The Student Voice, Inc.
360 Nelson Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30313

COOP FORMED IN MADISON COUNTY, MISS.

Women work in Building they were able to rent with contributions received from supporters. Sewing machines have been donated. The Coop is now working on 6,000 children's smocks for the Child Development Group of Mississippi.

JACKSON, Miss. — The Madison County Sewing Coop is located in a large, former exhibition hall on highway 22, a mile west of Canton. Twenty-six women and one man are employed there. Each is a member of this coop. They work eight hours a day, paying themselves for the first four hours, and donating the final four. They work at 16 sewing machines, a long cutting table and one pressing board.

The principle of the coop is one person — one vote, No matter how much an individual invests he is allowed only one vote. Everybody benefits according to their participation.

Mrs. Levy, vice-president of the coop talked about its formation. "We, last fall, three of us, Mrs. Harris, Maggie Douglas, our president and me talked about what we'd like to do. What we decided was a sewing coop. So we began going around to see if we could get people to a meeting to talk about this. At first it was hard to get people out, Miss Douglas and Mrs. Harris did most of the going around because I had a job at the time. When we got the ladies together at two or three meetings they said they would like a sewing coop, but not many of them thought we could do it, So we got people to bring in things they could make, things like shirts and aprons, One lady brought in two hats, Then we went around asking people to donate money, Some gave as little as a dollar, Most people gave two-fifty, We made four shirts and sent them to New York, We didn't get any money from these but we got some sewing machines, Then we made ten shirts and sent them to New York and we got a donation of $15,000, We used that money to move out here to this big building and to repair it, We had to put in plumbing and lights to work by, Then we got the contract from the Child Development Group of Mississippi for 6000 little children's smocks, That's what we're working on right now, We got more people interested after that, Lots of people who didn't think we were going to do anything at first, We got a long waiting list of people who want to work in here now, But the girls we got in first are those from out of the kitchens; maids and such, Then there are those who lost their jobs because they were active in the Madison county movement, Some were fired for trying to vote, Some for attending meetings, Next are those who really needed the job, who didn't have any money, Those who have children and were making a dollar and a half a day, on the days when they get work, Lots of people with lots of kids get only that, And that's not enough to live on.

When we started the coop we went and saw the mayor of Canton and told him what we were doing and he said he thought it was a good idea, Then we went and told the sheriff, He told us we didn't need a license or anything as long as we weren't selling the clothes from here, The local white people, they don't bother us, Most of them don't even know what going on here and we haven't had any trouble, The only thing we really worry about is maybe a bomb being thrown in here and our machines being broken up.

What we'd like to see is maybe some day each of the girls in here going around the state teaching sewing and helping to get coops started.

We hope what we're doing is going to work out, We worked awful hard getting it going, As many people didn't believe we would be able to do anything, We are going to keep on working hard, We want people to see that Negroes aren't lazy like so many say, They say we won't do anything, but what can you do when there's no job? People want to work. And this is the best way, When you're working with each other for each other," Continued on Page 4

POOR PEOPLES CORPORATION UNDERWAY

The Poor Peoples Corporation has announced that its first membership will be held August 30th, 1965 in Jackson, Mississippi. At this meeting groups of low income people will request funds from the Poor Peoples Corporation for the purpose of enabling them to embark on some type of self-help enterprise.

The Poor Peoples Corporation is a deprived organization that has been formed for the purpose of enabling people to receive the financial and technical assistance that they need in order to initiate self-help groups (cooperatives, improvement associations, etc.) that are designed to offset some of the effects of poverty.

The Corporation was formed when it was discovered by civil rights workers, who had organized low-income people into thinking about forming cooperatives and credit unions, that it was impossible to move forward because of the cumbersome amount of bureaucratic "red-tape". All of which has to be overcome in order to get such groups financed from existing sources, and the fact is the groups appear too "risky" to be financed through existing programs or by existing sources.

The Corporation is a non-profit one, it does not issue shares, but issues membership cards. Low income people are eligible for membership and it costs them 25¢ per year. The Corporation has a staff which raises money between membership meetings to create the revolving loan fund. Membership meetings are held every three months. At the membership meetings, the membership (all those who have paid 25¢ for the year) are told how much is in the revolving fund (that is, how much the staff has raised from contributors). Then the membership hears requests for loans from spokesmen for groups that have been formed for self-help purposes, After the

EAST SELMA

PEOPLE are getting TOGETHER for Some BAR-B-Q Some MOVIES Some TALK-

The Poor Peoples Corporation is asking for the Negro East side to get together and help groups (cooperatives, improvement associations, etc.) that are designed to offset some of the effects of poverty.

EAST SELMA, ALABAMA — Residents of Selma's all Negro East side gathered together in mid-July to discuss improving city services in their neighborhood.

Meetings like this one are planned for other Alabama communities, and hopefully will begin building a base of interest in community affairs.
DEMONSTRATIONS - Ft. Deposit, Ala.

