

NEWSLETTER

The Southern Student Organizing Committee

Vol. II, No. 4

May, 1965

STEVE WEISSMAN, HEDY WEST TOUR SOUTHERN COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Steve Weissman, a staff member of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and recently of the Free Speech Movement in Berkeley and Hedy West, folk singer, have been touring a number of southern campuses under the sponsorship of the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC). Steve, a native of Tampa, Florida and a graduate of the University of Tampa, recently left his job as a graduate assistant at the University of California, Berkeley, to work for SDS on its University Reform Project. His responsibility has been to explain the purposes and goals of the Free Speech Movement and discuss the issue of university reform with southern students. Hedy West is a graduate of Western Carolina College in North Carolina and has her M.A. degree in music from Columbia University. She is currently living in Los Angeles and has appeared at the Ash Grove. Hedy has given her time to SSOC in order to help us secure funds.

Schools covered in the tour include University of Virginia, Mary Washington College, Virginia State College, University of North Carolina, Duke University, A & T at Greensboro, Emory University, Atlanta University Center, University of Tennessee, Knoxville College, Berea College, University of Kentucky, Vanderbilt University,

Marshall University, Huntingdon West Virginia, Memphis State University, Philander Smith in Little Rock, Ark., University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Other stops are scheduled for Tulane University in New Orleans, Southern University in Baton Rouge, and the University of Texas. Steve has addressed audiences totaling approximately 2500, at 27 colleges in ten southern states. Concerts, fund raising parties and other appearances by Hedy West have resulted in enough money to pay for the tour as well as a small replenishment to our sagging bank account.

Summer Projects

Special Supplement
Organizational Projects

Pages 7-14

"People ask me what I am going to do when the civil rights cause runs out. I tell them it is not just a cause we arbitrarily picked just to do something. It is a feeling about humanity--any color, anywhere. And that won't change.

Howard Romaine, LIFE Magazine, Apr

MFDP PRESSES FOR NEW ELECTIONS

The administration's intervention registration bill has the potential of bringing many thousands of Negroes in the hard core areas of the South onto the voting rolls. The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party feels that certain provisions must be made to ensure that the Bill does work, most important is the provision for holding new and democratic elections within six to nine months after federal registration begins. The following is testimony given by Mrs. Victoria Gray Before the House Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I wish to express the appreciation of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and my own, to the Committee for granting us this opportunity to make our views known to you. As you are well aware this proposed legislation is long-awaited, long-needed, and crucial to our efforts to realize true democracy for all people in the South. It is legislation in which Negro people in Mississippi and the South have a vital interest, and it is in the interest of some of those people from the State of Mississippi that I appear here this evening.

I have been instructed by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to say that we fully appreciate the speed and urgency with which the administration has acted in this matter. We further appreciate the seriousness of purpose with which leaders of both parties in the Congress have united behind this legislation. However, we do feel that there are four particulars in which this bill can and must be strengthened if it is to effectively do the job for which it was intended.

1. The first recommendation that we make is related to new elections:

As we are all aware, this is the process followed in cases of legis-

lative reapportionment. Wherever there is the determination that the value of votes in different districts is unbalanced and unequal, whether by gerrymandering or population shifts, the Supreme Court has ruled that new elections must be held following a more equitable and democratic reapportionment of Districts. This appears to us to be both reasonable and just.

Similarly, in cases where there has been a systematic practice of disenfranchising huge numbers of the population illegally, thereby keeping them from any participation at all, in previous elections this same principle must be true to a greater degree.

The Negroes in Mississippi and much of the deep south suffer at this moment under the jurisdiction of elected officials in whose elections we had no part. Can such officials be responsible or responsive to the needs and rights of the Negro people? The sad truth is that these officials have not been, and as long as they are not the basis for oppression and injustice will remain and it will be the voteless Negro citizens of the South who will be the victims.

For we in Mississippi the injustice will be particularly prolonged. In May or June of this year municipal elections will be held throughout the state. This will mean that Mayors, local law enforcement officers, and other officials who have been the visible symbol of brutality and intimidation will be elected for four more years before Negro registration under this new law will be large enough to have any effect on these elections. How effective will this bill be in Neshoba County, Mississippi, if local law enforcement remains in the hands of Sheriff Rainey and Deputy Sheriff [redacted] for four more years? How effective will it be in Selma if Negroes en route to the Courthouse must pass by Sheriff Jim Clark and his posse?

