

MEMO

TO: To All CORE Chapters DATE: April 2, 1965

FROM: Dave Dennis, Southern Program Director

RE: Summer Project Workers URGENT

Four areas of CORE's Southern Region are planning concentrated efforts during Summer 1965. Volunteers and Task Force workers are needed in order to carry out the projects successfully, and we are requesting your help to build this work force.

Because of the other projects being planned for next summer by FDP, SNCC, SCLC and many others, it has become obvious that we must make a concert effort to involve people in CORE's program. Our primary problem is our financial inability to hire as many Task Force workers as we need, and must rely heavily on self-supporting or individually sponsored volunteers to staff CORE projects throughout the South.

CORE chapters can be of tremendous assistance in this area. Work could begin now to raise funds specifically for the purpose of giving subsistence support to project volunteers, and to set up workshops to acquaint members and interested parties with our summer plans. Some members, particularly students, may well be interested in working on one of the projects for the summer--and may even have the resources to support themselves in many cases. Your chapter, or a member of your chapter, might have contacts in your community who could come down or subsidize another worker's coming down.

Expenses on an average project run to \$15-25 a week--a maximum of \$250 for the ten-week summer project duration. We are also in need of cars, particularly for voter registration work, and would like as many volunteers who can to bring onw down. Needless to say, funds are needed for everything--but our most vital need is of people.

We are planning a major "big push" in Louisiana, that will require approximately 60 self-supporting volunteers, and 40 Task Force people who will probably come from the Southern Campuses. It will require about 25 volunteers cars, along with the regular project cars. The success of the project is vitally important in terms of movement progress in the state--and in the South. Remember that the whips of both House and Senate in Washington are duly "elected" officials of this state, segregationists, and part of a statewide political machine that has made it impossible for the Negro community to have a voice in what happens to it. Powerful bosses like Leander Perez must be dealt with, and the only way to succeed in this is with massive Negro registration, political activity, education, and significant changes in the economic structure of the state. None of this can be accomplished through the efforts of a handful of CORE staff people, although that is exactly what has made the progress that thus far exists. However, a "big push" is definitely needed if we are to make actual, significant social change. And this "big push" requires a "big" number of dedicated people

to carry it out.

Northern Florida has made tremendous gains in Negro registration in a few areas--for instance, when CORE workers began a voter registration project in Gadsden County in January, 1964, there were 465 Negroes registered to vote, there are now more than 5,000. A community center has been developed in Chattahoochee that is supported and operated by local people, and many other programs have been initiated. This summer, freedom schools, adult education programs, voter registration gains in other areas any many other such programs sorely needed by the Negro community could be successfully developed--but workers are needed to organize them. The project needs 25 volunteers, and of course as many cars as possible, to carry on the program planned.

South Carolina is concentrating on voter registration and political education, in an effort to defeat Strom Thurmond and his machine in 1966. The present staff has asked for about 35 volunteers to make concrete progress in this direction this summer. North Carolina, too, is concentrating on these areas and has asked for about 15 volunteers.

With your help, we might provide the projects with the personnel they need for the greatest possible gains.

If you would like more details on the projects or needs, can raise funds to support workers, or can enlist volunteers aid, please get in touch with Debbie Bernstein at the Southern Regional Office. Enclosed is a copy of the Task Force application form, which we are also using for volunteers for the summer; please reproduce it and distribute it to interested people. Applications should be in by May 5, 1965 to give us sufficient time to process them and notify applicants. Information brochures on the projects coming up will be available soon--they are presently being printed in New York.

Be sure to let us know if and how you can help.

In the name of Freedom.



Dave Dennis
Southern Program Director

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Enclosure