

Henry County SCLC-SCOPE
P. O. Box 3A,
Abbeville, Alabama.

Dear Friend:

Henry County is located in South East Alabama in the heart of the Black Belt of the Deep South. It is an area which has heard of the Civil Rights Act but has yet to see any of it enforced; an area where 40% of the Negro children are kept out of school the first two months to spend 10-12 hours a day in the fields picking cotton for an average wage of \$.50 an hour.

Although the summer SCOPE project is officially over, three of us are acceding to the request of the Negro community to remain in Henry County. We need to set up classes in literacy, Negro history and basic politics, inform the local people of the various benefits available under the War on Poverty and other Federal Programs and above all continue the important voter registration work we have been doing.

The registration books are usually open for two days a month, but in October and November they will be open for two weeks. This is a tremendous opportunity to register people for the municipal election next Spring. But these days will be lost and the project will not continue without your help.

Our financial resources have been drained by the segregationist city officials with ridiculous charges and excessive fines. We have been arrested for such offenses as driving a car with plates from a different State than the operator's license, and speeding based on a phoned-in complaint by a local white resident with a subsequent arrest by an officer who did not see the alledged infraction. In mid-August a Negro student from Ohio joined our project and on his second day here ordered a coke at a local drug store. He then unwittingly committed the crime of sitting at the counter to drink the coke, was promptly arrested for disorderly conduct and fined \$104. These are just a few of the many incidents that have happened this summer with the result that we are now \$300 in debt.

Our total expenditures for the eight weeks of the summer project were \$1400, over half of which was spent for fines. Of the remainder approximately \$300 went for room and board for six workers, \$200 for gas and transportation costs, and \$200 for office supplies and miscellaneous expenses.

We desperately need money for bail, fines and operational expenses. As the local people have been threatened with severe reprisals if they drive us around the county, we need a car. We need supplies and books, especially on Negro history, with which to begin a Freedom School, and a typewriter we can use regularly.

All contributions should be sent to Henry County SCLC-SCOPE, P.O. Box 3A, Abbeville, Alabama. Please send money orders instead of checks as the local bank will not cash checks for civil rights workers.

As President Johnson said in May, 1964, "The rights of no American are secure until the rights of all Americans are secure. Either the Constitution applies to each and every one of us or it applies to none of us. This country must move forward with justice and compassion for all or it won't move forward at all."

The fight for freedom cannot be won without sacrifice on the part of every concerned individual. We cannot all sacrifice everything or even the same things, but each of us can give something. Will you join in the struggle and contribute whatever you are able? If you can't send money, we can also use Green Stamps.

Hours for Freedom,

Eddie Sanders, Jr.
Eddie Sanders, Jr.

Michael Bibler
Michael Bibler

Freeman
Freeman