It is for these reasons that we are

"Peace Corps" at St. Andrews College

asking for speedy relief. We urge that a provision be included that will require the holding of open and democratic elections within six to nine months of the coming of federal registrars to any given area.

Such action is preceded, constitutional and just and will give opportunity to all politically deprived people to begin real participation in the processes by which they are governed. We urge that you take this under serious advisement.

The MFDP also requested that the voting bill completely eliminate the poll tax, remove all requirements that would place prospective voters at the mercy of local officials, and broaden the reach of the legislation in such a manner as to give local people some initiative in petitioning for assistance in registering to vote.

The St. Andrew's "peace corps" is a voluntary organization of the campus of St. Andrew's Presbyterian College which is located in Laurinburg, North Carolina. The organization is part of the student Christian Council, an elected group which is in charge of Christian activities on the campus. The "peace corps" was organized three years ago at the request of a Laurinburg civic group. It is presently composed of St. Andrew's students along with several students from the Laurinburg Institute, a Negro prep school in Laurinburg. There are approximately fifty active students in the organization. As of this year there are four projects being run by the group. One project is a recreation project for underprivileged Negro children in the small community of Rowland, North Carolina which is about twenty miles from Laurinburg. Students go to Rowland on Saturday afternoons, and about thirty children attend the

recreation center which is a donated four room house on the outskirts of Rowland. Two North Carolina volunteers are going to run the center during the summer.

Another project is that of tutoring Negro students at the I. Ellis Johnson school, the only public Negro school in Laurinburg. This project is carried on twice a week after school hours. About fifty Negro students receive the benefit of this service.

A third project is a construction project performed in collaboration with the Laurinburg welfare office. Students, on Saturday afternoons, do construction work for elderly and disabled people on welfare that can't do these jobs themselves. Anything from small repair jobs to construction of rooms is undertaken by the students taking part in this project.

The fourth project is that of visiting the aged at three local nursing homes, two white and one Negro. This is done on Sunday afternoons.

The philosophy of the "peace corps" is that of implementing individual concern and service which is not available through the local welfare office because of the immensity of poverty in this area and the lack of welfare workers and funds to contend with the problem. The area surrounding the school is one of the poorest in the state if not the poorest, and much more than is presently being done needs to be done. The tri-county office which is part of the North Carolina fund, is just beginning to function in the area, and the "peace corps" keeps in constant contact with this organization. In the near future many tri-county projects will be implemented and student volunteers on a part-time basis will be needed.

Before the school was built in Laurinburg (just four years ago) there was no individual endeavor of any significance made in the behalf of the impoverished citizens in the area. The "peace corps" receives some co-operation in the form of funds from several local civic groups made at the organization's request, although most of the money still comes from the student Christian Council. Plans for expansion include a new recreation project for next year.

For further information write: Dr. David Hawk, Liberal Arts Building, St. Andrew's Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, North Carolina

Lament of a Southern White Man

by J.V. Henry

Editor's Note: J.V. Henry is now studying law at Howard University. He is a former student at the University of North Carolina.

I been reading the papers and watching the teevee down at the store and hearing how all those Colored people demonstrating and litigating and negotiating for they rights. It is more than I can figure out. Not that I'm prejudiced. Somebody cant help it if they born Colored. But if God had meant us to mix hed have made us all the same color. And besides White people segregate theyself too. Mr. Adams who owns the mill where I work sent his kids off to school up North. He said that Ridge County School wasnt fit for dogs. I went there seven years and if it was good enough for me it ought to be good enough for anybody.

My boy Seth is supposed to graduate this year. Be the first Jenkins ever to finish 12 years school. We all proud of Seth. Hes a smart boy. He took Mr. Adams girl Betty out a couple of times last summer. But Mr. Adams said she couldnt go out with Seth no more when he heard about it. Said he didnt want his daughter marrying no linthead. Thats what he said. I got real ashamed and mad all at the same time. Because even if I work in the mill I aint no linthead. Im just as good as anybody.

And all the big shots in Washington do is to try to do something for the Colored. Except they really aint doing too much. They just making a lot of noise to fool the Colored and the dumb Northerns like Governor Rockefeller and the dumb Southerns like Governor Barnett and those. And everybody hollers about responsibility and civil rights and states rights and federal rights. Aint hardly too much said about peoples rights which is the main thing to me.