By Jean Wiley

We felt that the planned demonstration should be cancelled. The young people, most of them under 19 years of age, were disorganized, despite the help given them by Jimmy Rogers, Tuskegee Institute student, and SNCC volunteers in Lowndes County. Perhaps the most disturbing, though understandable, problem was that the local kids at first absolutely refused to remain non-violent if attacked by white mobs. We were troubled, each of us visualizing violently spilled blood, yet we could find no solution beyond quietly explaining the practicality of the non-violent approach. We faced other problems. There were so many white mob leaders, local as well as national, by various means intimidated and mistreated Negroes. We decided upon the tactics, having promised a demonstration. Their numbers limited to thirty-seven, could not have been aimed at the establishments should be picketed. Finally deciding upon three, the group expressed a discussion of tactics, having promised to be non-violent.

At approximately 11:45 the group rose from the damp ground on which we'd been sitting for almost 2 1/2 hours and picked up the signs, ready to begin the demonstration. Having unanimously decided to picket the stores of the three businessmen who had most recently mistreated Negro customers, the demonstrators separated into three small groups.

Hrb's City Cafe demonstrated, because the manager had previously refused to obey the Public Accommodations Section of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill; the third and last visit. Having been sitting for almost 24 hours, there had been little conflict between white onlookers. The methods of the demonstrators and the police were forming both ways in which segregationists evade the law, many examples have come to light which point in which they have paid other registrants to evade the law, yet as the inadequacy of the act itself.

The Voting Rights Act means nothing to the white voter, he will not be able to vote for several years, but all of the changes they were about to take. Their determination was, to us, remarkable.

The Voting Rights Act means nothing to the white voter, he will not be able to vote for several years, but all of the changes they were about to take. Their determination was, to us, remarkable.

The methods by which the bill is being run is glaringly obvious to the duly visible. Some registrars are still employing literacy tests in one form or another. In Albany, Georgia, the city registrar says she will continue to test applicants until she has "specific orders", to stop, in many counties in Mississippi, SNCC workers have reported that Negroes who can't read or write, but are employed by local officials, or which ordered the local officials to administer the previous existing literacy test fairly to all prospective applicants.

One obvious inadequacy of the voting rights bill is that it says nothing about the length of time the registrar's office is to be open. In Summer County, where the literacy test is used to take up time, prospective applicants are faced with the further problem that the office is open only the first and third Monday of each month.

Another well known inadequacy of the voting rights bill is that it does not abolish the poll tax. The bill's provisions concerning registration and the interpretation of the Mississippi Constitution abolishing the poll tax and otherwise bringing state voting regulations into conformance with federal standards established by federal ruling.
The question has burst out suddenly in The Movement, with varying responses. The NAACP, through its national council, said: "Let's not take a stand." The Urban League says very much the same. CORE minutes: "Let's not take a stand." The American Civil Liberties Union and the Negro National Congress say: "No, they're right. Let's not take a stand." The SWP says: "Yes, they're right: Let's not take a stand." Clearly, people in the movement are torn and troubled, and I would like to initiate a discussion in SNCC on this question.

Let me start by reversing the situation. Suppose one of the peace organizations is approached by a member of the Freedom Democratic Party and asked to take a stand on behalf of the Challenge. And suppose the organization says: "Well, we are really with you, but we don't want to commit ourselves openly because our primary concern is peace, not civil rights. We think it may hurt our work for peace.

Progress Report

continued from page 2

esidential friends of the MFDP have committed themselves to introducing such a resolution if the Subcomittee does not act with all due speed.

Many groups have come to Capitol Hill to testify in support of the challenge. On August 16th, a group of 60 lawyers, representing many states, began an intensive lobbying for the challenge. They were recruited by the American Civil Liberties Union and led by ACLU head, John Pember.

The student lobby will be over 1,000 Mississippians who plan to come to Washington to lobby will be over 1,000 Mississippians who plan to come to Washington to lobby with all due speed. They understand just how much hypocrisy is wrapped up in their claim to stand for "the free world." They know how much they had to endure in beatings and bombings and murder before the American government acted to pass civil rights legislation that was a cornerstone of the movement. And so, to put it bluntly, Movement people don't have that much faith in what the government says.

Events in Vietnam become easier to understand in the light of recent experience in the South. For instance, the cry of "outside agitators" is raised in both places. But in the South the white South finds it hard to believe that Southern Negroes are genuinely dissatisfied, and so attributes the Negro revolt to "outsiders," the U.S. finds it hard to believe that the Vietnamese peasant really is in revolt against the old way of life, and so blames the rebellion on "outsiders" from the Communist nations.

Now it is true that "outsiders" do commit acts in Southwestern Negro, and even come south to help out. And it is true that North Vietnamese have come South to help the Vietcong rebels. But these facts don't alter the fundamental issue: that in both cases there is a home-made uprising against an oppressive system. President Johnson and again muddies this basic fact with talk about "aggression" when all the people fighting against the U.S. are in their own country and American soldiers are ten thousand miles away from home.

