

The P.P.C. & The Cooperatives

"The Poor People's Corporation is a non-profit organization...with membership open to all poor people. Dues are 25¢ a year. The main purpose of the corporation is "To assist low income groups in their efforts to receive financial assistance to initiate and sustain self-help projects of a cooperative nature that are designed to offset some of the effects of poverty." Loans for the establishment of new cooperatives are made from the Corporation's revolving fund, upon the vote of the entire membership of the Corporation. The fund receives contributions from concerned persons and organizations throughout the country.

At the present time, there are nine cooperatives in the Corporation, which has its marketing outlet at Liberty Outlet House in Jackson, Mississippi. Each cooperative focuses on manufacturing one type of product, such as leather goods, quilts, or clothing. The products are stylish and of high quality. Over one hundred people are involved directly in production, while the membership of the Corporation itself is well over three hundred.

At present, the Corporation does not pretend to be able to absorb all the people who have lost jobs or suffered from economic intimidation, but this spring will be a critical time for the Corporation, as a way in which poor people can attain economic security. Large numbers of agricultural workers in the Delta area of Mississippi are being and will be losing farm jobs now as a result of accelerated mechanization of plantation farming. The Corporation, and the cooperatives which it assists, must prosper and show growth if the Corporation is to continue to serve as a vital example, and if it is to continue to produce concrete results towards the reduction of the effects of poverty.

The Poor People's Corporation has grown to its present size since its founding by poor people at the end of last summer. The purpose of N.S.A.'s personnel program is to aid the Corporation and the cooperatives in their effort to become self-sufficient, by helping to broaden markets for their goods and helping to establish sound managerial procedures. N.S.A. will also be encouraging campuses to establish their own outlets for P.P.C. products. Part of N.S.A.'s assistance program to the P.P.C. is being funded with some of the money raised by the Thanksgiving Fast for Freedom.

It is important that the program be well underway before the summer months, although there will be openings for people who want to start to work during the summer. The sales representatives will be starting to work as soon as they are located. Requests for additional information and applications should be directed to Bob Bass, Assistant Civil Rights Director, 2115 S Street, N. W., Washington, D.C.

for application blanks:

Call
Ned Rube
257-9773

WSA Office
WSA Box