I been working at that mill for 22 years now and I worked my way up to making \$1.60 a hour now. But I got laid off three months last year. I almost had to let the car go back to

the finance company. And the union aint got no contract and all the big union people come here and make speeches about the poor mill worker and they get in they big shiny car and drive off.

They aint nobody that cares about the poor Whites. On teevee I seen the President talking about a war on Poverty in Appulacha (thats what the Northerns call the hills) but it dont look like so much to me. But Mr. Adams says its good. Hes going to build another mill he says and theyll be more work. But Seth dont want to work in no mill. He wants to go to the University and be a doctor and help people he says. But I ant got enough money to send him and he says it takes about ten years to get to be a doctor. So hes goint to Chicago to get a job he says.

I seen on the teevee the other night where the Colored was fighting the police up in New York. I dont like the police either espeshially those revenue agents. They interfere with free enterprise like when they busted up my cousin Ezra Jenkins still which he made when he got laid off. But Ezra got away and sneaked around up and busted they gas tank and burned up they car. But anyhow the police shouldnt ought to be so mean to the Colored people and not to the White people neither. And if those police is interfering with free enterprise up in Harlem (thats Colored Town in New York) then I dont blame the Colored for being mad. And those police oughtnt to be so mean. I know about that because a couple of years ago when we was On Strike at the mill one of those National Guards come up side my head with a stick and shot a couple of boys and whipped a lot more but somebody blowed up the mill powerhouse and that made it even I guess.

But the Colored people has got the right idea on some things like more work and better pay and better schools for everybody except they ought to be separate. But the Whites aint got no strength except down in the Cotton Country and the poor Whites aint got nothing there. But they all so worried about keeping the colored down that seems like cant nobody get up except the rich Whites. I wisht we had some civil rights leaders for the White people but nobody cares about the White people.

Florida Conferences

The USNSA Southern Project sponsored two conferences recently with local campus groups in Florida. The first was held in Gainesville, Florida with the joint sponsorship of the Freedom Party at the University of Florida. About forty students from four schools in North Florida came together to discuss university reform, capital punishment, the civil rights bill and its effect on public accommodations, and migratory labor. After these workshops, discussion centered around the most effective way to increase and coordinate student activity in North Florida. Those present decided to begin intensive efforts at intercommunication among the schools in North Florida.

The second meeting was held in Miami May 1 with the joint sponsorship of the University of Miami Chapter of the Florida Council of Human Relations. About 200 students attended the meeting which was broken into several panels including Peace, poverty, and university reform. This conference was one of the best student conferences I have ever attended. What made it so was the diversity of students and panel members. The range was complete -- liberal, moderate, and radical views on all of the issues discussed. For example on the panel discussing university reform were two professors from the very active Freedom Party at the University of Florida and one of the Deans from the University of Miami. Towards the end of the conference several students in a discussion period pointed out that they disagreed with some of the views expressed by some at the conference but that they had really enjoyed the conference. Students at this conference decided to keep in touch with one another.

In the fall the Southern Project will sponsor a statewide conference to discuss the establishment of a statewide student group in Florida.

Gene Guerrero

A Different Trial

On Monday May 3 a student at Auburn University stood trial in the recorder's court of Opelika, Alabama. He was charged with trespassing after prior warning, trespassing on school property, and disturbing a lawful assembly. Negroes in the courtroom were made to sit on one side by city policemen while most whites sat on the other. About ten policemen watched the trial. Downstairs on the police bulletin board was posted a copy of one of the recent Lifelines.

The student, Tom Millican, had gone to one of the local Negro high schools in Opelika to talk to the students about organizing a Freedom League as he had done in Auburn. The Auburn Freedom League has worked on voter registration, tested public accommodations, and helped in a memorial march for Rev. James Reeb, the Unitarian minister who was killed in Selma. The students in Opelika were interested. However, the principal of the Negro high school found out that Tom was at the high school and asked him to come to his office. In the office the principal or "professor" informed the white superintendent of schools that Tom was there. In court the "professor" told with pride of how he had talked with Tom and seemed to be interested in order to detain Tom until the superintendent arrived. Several days the students had a meeting of their own at the high school football stadium and Tom came. The "professor" called the superintendent who called the officers of the law who then arrested Tom. (There are no Negro policemen in Opelika).

Tom was found guilty on the two charges of trespassing. There was no testimony to show that Tom had been doing anything other than standing at the stadium so he was judged not guilty on the third charge. Fine was \$150. Tom plans to appeal the decisions.