There is another interesting analogy between the plight of the Southern Negro and the crisis in Vietnam. In both situations there is the use of special words that arouse hatred, and distort reality. In the South the word is "aggressor." It destroys the individual human being of tan or brown or black color, who is a person, or a farmer or a teacher, who is a SINGLES. In the case of the Vietnamese situation, a group that middle-class intellectuals often do not have. That is why a number of SNCC people have been taken part in demonstrations against American policy in Vietnam. SNCC always prided itself on a special honesty; on not playing it "safe," in saying exactly what it felt like saying. Shouldn't I now say, at this crucial moment. By Howard Zinn

"Communist" in America is not quite the same as a "Communist" in Yugoslavia or in China or Italy. Stalin was a Communist, who used terrorism against his critics, but his critics were Communists today, and there are Communists today who oppose such terrorism. And inside each "Communist" country there are wide variations of belief. Yet, Americans who are poor and oppressed, and SNCC people partici- UNCC have organized Committee has committed its full resources to the Mississippi to make this trip possible for the people who are bringing the challenge. During the first week in September, the Mississippian will maintain a Capitol similar to the vigil that was held on January 4th at the beginning of the challenge. Two people from Mississippi have called on their friends and supporting issue of the war, and keep them in lobbying activities during this vigil. The demonstra- tion is expected to last until Congress votes on the Challenge.

A U.S. MARINE using a cigarette lighter to burn a home in Carne, Marines asserted burning of village was justified by evidence of Communist control. American troops since Vietnamese women and children, our planes destroy the homes of farmers and their supplies of food.
**Poor Peoples**

Continued from Page 1

Membership has heard all the requests, the entire membership decides which groups are to be funded and how much each is to get.

During the interim between membership meetings, no money is given out. Contributions to the revolving fund are held in the bank until the next membership meeting. The groups that are financed are expected to repay the money which they received in order that it might be used by other groups.

Self-help groups can also get technical assistance from the Poor Peoples Corporation at any time by simply asking for it. Technical assistance is offered to train groups how to do certain things, let groups know what ideas are technically as well as economically feasible, assist groups in writing up their proposals for presentation at a Poor Peoples Corporation membership meeting and assisting organizing groups along cooperative principles.

The Poor Peoples Corporation needs assistance from interested people:

1. Ideas or examples of self-help endeavors
2. Persons to work with low-income self-help groups
3. Funds to be added to the revolving fund for loaning purposes
4. People who have a knowledge of marketing and distribution
5. People who have handicraft and similar type skills

If you can offer assistance in any of these areas please contact:

POOR PEOPLES CORP.
P.O. BOX 977
JACKSON, MISS.
TEL. (601) 948-5960

Finally, if you know of low-income people who might be interested in receiving information on how they might be able to organize with others and receive assistance from the Poor Peoples Corporation, please have them contact the above address.

The second meeting of the Poor Peoples Corporation will be held in Nov.

---

**POEM**

IV

Someone sat and told me something new
I'm taking off
out there a mile or more is
meadows where
the soft green
summer children go

I'd like a lot
to look at them
a little while,
Remember being small of
curled hair
and loved
and let alone
to use my
fingertips
even on the grownups pretty hands
That certainly was
a long time ago

I understand your crucifix
don't come on
we'll walk a way
we know already how to
climb a hill
and here's the simple plan:
I lift up the wire
while you go under
you lift the wire
for me

Jane Stembridge

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**Stamps For Transportation**

For several years SNCC has been convinced that stamp drives could be a very important part of our fund raising program. About nine months ago, A Friends of SNCC group in Marin County, California began in earnest to collect Blue Chip stamps. The result? Two Ford Falcon station wagon buses which will be used for voter registration work in the rural South.

Because the drive was so successful and because so many people from all over the nation responded to the request for stamps, Marin Friends of SNCC has begun an intensified drive to collect #4 Green Stamps to purchase additional cars and buses.

Stamps have come from all over the country, says one member of the group, "I lightly wish I could communicate how gratifying it is for all of us to open the stamp mail and realize the reservoir of sympathy and good will that exist toward the work SNCC is doing."

Transportation costs are one of the largest budget items that SNCC has and cars and buses are desperately needed by field staff working in the black belt South. If you have stamps that you can send (any kind) or think you could help this drive in your community, write:

Marin Friends of SNCC
P.O. Box 210
Mill Valley, California

**Statement by John Lewis**

On Los Angeles & Chicago

In Los Angeles and Chicago, black people are protesting against police brutality, economic and social discrimination, and the failure and refusal of men with power to meet the needs of an oppressed people. The conditions these people have lived in breed frustration, bitterness, and a sense of despair.

The Negro people throughout this country are tired of being treated like things, instead of being respected as human beings. The use of police and military power to try to solve the problems that Negroes are confronted with in the ghettos and slums of our cities is an unspeakable mistake. It will only aggravate the disease of poverty and despair. The only way to end this kind of protest is for local, state, and federal governments to bring about a true democracy in which all Americans, regardless of class and color, will have an equal stake and share in the economic and political life of this country.

---

**WILL YOU HELP?**

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

360 Nelson St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30313

I would like to help SNCC's work in the South, Enclosed is $__________

Name:

Address:

City State:

Contributions of $5.00 or more go towards a year's subscription of the Voice,

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