

To: NATIONAL OFFICE OF CORE  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
CORE SCHOLARSHIP EDUCATION DEFENSE FUND  
CORE STAFF

From: CORE SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE  
2209 Dryades Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: Louisiana College Campus Project

INTRODUCTION

WHY SOUTHERN STUDENTS?

Thus far in the civil rights movement, the recruitment of volunteer workers from Southern campuses has been painfully neglected--but we are certain that there is great potential in this area. These students are the future leaders of the country. Whether they are to be traditional representatives of the Negro middle class or leaders of a new and better society depends heavily on the movement today.

The young Negro people of the South are constantly migrating to the North in search of better opportunities, only to end up in a slum, frequently unemployed, to live and die in a more strictly bounded ghetto than they knew in the South.

Why do they leave and go North? The college graduates leave in search of better economic opportunities and attempt to escape the horrors that have plagued them to the extent that the North and West, with their token social freedom, seem like new worlds. The vast limitations in employment and housing opportunities, even for Negroes with college degrees, simply cannot be seen from behind the cotton curtain. Most women become nurses or secretaries--or teachers earning less than \$4000 a year. If they become teachers, they are placed in a segregated school system to teach in a segregated classroom with inadequate equipment and poorly prepared students. Soon, even those who had the initiative to come North find themselves caught in the soporific of complacency. Dulled first by social acceptance in public accommodations, the spirit of striving must be further suppressed because their jobs depend on how well they behave.

Negro men who seek skilled or professional jobs have very little chance, if any, to find decent employment in the South. Negro engineers, social workers, scientists, pharmacists, actors, musicians, construction workers, plumbers, etc., have little chance of acquiring good positions in their trades. Many Negro people feel that by "escaping to the North" they can get away from this dilemma, but the horrible truth is that these problems exist throughout the country. This they must learn and this the movement must teach before the South is drained of its potential black leadership.

To escape the total dilemma, the Negro people of the South and the country must organize politically and economically in order to build a strong base from which they can cause enough change to guarantee equal opportunities everywhere. We are convinced that the incentive for that organization will come from the South and that, at this point, the South is more disposed to such organization. We think that the Mississippi Project has proved that.



The students who will participate in these conferences have a great stock in the failure or success of the movement. As men and women who will soon be the adult citizens of Louisiana (if they remain), they will live, work and raise their families in dozens of communities all over the state. No matter how much a civil rights staff does in a community, success ultimately rests with the people within it.

Through college conferences we hope to reach the Negro student and educate him about the goals and purposes of the movement. We hope to provide the initial incentive for him to become interested enough to take part in present programs and, through participation, for him to become a sound community leader.