When Gov. Wallace was scheduled to speak on the Auburn campus, Tom organized a peaceful demonstration to voice opposition to the Governor's actions.

FORUM: Focus on Vietnam

Editor's Note: Throughout the year, FORUM has served as the SSOC Newsletter "soap-box" and has featured articles of varying topics and varying opinions. In the last edition, Wendy Hamilton, a student at Siena College, gives her views on Moral Re-armament as it relates to the war in Viet Nam. Comments are welcome!

Recently Kathy Barrett, representative from Southern Student Organizing Committee, visited Siena College. Her purpose was to stimulate student concern, and with the help of those of us who accepted her initial challenge, provocative students will replace complacent pupils. The way she stimulated student concern was by telling us that she would like to see the United States out of Vietnam. My purpose in writing this article will be to tell about an ideology which I believe is superior to Communism and Americanism as we know it today. It may be called moral re-armament.

If I were a Vietnamese living in a little dirty hut with a thatched roof, and daily saw my village and my family being destroyed, I would probably yell, "Stop!" to the force of people I understood less. In other words, the Communists are disciplined people who can very persuasively tell the peasants that big money and equality awaits anyone who will accept their way of life.

Actually I would be disillusioned by either side: Communism and Americanism. To my right I would see a spoiled, selfish people who live in an unfamiliar luxury; to my left I would see a ruthless, disciplined people who believe that human nature is basically selfish, and therefore must need to be ruled by a mighty intellectual force, the Communist Party.

Looking at a wider picture, I would say we should stay in Vietnam, for otherwise the Communists will take over and kill more people in the long run. We must continue to fight in Vietnam, but we must swiftly build a new type of American that their soldiers will gladly welcome.

I believe the most daring and effective man is the one

who will "hitch his wagon to a star" and strive for absolute moral standards. He always has his guiding light before him, even if he can't reach that star. Too many youth are making noise without taking responsibility. I am definitely an integrationist, but the person who has division in his own family and tries to tell others what to do needs to get straight with his family first. We need to show the world how a mighty, disciplined youth can change the social, economic, political, racial, military conditions in our country.

I don't see how we can "shack up" with a boy or girl one night and the next day be a creative world-changer, or get mad when one of the fellows from Washington sells secret information to a subversive party, just because he doesn't want his wife and his country to know how defeated with impurity he really is. I don't see how we can steal junk from a dime store, and then scream the next morning when we read in the paper that Bobby Baker has a few things that don't belong to him. I don't see how we can hate Mother and Dad and expect Johnson and Breshnov to love each other. I don't see how we can get mad at Breshnov when he wants to be the "big man" when at home or with friends we try to always be the center of attention.

I am trying to spell out that "as we live, so does our nation." If our entire nation lived as some of us do, we would "go to Hell" in no time; but the thing is that we have people like Kathy and others who are nobly searching for truth and who, I believe, are ready now to take responsibilities and cure the world's ills. That is the most daring and difficult challenge: to be a clean individual who will radiate these powerful rays of sunlight to every corner of the world. This will mean opposition on all sides, especially from the people who rationalize absolute moral standards for the sake of comfort.

SUMMER PROJECTS . . . SUMMER PROJECTS . . SUMMER PROJECTS . .SUMMER PROJECTS

The following pages are devoted to a listing of projects available for student participation during the summer of 1965. The list is, of course, not complete, but does list a range of opportunities available. Other groups which may be contacted for additional information are the American Friends Service Committee, 160 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Young Women's Christian Association, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York; and the National Student Christian Federation, 475 Riverside Drive, N.Y., New York.

METHODIST STUDENT MOVEMENT: Morris County, New Jersey. Students will be working with the guidance of the Northern Student Movement and Students for a Democratic Society, both of which have worked in this part of the state. The attempt will be to see the problems of the community, then participate according to the particular requirements of the community. Possible shape of the project: tutoring, classes in political education, community organization. June 21-August 21. For further information write: William Corzine, P.O. Box 871, Nashville, Tennessee.

