mississippi. Here you can obtain fund-raising brochures and letters.

The PPC is now in need of people with wood working, leather, jewelry and sewing skills, who would be willing to go to Mississippi and train small groups in production of certain things. There is going to be a central mail-order house in Jackson, but you all should work on finding people who will be interested in ordering the items produced by the PPC.

In August the Poor Peoples Corporation will hold its first meeting. At that time it will be decided what products are to be produced: shirts, hats, quilts, skirts....

For now you should be informing people about the existence of the PPC and soliciting funds for the revolving fund.

All contributions should be sent to POOR PEOPLE'S CORPORATION

PO BOX 977

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI (601) 948-5960

NOTE ON THE PHOTO SHOT -- It is now scheduled for Cape Cod until the end of August. Therefore you should look for hall possibilities beginning September 1.

AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE POOR PEOPLES CORPORATION MIGHT WORK

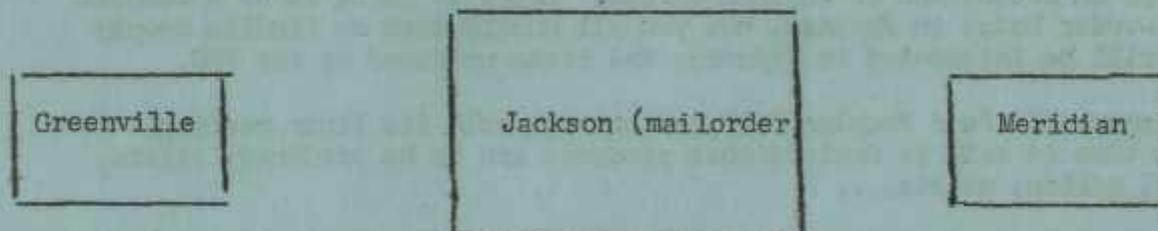
In Ruleville women sew quilts and sell them. They have a problem in selling them, however. There is no market in Ruleville.

In Canton, a group of women need machines and material so that they can make shirts.

Suppose in seven more places there were sewing groups making different items. For Example:

Ruleville	Canton						
Quilts	Shirts	Dresses	Pants	Blouses	Shorts	Skirts	Hats

Each place could provide jobs for 10-15 people and could get started with capital of \$800.00 (this includes machines, material, and patterns). The problem would be selling the goods once they are made. One way to sell them would be to stores that were formed to market them. For example:



These stores could be started with funds of \$300.00 each. The Jackson store could also be a mail order house. All the local sewing groups could send things they couldn't sell in their area to the three outlet stores. This operation just described would employ 100-125 people roughly. It would take about \$8,000.00 to get it going.

This is just one example of what can be done to provide jobs for local people who cannot make enough on the farms or as domestics, or for people who walk away from their jobs because they strike or lose jobs because of being active in the movement. There are countless other ways groups can get together and request assistance from the Poor Peoples Corporation.