

Dear Friends of SNCC:

SNCC has expanded its program considerably in the last three months. In addition to ongoing projects, the Alabama Project has begun its voter registration program and the development of independent political parties, on a county-by-county basis, in five Alabama Black Belt counties. This is a complicated and dangerous endeavor. In Lowndes County, individuals who have registered to vote have been thrown off their land, and are now living in "Tent City," an improvised dwelling area located right off U.S. Highway 80. For these people it is a choice of leaving the county or living in tents in order to continue their work as residents of Lowndes County.

In Atlanta, the Communications Department has been expanded in order to send out regular, detailed, and up-to-date information to the news media and to support groups. You can readily understand the utmost importance of this, for your work as well as ours. In order for the Movement to move, precise information has to get out of the South.

Our recurrent problem is one of funds. The continuity of programs, both in Atlanta and in the field, is constantly broken by periodical lack of funds. Only in crisis situations, or as a result of large-scale fund-raising efforts which divert energies from work in the field, does a flow of money come in commensurate with our needs.

It is essential that SNCC have a guaranteed income from supporters. This can be developed by getting people to commit themselves to pledges. Enclosed is a pledge envelope now being used North and South to raise funds and to get more people directly involved in the Southern Freedom Movement. In many poor communities, the people themselves support Movement workers by providing him with food and a place to stay, and by maintaining his office on the basis of \$1 per month contributions. This was the inspiration for our "3-1/2 Cents a Day for Justice" campaign. If a sharecropper or a day-laborer in Mississippi can give 3-1/2 cents a day, just about anyone in this country can, if justice is worth that much to him.

The initial work for this campaign has to be done by you. With some intensive canvassing and a great deal of talking, each campus should be able to get between 100 and 1,000 pledges; large Friends of SNCC groups can probably get more. After that the pledges will be followed-up by the Atlanta office, and your fund-raising responsibilities are over as far as individual donations are concerned, except for continuing efforts to increase your list of pledge commitments.

PLEASE, BEGIN TODAY. Let us know how many pledge envelopes you'll need. Then get your canvassing squads enlisted. The pledge envelopes should not be handed out like leaflets; talk to each prospective pledge signer first, be sure of his intention to pledge, then give him the envelope. Arm yourselves with information about SNCC's work, and if you need any facts about a lack of justice in this country, we have files and files.

For Freedom,

Student Nonviolent Coordinating
Committee
Northern Coordination Office

February 16, 1966