

from John Bradford, project director

Wanting to know many things about COFO, and the operation of COFO, we come to you at this time asking your wholehearted support in our effort to learn about COFO, we understand that we are a part of COFO, or were a part of COFO; but it seems that we get little or no cooperation from the Office in Jackson. It has become impossible for us to operate on these bases and we don't intend to try it any more--you have stood us up waiting for you to do things that you said you would do and behold, they never get done--we are sick and tired of the inefficiency responsible existing in the Jackson office. We don't know who is responsible for these actions, but we would like for someone there in the Jackson office to correct the matter right away. We can and will understand when Jackson can't do any better, but we can't and won't understand when Jackson can do better--you never get anything done you tell us, and we are writing not for the sake of writing because we don't have the time. We would like due consideration on these matters right away and unless we get cooperation right away I am afraid you are headed for disaster in this area. Please let us know your result at your earliest convention, which will be in the next few days not a week, but less than that. It seems to make the project hard to operate when you tell us you are going to do things but never get them done, they seem to show the lack of confidence and trust in the work at this time it is I who have to face the local people what is happening as it is related to the Jackson Office--I can no longer explain because I am at the point of the demension return where I don't know where we are as it relates to efficiency--most of all we seem to get consistant lies over the WATS line.

The efficiency of the Jackson Office consider a great deal to the operation of project. Your field office have no one to turn to; but you apparently have let us down. We have picket lines at the Court House, Super Market and Department Stores, etc. They protest the same things that you are now practicing--I am afraid the next picket line will be the project directors in front of the Jackson Office.

from Larry Archibald

It seems that the chief problem in our project is the lack of communication between the project director, John Bradford, and the one staff member, me. This is especially unfortunate because of the peculiar nature of this project. I am more or less in charge of the Mound Bayou project and John is more or less in charge of the Winstonville project. But any COFO mail comes to him, as project director, and I usually never see it. Now this would be all right if we talked about what was going on in the state, but as it is I remain almost completely ignorant unless I happen to visit Shaw or Cleveland's projects and ask what's going on. So that things like state-wide FDP meetings, etc. are unattended by any people from Mound Bayou or Winstonville. Now this particular problem perhaps could be solved by having copies of all COFO mail sent to me, also, not only so that I can read what's happening, because it would probably be possible to get ahold of most of Bradford's mail, but also to refer to when the information is needed.

Lack of communication also brings problems when it comes to finances.

Most of the money we use comes through me in the form of donations from the North. They are all made out to the project bank account, which is of course in John's hands. But every once in a while the people like to know what's happening to the money (and sometimes so do I) but when I try to get any kind of financial statement, Bradford's always too busy. Also there is the problem of money that doesn't come through Jackson. We have opened up an office in Mound Bayou, in addition to the one in Winstonville, and it costs money to open an office and put supplies in it and put a telephone in it and keep it operating from month to month. Apparently Jackson never knew about this new office or thought we had set up a counterfeiting machine in it or something. Also we are told that things like car repairs (not big things, just things like a new muffler, an oil filter, new tires since the old ones weren't much thicker than inner tubes, etc.) would be paid for by Jackson or Atlanta since we just barely have enough money to keep gas in it as it is now. Perhaps there would be some way to increase the budget so that we don't have to depend on undependable checks from the North.

Also, it might be a good idea to make it known that there are office supplies in Jackson if we just come and get them, or if there aren't to get some because it must be much cheaper in the long run or the short run to buy supplies in large quantities.

If there is a traveling mimeograph machine repairman in the state, as well as a traveling radio repairman, could that be made known?

Is there some way for the Jackson office to buy a large gasoline tank and get gasoline in bulk from one of the major companies the way farmers around here do? Then when people came to Jackson they could buy some gas at 24¢ a gallon instead of 32¢ a gallon.

I guess there aren't too many other complaints, except the obstinacy and uncommunicativeness (if that's a word) of Mr. Bradford, which seems incurable. Most of the problems come because of the two people on the project and not because of anything on the outside.

PS: Could someone send some information about getting federal aid in setting up an adult education program through the local school system? That seems to be possible in Mound Bayou.