

Jan. 21, 1968

Dear Alicia,

Barb. Jones of Atlanta SNCC sent me a letter today about Madison FOS. She said that your group would send me \$10. For this I am eternally in debt and have been in good spirits all morning. I thought I would send you some of the things I and the rest of the Communications staff have been doing for the past few weeks. I will do my best to send you stuff at least once every two weeks or so. Below is a copy of a fund raising letter for COFO Communications which explains something about what we're doing.

Dear Friend,

Freedom,

Charlie Horwitz

Let me begin by saying that we appreciate your concern and interest for the movement. Anything that you can do to help us in our fight for freedom will be most gratefully accepted.

When the Mississippi press and the racist organizations repeat their message that COFO is leaving the state for lack of money, this sometimes seems almost to be the truth. The fact is that even without money COFO is here to stay-until the job is done. COFO began with a handful of young idealists who had no regular funds and yet they continued. Now there are over 300 people working as staff or volunteers, and the racist power structure is being attacked as it never has been attacked before. And the local people more and more are learning the grass roots elements of democracy. Maybe within our lifetime they will overcome.

There are many urgent needs of course. Food, clothing, and office supplies are always needed. Clothing especially in the wintertime. But I would like to make a special request on behalf of the Communications section. Our job is to tell the story of what is happening down here. The good things as well as the malicious things. We try to point out the issues as well as the incidents which occur here every day. The press relies on us to get out this information and we try to make them see behind the arrests, harrassments, and church bombings. Unfortunately many stories never get told because we lack the petty needs like auto expenses and gas, an extra telephone in the office, mimeograph paper (especially legal size), and other office supplies.

Sometimes the quick, accurate relayin of a story from the scene prevents the beatings, shootings, and arrests from growing worse. In many ways, the press is our best and only security.

With more than 300 staff members subject to harrassment by police and racists, it is vital for us to keep in touch at all times, not only for the safety of ourselves, but for the safety of those we work with. In addition, we must continually keep everybody informed about what is going on, and what is planned, within our many programs (which range from construction of community centers, to voter registration, to research on federal programs that can help the sharecroppers in the Mississippi). By the time we send mailings to our projects and to supporters in the north, and by the time we pay our phone bill, we've had to spend more money than we can afford. But it is necessary if COFO is to continue to work.

We are trying to set up a bank checking account so that we won't be handicapped by the lack of a tank of gasoline. For any help you can lend us we will be thankful.

Yours for freedom,

Charlie Horwitz

Charles Horwitz
Communications

P.S. Here is some information about myself you may need:
Last home address: 1840 N. Wells st. Chicago, Ill.
Age: 29; College: Univ. of Chicago. Graduated: 1959.
Degree: International Relations. Worked Jr. High School teacher in East Harlem, NYC, 1960-1962; Newsreporter in Chicago, 1962-1964, Nev. With COFO in Jackson since Nev. 1964. Present job: Acting Communications Director, COFO. Funds: I have supported myself for the past 2 1/2 months from savings. I am without any other source of income except that which I can borrow. I have waited for subsistence from FOS group since December. Any other needs: Mimeograph paper, legal and regular size, 20 weight, any light color, stencils, postage and gas money. We have 100 mailings filled with news for our projects, press, FOS groups etc. but can't mail them for lack of postage. We have 3 stencils waiting to be mimeographed but there's been no paper the last few days.

Thanks again.