ENCAMPMENT FOR CITIZENSHIP: You will live -- and study -- discuss -- argue -- work -- and just sit around -- make decisions -- eat -- learn -- make friends -- and question with one hundred young people and a staff composed of older young people who are students of economics, government, law, history, the Arts, and people from the front lines of the civil rights movement. Resource people include Michael Harrington, Norman Thomas, Bayard Rustin, Paul Goodman, and William Fitts Ryan. Scholarships available. Write Encampment for Citizenship, 2 West 64th Street, New York, New York 10023.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE: The NAACP will be sponsoring voter registration projects in Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina. A ten day to two week orientation session will be held in early July. Contact Thomas Allen, 20 West 40th Street, New York, New York.

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY: CORE will operate projects in three southern states. The Louisiana project will concentrate on voter registration. Sixty students are needed for voter canvassing, research and record keeping, teaching in freedom schools, and conducting political education workshops. The project in North Florida will be aimed at the expansion of freedom schools, community centers, and strong local organizations. Approximately 30-40 students are needed. Thirty five volunteers are needed in South Carolina to develop a political force to oppose Senator Strom Thurmond. Students will canvass, accompany voters to their county courthouse, teach in voter clinics, registration clinics, political education classes, and citizenship classes. Contact: Richard Haley, CORE, 2209 Dryades Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

LAW STUDENTS CIVIL RIGHTS RESEARCH COUNCIL: Approximately 120 law students are needed to participate in Northern and Southern internship programs aimed at providing assistance to civil rights lawyers. The students will conduct legal research, write briefs, and gather facts for cases. Contact: Steven Antler, Director, LSCRR, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, 10010.

COMMITTEE FOR MINERS: CFM plans for a summer project in West Virginia; would prefer student help from colleges in this area. The project is designed to develop local movements among the poor and unemployed in Appalachia so that these people may participate in state and local politics. Contact: Hamish Sinclair, Project Director, 1165 Broadway, New York, New York, 10001.

Virginia Students Plan Summer Project

The Virginia Student Civil Rights Committee (VSCRC) will sponsor a community organizing project in Amelia and Nottoway Counties. Volunteer workers will be working in voter registration, freedom schools, and community centers along the lines of the 1964 Mississippi summer project. Students from Virginia college will begin moving into the various communities within the two counties beginning June 1. They will be joined in mid-June by out of state volunteers, for the summer. Some students have committed themselves to working in the community for one full year. Orientation for the project will be held June 14-21 at Virginia State College in Petersburg. Students from Virginia State are in charge of planning the orientation. The VSCRC has been raising funds during the last semester to finance the summer program. A folk concert at Lynchburg College in late May is being planned to secure more funds.

Amelia and Nottoway Counties lie in the Fourth Congressional District of Virginia. Of Virginia's ten congressional districts, only the 4th could be classified as a Black Belt district. There are eighteen counties and four independent cities, Franklin, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Suffolk. Of the sixteen counties in Virginia in which 50 percent or more of the population is nonwhite, ten are in the 4th district. The total percent of the nonwhite population of the 4th is 47.9 percent. Negroes make up 42.8 percent of the voting age population. The state figure is 18.9

The Virginia Students Civil Rights Committee is an embryonic organization born at the termination of a conference about "The Upper South" held at Hampton Institute on December 3-5, 1964. The organization is representative of nine colleges and universities at present. VSCRC aims for the establishment and increase of communication among college students about the civil rights movement in Virginia by monthly meetings of the participating colleges and universities. Since its organization in the fall, the VSCRC has held a spring conference as well as conduct research and formulate plans for the summer project.

Additional information and application forms may be obtained by writing: Howard Romaine, Route #3, Port-a-Ferry Farm, Charlottesville, Virginia.

STUDENTS PRESENT PETITION TO ADMINISTRATION AT VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE

On the evening of March 22, 1965, a mass meeting of the student body at Virginia State College was held in the Virginia Hall auditorium to present a petition to the president of the college. The areas of grievances were: 1) social regulations, 2) student workers, 3) definition of the powers of the personnel deans, 4) communication from administration to the student body, 5) evaluation of efficiency and courtesy of administration agencies, 6) rules of the Blue Book, 7) religious freedom, and 8) academic freedom. Proposals for solutions in each area were stated as well as stipulations for response from the administration. Nearly ninety percent of the student body was in attendance along with graduate students and several members of the faculty and staff.

SNCC SUMMER PROGRAM

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee program for the summer of 1965 is generally one of expansion in the rural South. SNCC will continue political work in the black belt counties of Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia with the emphasis on building organizations so local leadership can emerge. The organizing efforts will include voter registration, testing of the 1965 voting bill, political education, freedom schools, and a special "Washington lobby" in support of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party challenge and free elections in the South.

