

Political Programs from Southern Office

The following are programs to be initiated in the South by the Southern office, and in the North.

I. Political Programs - We feel that in order to be prepared for 1968, we must begin now to establish a South-wide political machinery for the civil rights movement. The political program should cover the following states: Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

A. Massive kick-off in Louisiana.

1. Place staff in every Congressional district in the state to begin political and educational programs (double the present staff).
2. Begin massive voter registration drives (with standing lines, etc., to make them a matter of widespread public focus) in as many cities as possible.
3. Begin to prepare local people to run in as many local elections as is possible, regardless of the number registered.
4. Begin to initiate lawsuits challenging local elections on the grounds of discrimination against Negroes.
5. Have suits challenging Congressional elections in federal court on the same grounds.
6. Establish political workshops for local people throughout the state, beginning on a precinct level. There should be regular county workshops to plan political strategy.
7. There should be a bi-monthly Congressional district meeting by the people and workshops to establish unity and build local leadership.
8. There should be at least two statewide meetings of the people by the end of May, 1965.

Note: With this kind of organization, less staff will ultimately be needed, depending upon local organization.

B. Expansion into other states.

1. Alabama. We should immediately begin to prepare to send a field secretary and two task force workers into Alabama to begin to:
 - a. establish contacts in key cities and rural areas,
 - b. attempt to sell programs to already-existing groups,
 - c. establish an organization and a voter registration program in a suitable community (which we can determine at a later date), perhaps like a local FDP.

Note: Alabama is very important to the overall program, and we feel we should make an initial move in that direction soon.

2. In the states where we have chapters, we should begin to orient them to a political program and have them carry it out as part of their overall program. Louisiana could set the example, along with Mississippi.
3. In the other states where we don't have chapters, we would have to send staff in to begin to feel out and establish the program. We can begin with a roving team of three task force workers.
4. Expansion of staff in Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina.

C. Staffing such a program.

1. Use volunteers from the fall recruiting to staff Louisiana and Mississippi.
2. Use veteran task-force workers for Alabama.
3. Begin massive recruitment for volunteers to work during the summer of 1965. These workers could be used to boost or begin the program in other states. They should work with veteran task force workers. Recruitment for immediate full-time staff.

Note: Remember, this is a four-year program. But we have to get a foothold all over. We envision that in 1967 we can have a nine-state convention to discuss political strategy and prepare for the 1968 political conventions.

D. Preparation in the North.

1. Northern chapters should begin to work on getting reliable people politically active, and prepared to be delegates for the 1968 conventions of both parties.
2. Northern chapters should begin to have political workshops in their communities, and chapters.
3. Northern field staff should develop a program of positive political action for their areas, and political education.
4. Have two task force workers from Mississippi to begin working on Northern college campuses to recruit, do fund raising, orient students in programs, and set up college chapters.

Involvement of College Students

CORE has put a task force worker in Louisiana to work on the Louisiana college campuses. There are many untapped sources in Louisiana on the college campuses. These campuses have agriculture departments, law schools, social and political science departments, medical schools, etc.

The college program.

- A. Organize research groups to aid the research department of CORE.
- B. Set up college conferences to discuss political and social problems.
- C. Organize groups to help in community organization.
- D. Organize for statewide college conferences to discuss college involvement in the movement.
- E. Attempt to organize students from states within the region so that they can aid the program during the summer in their home states.
- F. Involve students in the educational program--community center and freedom school development.

We feel that it is time that we attempt to involve the Southern students in the movement again, since they are the future leaders of the South.