SNEEF SNEEFACULTY FUND

a special fund of Boston Friends of the

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

1555 Massachusetts Fluenue, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts / UN8-0939

Dear Faculty Member,

As members of the academic community, we have a special concern with realizing in practice, in our country, the philosophical ideals of liberty and democracy that are embodied in the Constitution of the United States. Most of us are aware of the contradiction of these principles existing in the Deep South, especially in Mississippi, where from 1885 to the present, laws, arrests, and terror have combined to disenfranchise 47% of the population and to abolish the rights of inquiry, criticism and protest for all.

It has been the young people, students of ours, who have taken the responsibility of going into the most dangerous and undemocratic parts of our country -- the black belt states of Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Georgia -- to help Negro farmers attempt to register to vote. These students are banded together as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Largely Southerners and Negroes, they do not regard themselves as missionaries. They see themselves as organizers, providing financial, educational and moral backing for rural Negroes' efforts to regain and use constitutional rights.

In Mississippi the SNCC workers teach what a vote is, what a precinct is, what constitutional rights are, how decisions are made in the state of Mississippi and in the nation. They are able to disseminate information that allows grass-roots Negro organizations to make tangible steps in gaining a place in their own communities. This winter, for the first time, Negroes in Mississippi participated in the community election of the Agricultural Stabilization Committees on a mass basis, and despite harassment, arrests, and chicanery, won seats on the committees in three counties. In these counties Negroes now have a voice in determining cotton allotments. Before the coming of the SNCC workers, Negroes in these counties had never been told that everyone whose income depends on cotton can vote in these elections, and no Negro had ever run for a seat on the committee.

SNCC's relationship with the intellectual community is quite close. Most of its workers hope to return to college. Many student volunteers spend their vacations, or a semester's leave of absence working for SNCC. In addition, one third to one half of SNCC's income comes from college campuses and campus communities, mostly from students. With the expansion of the program, and the growth of those dependent on SNCC funds for subsistence to 265 field workers, it has become nearly

impossible for SNCC to meet its expenses out of these limited sources of income. Even at a wage of \$10 a week, there are at this moment only enough reserves to meet two more payrolls, much less to pay rent, gasoline, and telephone bills.

We feel that as their teachers, we have a special responsibility to help these brave youngsters continue their work. We would like to propose that the various faculties of the Boston area work together to form a special SNCC Faculty Fund. The money from this fund will be used to help SNCC provide subsistence for its field staff, and books and teaching supplies for "freedom schools". Checks should be made out to the "SNCC Faculty Fund" and sent to the SNCC Faculty Fund, 1555 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. Bail bond, in the form of loans, is also needed and may be pledged to the Fund. These students depend on you, to help our fellow citizens who cannot vote.

Sincerely. Philip N. Backstrom, Jr. Abraham H. Maslow Assistant Professor of History Professor of Psychology Northeastern University Brandeis University arm News Martin Deutsch Thomas Pettigrew Professor of Physics Associate Professor of Social Psychology Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lecturer on Social Sciences OHarvard University Sinderhughes Adelaide Cromwell Hill Associate Professor of Anthropology Charles A. Pinderhughes Boston University Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry Tufts University Stanley Hoffmann Archur M. Schlering Professor of Government Arthur M. Schlesinger Harvard University Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History, Emeritus Audrey L. Holland Harvard University Associate Professor of Speech Wal Pathology and Audiology Emerson College James D. Watson Www 5 Kenerly Professor of Biology William J. Kenealy S. J. Harvard University Professor of Law Boston College Howard Zinn Associate Professor of Government Salvador E. Luria Boston University Professor of Microbiology Massachusetts Institute of Technology Herbert Marcuse

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