

July 13, 1964

CORE - Congress of Racial Equality
38 Park Row, New York 38, New York
Cortlandt 7-6270

TO: CORE Chapter Leaders
FROM: Marvin Rich, Community Relations Director
RE: Mississippi Needs

Convention Action -- The CORE Convention took decisive action to strengthen our forces within Mississippi in their deadly daily combat with racism. Dave Dennis, Jim Farmer and Mrs. Fannie Chaney spoke and the delegates answered their requests for help. Our commitments include:

1. Building and staffing a permanent CORE Memorial Community Center in Meridian, Mississippi. Already, Jackie Robinson and Albert Mayer, architect, and Frederick P. Rose, builder have agreed to lead a drive for a center to memorialize CORE staffers Mickey Schwerner and James Chaney and student volunteer Andrew Goodman. The National Council of Churches has also agreed to help.
2. Increase our present Task Force in Mississippi (this has already been done), provide them with more cars, expense money and other services. In addition to the permanent staff under Dave Dennis, First Vice-chairman Rudy Lombard is now directing our summer staff. Assistant Director of Organization Robert Gore is in charge of the Meridian operation.
3. Make permanent our commitment to Mississippi. The Department of Organization will shortly begin recruiting Task Force members for the fall. The National Council of Churches has agreed to assist us in their training.
4. Raise the Money to keep the program going. The chapters are urged to do their share by raising money for:
 - a. The Meridian Community Center
 - b. The Summer Program

To help, Gene Young and Annie Moody from Mississippi are available for fund-raising speaking appearances. Gene Young is the 13-year-old delegate to the CORE Convention who was the first to test the new civil rights act by asking for a haircut. He got it the next day. Both are excellent speakers and have been well received. They will be available during July and August. Let us know now if you want them to appear in your town. They can appear at rallies, church, union meetings, parties.

Checks should be made out to CORE with a note attached specifying which program should receive the funds. CORE is totally responsible for the expenses in the Fourth Congressional District of Mississippi, including the Meridian Center, the hundreds of arrests in Canton, the salary of staff. (including Michael Schwerner and James Chaney), it was a CORE owned station wagon that was burned (in fact, we are being sued because of an accident involving Michael Schwerner). We also make a monthly contribution toward the central COFO office in Jackson. CORE staffers work in that office and in other areas of the state on special projects. COFO has no staff of its own and all expenses are covered by the cooperating organizations.

P.S. You will shortly receive a memo from Jim Farmer on actions to be taken to secure federal support. This memo will follow his meeting with the President.