

REPORT TO THE NATIONAL ACTION COUNCIL
SUBMITTED BY THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

OUTLINE OF SOUTHERN PROGRAM FOR SUMMER 1965

April 9, 1965

INTRODUCTION

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The following proposals are the results of numerous meetings and conferences involving Southern staff, local people of the various project areas, and the Southern Regional Program Director. They represent the culmination of interpretations of direction, of feasibility, of what we are equipped to do and of what is needed in order to do more.

CORE Southern program for summer 1965 is designed to fit the needs of each community being worked, but at the same time establish a coordinated, meaningful South-wide effort to achieve our goals. It has taken many weeks of hard thinking and discussion on everyone's parts, both CORE staff and the people within the communities, to put their ideas together and come up with a workable program to accomplish the changes that are so badly needed. Often the line between dream and practicality has worn mighty thin, but the job was done and the "fruits" of these labors comprise this series of reports.

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The intent of all work being done in the region is to reach more deeply and widely into the problems that face the Negro community and develop indigenous leadership to deal with those problems through basic, community organization. Our role is not to lead, or to "do for", but to share what knowledge and skills we have gained through our various experiences so that the people of a community, themselves, can see alternatives and use this knowledge and skill to accomplish those things which they feel are most important. Integral, too, is the concept of state-wide, more abstractly South-wide cooperation and coordination to accomplish larger, less immediate goals.

We submit the enclosed to you, in hopes that you might help in every way possible to make the programs now presented on these pages a reality.

LOUISIANA

Current projects deal mainly with problems confronting each individual community--such as the desegregation of employment and unions at the tremendous Crown-Zellerbach plant in Bogalusa, and establishing mail delivery to the Negroes of Jonesboro who have no such service because the streets (dirt roads) and houses have never been marked by the city. Voter registration is emphasized everywhere.

The 1965 summer project in Louisiana will enable the civil rights projects in the state to better meet the needs of the Negro community. Freedom schools and community center programs will be carried out, including the development of libraries, adult education, literacy and medical programs. Freedom school and community center programs will vary as the needs and interests of the communities vary.

New projects, and a state-wide effort to register Negroes on a massive scale will be put into operation. We will initiate a food-and-clothing-distribution program, administered by committees of local people, to help alleviate economic reprisals on those Negroes who attempt to register or participate in civil rights activity. Work will also be done in the area of federal programs to establish farmers leagues and cooperatives to represent a strong political force as well as help the Negro farmers achieve economic independence.

Many volunteers will be involved in research on various aspects of the political, social, economic and educational structures of the state.

The project will involve approximately 34 parishes in 6 of the 8 Congressional districts. About $\frac{1}{2}$ of these parishes have never been worked by CORE

LOUISIANA SUMMER PROJECT ESSENTIALS

I. 44 subsistent staff workers (emphasis on Negro college students)--we hope to have at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of them staffed by SEDF. Training session in Plaquemine June 10-15, agenda to be submitted later.

II. 13 project cars: one for each base and one for state coordinator.

III. 60 self-supporting volunteers to implement phases of the program that call for specific skills.

IV. Budget:

A. 10,000 voter registration form sets	\$ 1,000
B. Office supplies for 12 bases, \$100 per month per base for $2\frac{1}{2}$ months	3,000
C. Telephone (same basis as B)	3,000
D. 44 workers, housing and food to run \$2.50 per day per worker for 82 days	9,020
E. 13 cars, gas and care to run \$5 per day per car for 82 days	5,330
F. Car rental (excluding 5 project cars), 8 cars for $2\frac{1}{2}$ months to run \$600 per car	4,800
G. Gas and maintenance for volunteer cars	1,500
H. Miscellaneous (fines, minor bond, etc.)	<u>1,500</u>

TOTAL...\$29,150

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Presently, the Louisiana staff is composed of only 10 paid staff (including Ronnie Moore and Oretha Castle) and two volunteers. Most of this staff is tied up in "hot spots" such as Bogalusa and Jonesboro. They have five operating cars; they are working in Shreveport, Jonesboro, Monroe, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bogalusa, Clinton, St. Francisville and Plaquemine.

There are approximately 20 parishes which need scouting as proposed project areas for summer. The Louisiana state office in Baton Rouge is presently unmanned because of the lack of personnel.

To prepare for the summer, the Louisiana staff will need at least two more cars and ten additional workers immediately. The additional workers will be used to prepare communities for the upcoming project, and some to staff the Baton Rouge office.

A major concern involves a two-way radio system for the state. Such a system, in order to be as effective as possible, should be set up before the project officially starts. The technical skill needed to advise and actually set the thing up is available to us; funds for the equipment, as yet, is not. This is most urgent, as we should begin work on installation in a month in order to afford as much protection as possible to the workers who will be arriving in June. None of us wants to repeat Neshoba's performance of a year ago.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Negro population of South Carolina has great political power, and this potential is ripe for realization. The state is divided into 46 counties. 24 of them have a Negro population of 40% or more; 20 of these counties are located in the 1st, 2nd and 6th Congressional districts. The 1st district Negro population is 43.8%; the 2nd is 37.2%; the 6th is 46.5%. The South Carolina staff is composed of two field secretaries, nine Task Force workers and James McCain, presently working on voter registration. The project is financed by SEDF and will continue to be so until June 15.

1966 is an important year in many states across the South, but especially so in South Carolina: Strom Thurmond stands out as a racist challenge to all of us in and concerned with the civil rights movement. We hope to be able to create real opposition to Senator Thurmond and his machine during the 1966 election. To accomplish this, the number of Negro votes must be increased tremendously and Negro political organization must be greatly strengthened. A political challenge means an awful lot of work must be done in South Carolina during the next year and a half. To many, 1966 may seem to be a long way off, but from past experience we know it's just around the corner.

We propose a massive project of voter registration and political education in the 1st, 2nd and 6th districts of the state. To accomplish meaningful results, six additional Task Force workers are needed: three for each district and others to operate the state office, keep records, handle publicity, etc. There will also be a need for four additional cars.

We could easily accommodate between 30 and 40 volunteers to work in the same areas, who would be responsible for their own transportation, subsistence and bail bond. In two communities the people have promised to provide for room and board for 15 workers--these should be Negro students from South Carolina, with a weekly allowance of \$5 from CORE.

The workers will conduct voting clinics, set up voter registration campaigns and develop community organization to carry on this program. They will also try to organize some Community Action Projects under the Anti-Poverty Bill; this would include organizing local people around projects that would qualify for aid under the Anti-Poverty program. Information centers should be established to inform people of their rights under the 1965 Civil Rights Act.

In areas where it is possible, Freedom Libraries can be set up concentrating on Negro History. Negro students from the local colleges should be encouraged to participate in these programs.

BUDGET

A. 40,000 voter registration forms	\$ 500
B. Office supplies for state, \$150 a month for 3 months	450
C. Telephone for state calls, \$200 per month	600
D. 15 Task Force workers, \$100 per person per month for 3 months	4,500
E. 15 semi-volunteers at \$20 per month per person	900
F. Purchase or rent 4 cars at \$150 per month each	1,800
G. Gas for 4 new cars, 1 Chevy and 5 local staff cars at \$2.50 per day per car	2,475
H. Miscellaneous	<u>1,500</u>

TOTAL, . . . \$12,725