

CORE'S SOUTHERN PROGRAM

Area

(Alabama), Arkansas, Washington, D. C., Florida, (Georgia), Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, (Tennessee), Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.

25 active chapters 6 to be affiliated. 8 projects in Miss., 1 project (4 counties) in Fla.

Personnel

Isaac Reynolds, Bruce Baines, Tom Valentine (T F) - Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Jerome Smith, Dick Jewett, 30 T F workers 21 volunteers - Mississippi.

Ronnie Moore, Edward Hollander, Oretta Castle, 19 T F workers, (13 or more to be added) - Louisiana.

Spiver Gordon, 6 T F workers, (7-8 to be added) - Florida.

Frank Robinson, Emerson Brown, (to be expanded) - South Carolina.

B. E./ for Cox, T F worker (to be expanded* - North Carolina.

Program

The heart of the southern program is our conviction that political strength is the key to equal opportunity. Therefore much time and personnel will be given to citizenship education workshops, political organization from precinct to state (s), supporting "Freedom candidates" in elections and seeking legal redress for racial discrimination in voters registration and for the absence of legislative representation.

Community centers provide a potential answer to the needs for adult literacy training, library facilities, teen-age recreation, the political forum, vocational training and other programmatic items shaped to community needs.

Freedom schools introduce high-school age persons to studies in practical citizenship, Negro history, basic communication and mathematics, and other subjects for which there appears to be a desire.

"Federal programs" is an effort to utilize presently operating federal agencies whose programs are applicable to various problems in the Negro community, both rural and urban.

¹States in parenthesis have no CORE projects or chapters. Our entry there is blocked at present because of lack of funds.

²Most of these have proved their worth, but cannot be absorbed into the Task Force because of lack of funds.

Welfare distribution offers support in food and clothing which will be collected from northern communities. Those who have suffered loss of employment or some other basic threat to security are considered as having first priority to such aid, but it is to be made available to all in need, as far as the supply will allow. Presently some distribution centers are in operation and others are to be set up.

The college program is an effort to involve southern Negro students particularly, but will reach as far as resources allow. It will emphasize student--and faculty--involvement in academic aspects of the program, stressing research in areas such as agriculture, sociology, political science and law. It will also encourage setting up community projects in which students may participate; adult ed., tutorial programs, recreational activities, Freedom schools and voter education.

There is constant emphasis in staff discussion, on the necessity for broad, deep community involvement and for development of local leadership. The CORE southern program presently uses two methods for developing community organization: the project and the CORE chapter. In Mississippi, the project is the natural outgrowth of a state program administered by SNCC and CORE under the aegis of COFO. The CORE project is a group effort whose nucleus is usually a small group of our staff people. They enter the community as residents, practically speaking, and attempt to build contacts that will lead to community involvement in a program such as outlined above. In Louisiana and Florida, CORE chapters sometimes serve the same nuclear purpose, sometimes operate jointly with a CORE Task Force.

Staff Training and Expansion

The retention of some summer volunteers as permanent staff members, plus the expected addition of new people, accentuate the need for staff training in CORE principles and practice.

The next southern staff meeting will be given in large part to orientation on CORE. Subsequent staff meetings will continue to pursue this course. Besides CORE methodology, our workers must investigate and study the proposed program in all aspects: immediate and long-range, local and regional. We must acquaint ourselves also with basic procedures of organizing in the community.

Legal Assistance

The legal structure for the southern program is outlined in a separate attachment.

Budget

The budget for the program is also outlined separately.

Public Relations and Fund-raising

Events in the south, and CORE's involvement in them, will continue to provide CORE's most fecund source of funds. A comparison of the proposed budget --including that for legal services--with the expected financial return from CORE'S current appeal for funds. poses the question of how CORE can achieve still more public participation in financing our program. A suggestion from the southern staff may be capsulized thus: knowledge begets commitment. That is, we must fairly well saturate the public with first-hand knowledge of our goals, present resources, needs and problems through several available publicity agents.

Among these are summer volunteers returned home, touring T F workers and local volunteers, brochures describing the various program items, a newsletter from the southern office itself and an intensified press release program directly from the south. In addition, we hope to lean heavily on SEDF to draw new financial support for "non-controversial items in our program, let up mass meetings, send supplies (paper, typewriters, memo machine, etc.)