

July 31, 1969

REPORT from Allan Levine and Charles Andrews
with suggestions concerning the Ruleville Project
applicable to all projects.

We are immensely pleased with the project as we have seen it in operation. It is well led; the spirit among the Cofo workers is high; strategy used for accomplishing our ends is effective.

We have been able to fit in fairly well, supplying assistance (over and above chauffeuring etc) which we are particularly able to supply. Or late we have been able to help "open up" new areas by making contact ahead of time with city officials, asking about local ordinances, etc., as well as supply contact with such officials when there are difficulties or arrests. From these activities, we have certain suggestions to make, which we feel might be helpful to other minister-counsellors.

1. Since minister-counsellors can be very effective relating to police, mayors, or in visiting jail, we have made it a policy to introduce ourselves to these officials, stating our purposes in Mississippi in broad terms. Usually these contacts have been made as the Cofo group is poised to enter a new area or town. Often we have informed the officials of the impending activities in broad, general terms, asking for their cooperation in keeping things orderly. Where there is an "overlap" the outgoing minister can be helpful in introducing the new minister to at least certain of these officials.

2. ~~In some cases~~ We have been allowed to visit workers in jail, and by our presence and concern have been able to ensure their safety and provide psychological support to the prisoners (and the project).

3. It would help greatly if an official letter from the National Council of Churches' Commission on Race and Religion could be issued to every minister-counsellor, specifying that he has been assigned to the project by the NCC Commission and that he serves as the religious counsellor, pastor, and chaplain to ~~the~~ all members of the project, no matter what their faith. In view of the fact that we have been asked for credentials, this would be helpful. At the same time this would be an effective answer to the retort that we cannot visit "because he is not of your faith." (Incidentally, the fact that the minister-counsellors are serving all faiths has had an immense impact upon all officials, as well as the Cofo workers themselves.)

4. When asking to see prisoners, we have been told that since they had not asked to see us, we might not be allowed in. We suggest that a letter be sent either from Cofo or NCC to all Cofo projects, telling them to instruct all Cofo workers when they are jailed to request visits from the minister-counsellor of their project, as well as a lawyer and doctor.

5. We have found that two ministers working together embolden one another when facing difficult and sensitive situations. We applaud the "overlap" system which we have experienced.

6. We have found it more effective for the ministers, when interceding for the Cofo workers, to do so on humane rather than legal grounds. It is much more difficult for local officials

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to refuse requests on humane grounds, since they tend to be defensive concerning the law, and anxious to show their "hospitality" and humane character (in some cases!), even to non-threateners.

7. We feel that the minister-counsellors should have the right to allow certain Cofo workers to use their car at their own discretion, if the minister-counsellor is to be other than chauffeurs. The car is needed constantly. Normally the minister can drive, but there are occasions when the minister finds himself in a counselling situation at the same time the car is needed. We suggest a change in policy, which we have had difficulty complying with.

Charles Andrews
Al Levin

(Chits enclosed have been ~~paid~~ reimbursed
to Al Levin)