

MEMO TO FREEDOM CENTERS

Considerable thought has been given to the problem of screening the vast number of summer applicants. It is generally felt that some sort of screening process prior to the general orientation (which will be held at Berea College in Kentucky during the second half of June -- more on this later) is absolutely essential to weed out those who for one reason or another would be more of a detriment than an asset to the summer program.

A nationwide network of interviewers is now being set up by SNCC, CORE and the National Council of Churches. (If you are already serving as an interviewer, or if you are utilizing other people in this capacity, or if you know of people who you would like to recommend as interviewers, please send their names by air mail, special delivery to Mendy Samstein, MSP, 1017 Lynch Street, Jackson, Miss.) We hope to have a fairly comprehensive list of interviewers by the middle of next week. At that time a memorandum will be sent out to all the interviewers, setting forth guidelines to provide a basis for their decisions. We intend to send the centers lists of both the interviewers and the applicants in their area. If possible, the Freedom Center might help administratively by setting up interview schedules, etc.

Further Notes:

- 1) The April 15 deadline is no longer to be adhered to. Instead you should urge all people to get their applications to Jackson by May 15.
- 2) There will be a series of orientation periods starting in mid-June and running until the beginning of July at Berea College. People will be staggered over three sessions, each lasting about four days.
- 3) After July 1 there will be a series of summer long orientation sessions held at Aount Beaulah, in Edwards, Mississippi. We expect all summer workers to go through some orientation period before going into the field.
- 4) A conference was held the weekend of March 21-22 at which various civil rights people and educators gathered in New York to work out a detailed curriculum for the Freedom Schools. The conference broke into small working groups which discussed the various Freedom School programs-- remedial instruction, leadership training, cultural activities, etc. At present various people are pulling together the results of their sessions and sending reports to the Jackson office. By the end of April we hope to be able to put together a comprehensive and detailed curriculum with working suggestions which will be circulated to all those who are being assigned to work in