SNCC believes that local people should be able to make decisions about their own lives. Thus, a series of People's Conferences will be held in Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas and Mississippi. These meetings will bring together people from across each state to share movement experiences and hold workshops on their problems. The meetings are also designed to provide local people with a forum where they can shape and direct programs for the movement. SNCC then stands ready to provide field organizers, volunteers and other materials so that their expressed needs may be met.

WASHINGTON LOBBY

Recognizing the importance and validity of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party challenge to unseat the five Congressmen from Mississippi, SNCC feels that a concentrated three week "action" program in Washington, D.C. is essential to the success of the challenge. It is also important that lobby activity be planned which forces national recognition of the need for new and free elections in the South. SNCC believes that the 1965 voting bill will not be meaningful unless it contains a provision requiring each state and its political subdivisions to hold new elections six to nine months after a federal registrar is appointed to alleviate discrimination in voter registration.

1,000 students are now being recruited to work in Washington, D.C. from June 13 to June 23 and from June 24 to July 4. During each of these ten day sessions, students will lobby Congressmen after receiving instructions on lobbying techniques and information on the MFDP challenge. Volunteers will evaluate their efforts each day and will attempt to determine the Congressman's position, whether further lobbying is needed and whether people should return home to mobilize additional support in the home district.

As work continues on the challenge, students will also be undergoing orientation for work in the South. This will include Negro history, freedom school workshops, discussions of community organizing, sessions on the political, social

page 2 SNCC SUMMER PROGRAM

and economic structures in the South, and on nonviolence and Southern law enforcement procedures. Some students will be assigned to work in the South if local people request volunteers.

ARKANSAS

The Arkansas SNCC staff is planning a summer program under local leadership supplemented by 50 to 100 volunteers. Political organizing will be done in 31 Arkansas counties. A Freedom Center program will be implemented in four cities: Pine Bluff, Little Rock, Helena and Forrest City. Classes will be held for young people and adults on voter registration, political issues, Negro history, literacy and various skills. Community meetings will shape the growth of independent political organizations. The project will run from June 1 to September 1.

MISSISSIPPI

SNCC will work with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's summer program. Some 300 volunteers and 500 SNCC, MFDP, and COFO staff members will do intensive political organizing. The program will include holding workshops on political questions, building block clubs and strengthening FDP county organizations. The most important task will be to create an atmosphere where local people can develop leadership skills.

ALABAMA

Expansion will also occur in the Alabama black belt. 35 SNCC staff workers are presently organizing in ten counties and by the end of the summer local movements should be active in triple that number. The emphasis will be on opening up areas for further work, on the People's Conference, and as well on building organizations which are run by local people.

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA

Organizing efforts will continue in this, SNCC's oldest project area and new ground will be broken in adjoining counties. Economic, as well as political, organizing will take place. Programs similar to the development of a maid's union in Americus last summer will continue. A People's Conference will be held in May.

MARYLAND - EASTERN SHORE

The SNCC staff on the Eastern Shore, in conjunction with the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee, will intensify organizing efforts on the Maryland Eastern Shore. 15-20 volunteers are being recruited for work on federal programs, employment opportunities and political organizing.

Further information on all these programs may be obtained by writing: SNCC, 6 Raymond St., NW, Atlanta 14, Georgia.

THE SUMMER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND POLITICAL EDUCATION
PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The SCOPE project of SCLC is an attack on the three basic problems of the South, and in particular, on the problems of the "Southern Negro," disfranchisement, educational deprivation, and poverty. Hopefully it will be a starting point for projects which will continue working on the eradication of these problems in the years ahead.

Organizationally the SCOPE project will emphasize the establishment of autonomous college groups which will "adopt" and work in selected counties throughout the South. At least six hundred volunteers from the academic community will participate in the project, three hundred in six major urban counties it will be possible to more than quadruple the Negro vote. In the urban counties the Negro vote can be doubled.

Coupled with voter registration work will be political education and adult education programs and efforts to initiate "war on Poverty" projects.

Colleges willing to participate in the SCOPE project will form three major categories; (1) those who are able to establish "permanent" campus SCOPE groups, to "adopt" a county, to send a SCOPE project unit into their county for the summer, and to continue working with their county in the future, (2) those who will form a SCOPE project group to work in a selected Southern county for the summer; and (3) those who will be able to send two or three volunteers to participate in some phase of the project.

