

POVERTY

the Negro communities of the black belt, the "affluent society" of the richest nation on earth a grotesque joke. Old men picking up rags to buy their next meal, women looking for scrap lumber to heat their shacks and children going barefoot in thirty degree weather have a hard time laughing.

Over one hundred counties in the South, the median individual income for Negroes is less than eight hundred dollars a year. In far too many counties, the average Negro income is less than three hundred dollars per year.



Due to the recalcitrance of the local white power structure, the "War on Poverty" will never touch these people unless they receive outside assistance. SCOPE workers will be called upon to bring the "War on Poverty" to these communities by assisting in the establishment of Community Action Programs and Neighborhood Youth Corps Programs as outlined in the Economic Opportunities Act. SCOPE workers should also familiarize themselves with other federal aid programs such as all business loans and farm aid and technical assistance which could benefit their communities.

THE SCOPE PROJECT

JUNE 15, — AUGUST 28, 1965

The Summer Community Organization and Political Education project is part of the program of SCLC's Voter Registration and Political Education department, headed by Mr. Hosea L. Williams. A major goal is to establish links between communities in the South and college campuses throughout the nation which will continue to produce creative programs and vital interchange in the years ahead.

Each college participating in the SCOPE Project should organize a working unit and immediately write SCLC for a suggested list of project counties in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Individuals may also apply and will be assigned to one of the working units.

Each college should set up a preliminary screening panel including faculty and a psychiatrist or psychologist, as well as experienced "freedom fighters". A SCOPE recruiting team will visit each interested campus to give further details and to consult with potential volunteers.

Each unit will spend the summer in its area carrying out the program of SCOPE in cooperation with the local leaders and organizations and with assistance and supervision from trained SCLC staff members. Workers will live with local families when possible and must be able to maintain themselves through the summer.

Intense week-long orientation programs will be conducted in central locations for all volunteers at the beginning of the project period. Further training will be given when the group first arrives at its assigned locale. Final acceptance and continued activity of all SCOPE workers will remain the judgment solely of SCLC.

DEDICATED volunteers are needed. If you can assist personally or financially in this program, please see your local SCOPE Project unit for further information, or write:

SCLC SCOPE Project
 Southern Christian Leadership Conference
 334 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
 Atlanta, Georgia 30303
 Area Code 404 — 522-1420
 The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
 President SCLC
 Mr. Hosea L. Williams, Director, Voter
 Registration and Political Education

This folder was written and prepared by SCLC staff members and printed in quantity on our own press.





TO BE BLACK in America is unfortunate; to be black in the South is a crime. The penalty for this crime is certain and severe — life imprisonment in a gigantic cell. Outside the cell, people go to school and college, run the government that decides your fate and make enough money so that their children can follow in their footsteps. Inside the cell you watch and — having no vote, no school and no money — you do the best you can, and wait. You wait and hope someone will help you break down the wall.

In the last four years, some cracks have been made in this wall. The SUMMER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND POLITICAL EDUCATION (SCOPE) project intends to widen these cracks. To do this it will be necessary to attack political disfranchisement, educational deprivation and poverty — and to help local leadership develop and organize the community.



POLITICAL DISFRANCHISEMENT

In more than one hundred counties in the black belt of the South Negroes comprise over 50% of the population, yet less than 10% of the electorate. No real solution to the problems of the South is possible until all its citizens share equally in its government. The new federal voting bill which Congress is expected to pass shortly gives new hope, but presents an enormous challenge. For these reasons the SCOPE project will give priority to *VOTER REGISTRATION*.

SCOPE volunteer workers — in cooperation with local leadership — will conduct intensive



summer long voter registration drives. Hand in hand with this work will be an attempt to unify and coordinate the increased electorate. Successful coordination is necessary to gain immediate, tangible and continuing returns.

Evening classes — conducted by SCOPE workers — will teach the basics of federal, state and county politics. Political Education is essential if long deprived citizens are to use their newly acquired political power for the maximum benefit of their community.

EDUCATIONAL DEPRIVATION

In Georgia alone half of the adult Negroes have less than four years of formal education — in other words, are functionally illiterate. In an effort to combat this tremendous



problem the Southern Christian Leadership Conference has set up a Citizenship Education Program which is now active in eleven southern states. The Citizenship Education Program is an adult education project that teaches basic politics, English, arithmetic, and other "academic" subjects as well as more practical things such as writing checks, applying for social security, and filling out voter registration forms.

In addition — and perhaps most important — classes in Negro history and heritage lift the great weight of forced humiliation, allowing a new sense of dignity and identification. SCOPE workers with teaching ability will be called on to assist and expand this program by becoming citizenship school teachers. Some volunteers may also want to work up a special tutorial program to benefit the youth.

Teaching materials for citizenship school classes will come from the Atlanta SCLC office; out the understanding, patience and dedication necessary in every teacher will have to come from the workers themselves.