

THE EDUCATIONAL TASK FORCE

The Educational Task Force is a component of the Poor People's Campaign aimed at educating and involving the non-poor in the problems of poverty and the movement to solve these problems. Its focus is on changing attitudes in that area of society which has the greatest potential for effective response.

"Only a commitment to national action on an unprecedented scale can shape a future compatible with the historic ideals of American society." U.S. Riot Commission Report.

If this action is to take place, apathy, apprehension, and misinformation on the part of the non-poor must be changed. Stated more formally, the purposes of the Educational Task Force are:

- To organize and present the planning and operation of the Poor People's Campaign to the public through the mass media and through speeches to groups in the Washington metropolitan area.
- To educate the non-poor on the nature of poverty in the U.S.
- To inform the non-poor of the many opportunities for participation in the Poor People's Campaign through the many support committees.
- To prepare the non-poor to join the poor at the appropriate time during the Campaign when announced by SCIC.

For the past few months, the Domestic Issues Sub-committee of the Washington Committee of Returned Volunteers has been participating on this Task Force. Until recently, this participation had been limited to attending weekly briefings by SCIC representatives and accepting speaking engagements. The SCIC staff in Washington is under-staffed and over-worked. The ETF component of the Poor People's Campaign is only one of many components. Recent talks with some of the organizers of the Campaign convinced us that more initiative had to be taken in this area.

In response, returned Volunteers, seminarians, Peace Corps employees, and other interested individuals joined in taking the major responsibility for putting into effect an organization for aggressively carrying out the purposes of the Educational Task Force. This initiative has been endorsed by the organizers of the Poor People's Campaign. In addition, using the Poor People's Campaign as a focus, the goals of the Educational Task Force have been expanded to include some of the more long range measures suggested by the Kerner Report and certain Congressmen:

- To foster a deeper understanding of the racial crisis.
- To increase communication across racial lines to destroy stereotypes, to halt polarization, end distrust and hostility, and create common ground for efforts toward public order and social justice.
- To stimulate and engage in a dialogue that will lead to the development of an ideology that is responsive to the full dimension of the crisis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL TASK FORCE

The work of the Educational Task Force is carried out by the seven committees listed below:

1. Coordination and Liason: responsible for administering the ETF program, coordinating the various ETF committees, and maintaining liason with SCLC and other groups participating in the Poor People's Campaign.

Coordinators: Ted Nelson -- (O) 382-2820 (H) 232-5064
Charles Duncan -- (O) 382-1546 (H) 234-8427

2. Logistics and Materials: responsible for procuring all ETF material and financial needs.

Coordinators: Jim Bausch -- (O) 382-2866 (H) 544-2599
Fan Sedgwick -- (O) 382-4327 (H) 965-1235

3. Training: responsible for training ETF speakers and discussion leaders.

Coordinator: Ed Barker -- (O) 382-2692 (H) 656-4327

4. Research: responsible for collecting and developing all ETF informational needs.

Coordinators: Carl Hosticka -- (O) 382-2909 (H) 232-5063
Janet Boggs -- (O) 382-1554 (H) 337-2569

5. Publicity: responsible for publicising, in close coordination with SCLC, the planning and operation of the PPC and the findings and activities of the E

Coordinator: Howard Dodson -- (O) 382-2143 (H) 387-0072

6. Promotion: responsible for soliciting speaking engagements and seeking other inputs for public presentation, discussion, and involvement.

Coordinators: Elliott Bovellev -- (H) 829-5039
George Loquvam -- (O) 382-1655 (H) 337-1646

7. Speakers and Discussion Leaders: responsible for organizing, coordinating, and assigning all ETF speakers and discussion leaders.

Coordinators: Bob McClusky -- (O) 382-1082 (H) 234-8343
Jack Galloway -- (O) 382-1546 (H) 387-8333

*If possible, these people should be contacted at home in the evening rather than at work. During the day, messages for any of the coordinators can be called in to the Educational Task Force office at Union Methodist Church: 337-8299