

**MISSISSIPPI
FREEDOM
PROJECT**



DEVELOPMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI PROJECT

Although the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has active projects in thirteen Southern states, it has achieved its most dynamic success in the state of Mississippi. A state where individual political life is non-existent, where the economic condition of a vast majority of the population is appalling, the home of white supremacy, Mississippi has become the main target of SNCC's staff and resources.

In August, 1961, SNCC went into Mississippi under the leadership of Project Director Robert Moses. Overcoming violence and hardship, SNCC workers have been able to

expand their activity into all five of Mississippi's Congressional districts. By fall, 1963, SNCC had joined with other national organizations and many voting and civic groups in forming a statewide organization, the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), and through COFO conducted a Freedom Vote campaign in which 80,000 disenfranchised Negroes cast ballots for a Negro in a mock state-wide campaign.

Preparation for real democracy calls for additional programs in the state. Literacy projects have been instituted, and food and clothing drives. But much more comprehensive programs are needed to combat the terrible cultural and economic deprivation of Negro communities in Mississippi.

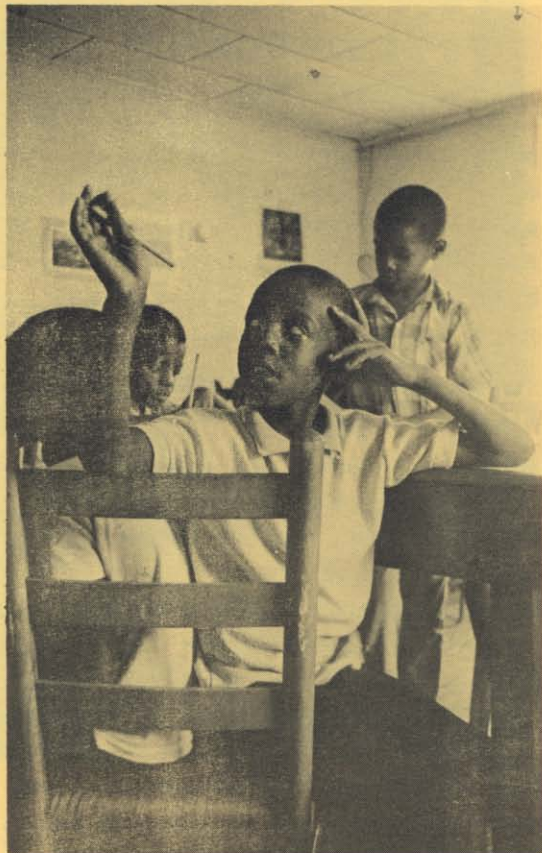
VOTER REGISTRATION

The struggle for freedom in Mississippi can only be won by a combination of action within the state and heightened awareness throughout the country of the need for enforcement of federal guarantees of basic human and political rights. While old and new federal laws support the right to vote, the government has not yet acted decisively to insure that all Americans can participate in governmental affairs.

In Mississippi, SNCC voter registration workers are operating in each Congressional district. Despite discriminatory voting laws and terrorism, voting workers and local Negroes have mobilized a state-wide organization for political action.

Freedom Registration has been established in most counties, with registration books closely resembling the official books of the state. The Freedom Registration Books are being used by the Freedom Democratic Party in its challenge of the all-white Democratic Party of Mississippi.

Finally, voter registration workers are assisting the campaigns of four Negroes running for Congressional office.



FREEDOM SCHOOLS

An integral part of SNCC's voter registration work throughout the rural South has been the development of young leadership. The Freedom School program was evolved to supply political education unavailable in Mississippi's public schools.

By mid-July, over thirty-five Freedom Schools had been established (three times the number expected) with an average daily enrollment across the state of 2,100. Instruction is highly individualized — each



school has a low student-teacher ratio. The program includes remedial work as well as seminars in political science, the humanities and creative writing. Some Freedom Schools have published their own newsletters. Class discussions center around solving community problems.

The students attending these schools will form a nucleus of leadership committed to critical thought and social action.

(In Forrest County, two additional schools were opened to meet an unexpected demand. There are six schools there now, with an enrollment of 675.)

COMMUNITY CENTERS

In addition to the Freedom Schools, twenty-six Community Centers are providing social services normally denied the Negro community. Staffed by experienced social workers, nurses, librarians and teachers in the arts and crafts, the centers are providing educational and cultural programs for the community. Instruction is given in pre-natal and child care and general hygiene; other programs are providing adult literacy classes and vocational training. Each Community Center is trying to establish a library; sixteen



are now in operation. Each center serves as a place of political education and organization, and will channel a wide range of programs into Negro community.

RESEARCH PROJECT

The voting and educational programs are trying to change the fundamental structure of political and economic activity in Mississippi. To get a clear picture of existing structures in Mississippi economic and political life, thirty summer workers are engaged in research into Mississippi's suppressive hidden power structure.

WHITE COMMUNITY PROJECT

White students are working in the white community of Mississippi, trying to find white Mississippians who will work toward achieving social change with a minimum of friction. While much of their work has been conducted behind closed doors, they report great success.

LEGAL PROJECT

A number of law school students and lawyers are in Mississippi helping prepare defenses for the workers arrested daily across the state. They are helping Mississippi's three Negro lawyers to launch a massive legal offensive against the official tyranny of the state. The time has come to challenge every Mississippi law which deprives Negroes of their rights and to bring effective legal action to prevent Mississippi from repeating its past crimes against Negroes.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE FREEDOM PROGRAM, WRITE:

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM PROJECT
6 Raymond Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

FREEDOM IN MISSISSIPPI

DEPENDS ON YOU

The Mississippi Freedom Project needs money now to continue the activities described in this pamphlet. We are asking the people of America—individuals as well as institutions—to contribute now to assist SNCC in its commitment to the struggle for justice in the state of Mississippi.

A contribution in any amount will help. For example:

\$5 will supply school materials for one day-student for a semester.

\$25 will pay the utility bills for one Freedom School for a semester.

\$50 will buy office materials for one voter registration field office.

\$100 will buy materials for a home nursing and baby care class for one Community Center.

\$125 will buy one tape recorder for a Freedom School.

\$400 will provide scholarship money for one Southern Negro college student, enabling him to return to school after working in Mississippi.

\$2000 will rent and remodel a building for one Community Center.

\$4000 will buy one used bus for transporting vote workers and registrants.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO:

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM PROJECT
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
6 Raymond Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30314