

November 2, 1965

Dear friend of freedom,

A year ago the Southern Christian Leadership Conference had thirty persons on its staff. Today, SCLC has one hundred and thirty persons on its staff. A year ago SCLC had only a skeleton staff in any Southern state outside of Alabama. This past summer SCLC worked extensively in over one hundred Black Belt counties across six Southern states. Since Selma SCLC has sponsored movements in Americus, Crawfordville, Washington, and Lincolnton, Georgia, Greensboro, Alabama, Plymouth, North Carolina and contributed money and staff to the movement in Natchez, Mississippi.

Our summer voter registration and political education project, SCOPE, registered over 50,000 persons and since the end of August SCLC has registered over 40,000 additional persons. With the steady increase in federal registrars SCLC is attempting to have staff persons working in every county where there are federal registrars in order to take advantage of their presence.

Many Northerners are under the impression that when the "long, hot summer" is over, all civil rights activities end. Such is not the case as the headlines in the papers of the last month will indicate. It is now that the arduous, unglamorous work of door-to-door canvassing, carrying people down to the courthouse three and four at a time, holding political education classes, and conducting freedom schools must begin. Actually, the work has just begun.

This tremendous increase and expansion of SCLC's staff and program is primarily due to the fact that so many of the five hundred Northern volunteers that participated in our summer project, SCOPE, decided to give up a year or more of their lives and work for freedom. Furthermore, SCLC is sponsoring a CHRISTMAS VACATION VOTER REGISTRATION project. We are presently attempting to recruit over a thousand students to give up their Christmas vacation to come South and work for two or three weeks on voter registration and political education. After a one day orientation in Atlanta, the students will be placed in counties throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia.

Because of the sacrifice that these students will be making for freedom and the financial burden that SCLC has undertaken by quadrupling its staff and program, we are requesting that you place your contribution in the attached envelop and return it to our office as soon as possible.

Yours in the struggle,

Hosea L. Williams, Director  
Voter Registration and  
Political Education and SCOPE

P.S. Make checks payable to SCLC/SCOPE.