SCOPE project workers will report for orientation session on Sunday, June 14. Regional orientations will be held from June 15-18; The locations for training are being selected. Those sessions will consist of intensive classes conducted by SCLC staff and other recognized civil rights authorities. On June 19, workers will travel to their field assignments. On June 20 and 21st workers will meet local leaders, get offices organized, and get the feel of their communities.

Top priority in the SCOPE project will be given to voter registration. The SCOPE unit will work hand-in-hand with the local organization (SCLC affiliate, voter league, Improvement Association, etc.) on this phase of the project. Canvassing will be done by teams of two: one SCOPE worker and one local volunteer, or two local volunteers. Canvassing kits will be supplied by the Atlanta SCLC office.

The political education program will include teaching precinct level politics, techniques of voter registration, methods of getting out a vote, maximal use of political power for community benefit, how to run good candidates, etc. Materials and curriculum will be supplied by the Atlanta SCLC office. At the orientation session SCOPE workers will be given the basic training needed to organize and teach these classes.

SCOPE workers with teaching ability will be asked to volunteer as citizenship school teachers. Materials and curriculum will be supplied by the Citizenship Education Department of SCLC, and workers wishing to volunteer as teachers will receive training at the orientation session. Each teacher will hold two classes a week in local homes. The standard curriculum covers basic skills in arithmetic, reading and writing, the American system of government, and fundamentals of economics such as writing checks, banking and budgeting.

Although emphasis is placed on the autonomy of local SCOPE units, trained SCLC field staff will help the units get functioning in their communities. SCLC field supervisors will be stationed in each four county area throughout the summer. They will assist SCOPE units, act as trouble shooters if problems arise. SCOPE units will be expected to submit weekly reports to headquarters in Atlanta so that individual programs can be assessed, and help can be sent to needy areas.

For additional information write: SCOPE

SCLC, 334 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND ACTION PROJECT

The Economic Research and Action Project (ERAP) was formed by Students for a Democratic Society * in the fall of 1963. Supported by labor unions, church groups, foundations and hundreds of adults and young people in every part of the country, it has grown in a short time to be the largest independent community organizing program in the North. Last summer, ERAP supported 150 people as community organizers in 10 cities. This summer 250 people will join the 60 member year-round staff.

ERAP aims to stimulate a broadly-based interracial movement among those Americans who are now denied the opportunity to participate fully in the country's economic and political life.

ERAP organizers work with poor people who are struggling to create their own organizations capable of protesting economic and social injustices. Work is among the white and Negro unemployed, among mothers on welfare, public housing residents, displaced Southern miners, the young and old who face a future of economic insecurity, and the neighborhood groups with common goals for social change.

Central to Economic Research and Action Project is the assumption that poor people---Negro and white---can be organized around economic and political grievances, and that there is a natural alliance among all poor in their common need for jobs, income, and control of their lives. This program is motivated by a belief that fundamental rearrangement of American priorities are needed if the problems of poverty are to be solved.

Community organizing is talking to people---in the streets, homes, restaurants, bars or places where people stand in line for food stamps or jobs. It is learning what people in a community think and feel by getting to know them and their families and their problems. The organizer works to break down barriers of communication and to cut through isolation. They work together for fundamental change. It brings people into open conflict with systems of ideas and people that manipulate or repress.

THE PROJECTS

This summer dozens of full-time community organizers will be needed in each of the following areas:

Baltimore, Maryland

Organizers are needed to work with groups in South Baltimore called U-JOIN (Union for Jobs or Income Now). U-Join is demanding that poor people run the local war on poverty and that the federal money sent to Baltimore's poverty program not to go into professional salaries and expensive offices. U-JOIN has organizing offices in both Negro and poor white sections of the city.

Cairo, Illinois

An incredibly depressed community in Southern, rural Illinois is beginning to organize for a real war on poverty, for democratic trade unions, for housing, jobs and political power. Organizers are needed to assist the poor majority of Cairo's population organize for political control of their lives.

Cambridge, Maryland

Citizens of Cambridge, Maryland's Negro ghetto have asked to be identified with SDS-ERAP. Veterans of a long and bitter civil rights fight, they want their movement to be extended to encompass the full range of human needs---civil rights, jobs, housing, democratic decision-making. Organizers are needed to work with Cambridge residents to build such a movement.

