

SOUTHERN STUDENT FREEDOM FUND

THE GOAL: VOTER REGISTRATION IN THE SOUTH

In recent months the drive for equal rights for Negroes living in the Southern United States has shifted from the lunch counter and the bus station to the voting booth. No longer is the goal merely to protest and dramatize the existence of inequality; now it is to secure permanent equality and full expression of citizenship through the exercise of federally guaranteed voting rights.

THE PROBLEM: By means of outrageously discriminatory literacy tests, lengthy and complicated registration procedures and bureaucratic arbitrariness, Southern registrars have been able to prevent more than token Negro voting in most areas. For Example, the Civil Rights Commission of the Federal Government has released the following figures for three Mississippi counties:

<u>County</u>	<u>Negroes over 21</u>	<u>% of Negroes in total pop.</u>	<u>Negroes Registered</u>
Pike	8,610	38%	207
Amite	5,010	47%	1
Walthall	3,017	38%	0

THE SOLUTION: Under the Auspices of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the leading force behind student participation in direct action in the South, voter registration schools have begun to operate in Mississippi (3 counties listed above), Georgia and Alabama. These schools include careful study of the state constitution and other required documents, intensive familiarity with the intricacies of the registration process.

THE FUND DRIVE: The SOUTHERN STUDENT FREEDOM FUND has been initiated by a number of student groups throughout the nation to provide financial aid to SNCC for its voter registration campaign. Organizations participating in the drive include:

- Americans for Democratic Action, (ADA)
- College Young Democrats (DNSF)
- Student Peace Union (SPU)
- United States National Student Association (NSA)
- Young Christian Students (YCS)
- Young People's Socialist League (YPSL)
- National Service and Scholarship Fund for
Negro Students (NSSFFNS)

Contributions may be

sent to: The Berkeley chapter of the Southern Student Freedom Fund, 2109 Cedar Street, Berkeley 9, Calif.