Chester, Pennsylvania

SDS supports the program of the New Independent Committee for Jobs, Homes, and Schools with summer and year-round organizers. A fight for civil

rights and economic change was temporarily beaten back by city and state police. Efforts are being made to rebuild morale and the movement. Spanish speaking people are particularly needed to organize in the Puerto Rican neighborhoods.

Chicago, Illinois

Organizers are needed to expand the oldest ERAP project to a city-wide network of opposition to Daley's political machine and to support a predominately poor white Uptown movement called JOIN. JOIN is currently fighting Mayor Daley's war on poverty for excluding poor people from its decision-making. JOIN is also beginning rent strikes in slum tenements. This summer, students are needed to help JOIN create a community theatre project, a political education program, day care centers and youth action programs. Spanish speaking people are critically needed to develop wider support among the 25 per cent Mexican and Puerto Rican population in the Uptown area.

Cleveland, Ohio

SDS will continue support to a city-wide Negro and white welfare mothers organization, Citizens United For Adequate Welfare (CUFAW). The welfare organization has made substantial gains in challenging and reforming Cleveland's welfare system. In a poor white community on the near West side (where the project has been based for the past year), SDS is organizing a community union around economic problems. This summer, the work will be extended to Negro neighborhoods on the near West side where organizers will assist CUFAW members who are building a local community union around welfare and other community issues. As new community unions are formed, every effort will be made to create working coalitions among them.

New Jersey

In Newark, SDS has helped build a locally-controlled Newark Community Union Project in a Newark neighborhood, where the Negro ghetto is half the city. Efforts are now being planned to create similar organizations in nearby neighborhoods, looking toward the 1966 election to demonstrate the power and demands of poor Newarkers. The central organizing issues have been housing, and in particular the urban renewal project aimed at demolition of the neighborhood.

In New Brunswick, ERAP cooperates with the Community Action Project, (an organization run and organized by people from the ghetto and the state university), in organizing around issues of housing, a day nursery and a tutorial project.

In Hudson County, an area of severely deteriorating cities like Jersey City and Hoboken, large concentrations of poverty and low-income groups are found in predominately white and racially mixed neighborhoods. Research and groundwork are being done in the spring, and an action program will begin as soon as fulltime (as well as summer) staff is recruited.

In Trenton and rural Southern Jersey there is a possibility that summer staffs will be needed. We hope that it will be possible to link up existing and planned groups of poor people throughout the state into a coalition.

Roxbury, Massachusetts

Organizers are needed to work in the Dudley Street Action Center, building block clubs and tenants' associations in a racially mixed poor neighborhood. The community is organizing against urban renewal, a city program in which the poor will not determine the outcome, and the community will be destroyed by the "planners." Many residents are also active in a welfare mothers movement which student volunteers will help expand.

San Francisco, California

Organizers are needed to support and enlarge the program of Freedom House--- primarily a citizen's fight against undemocratic urban renewal and for rehabilitation of crowded, rundown housing.

ORIENTATION SESSIONS

The summer program will formally begin with an eight day training session the 2nd week of June. The training week will provide an intensive orientation to the work of the project, the politics and history of each city, and the goals of the summer period. The first week will also define jobs for summer volunteers which complement the organizing program of the year-round staffs and community people. Precautions will be taken to minimize a possible let-down feeling at the end of the summer by emphasizing work which can be completed in a summer period, or which contributes specialized skills, such as research, writing, tutorial or survey work. Summer activity will be found which can either be discontinued with a minimum of disruption or which community people can maintain after the summer. New staff members will go directly from the orientation sessions to the project area.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Some volunteers will live in homes with community people. Most, however, will be housed in large buildings where meals and responsibilities for house upkeep are shared. Volunteers are expected to live at the level of the community in which they work. The general standard is the county's ADC budget.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WRITE TO: ERAP
4402 N. Racine
Chicago 40, Illinois

* Students for a Democratic Society is an association of young people on the left who seek alternatives to poverty, racism, corporate or military rule in public affairs and governments which people no longer control. Its members work for a democracy which involves students in the setting up of courses in universities; the poor in directing a public war on poverty; and all members of society in charting the directions of American foreign policy. SDS as it is now constituted, was organized in 1960. It has chapters on over 50 campuses.

SSOC
Box 6403
Nashville, Tenn.

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Nashville, Tenn. Permit No. 1633

Richard Haley CORE Southern Office 2209 Dryades Street New Orleans, Louisiana 70113
