



Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA 14, GEORGIA
688-0331

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
3418 11th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20010
387-7445

May 14, 1964

Mr. William Penn Warren
2495 Redding Road
Fairfield, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Warren:

This is a request for your help in a project which we feel to be extremely important. As you probably know, the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) -- a coalition of civil rights groups working in Mississippi -- is planning a massive summer project for Mississippi. The program is described in the enclosed brochure. You will see that it calls for over a thousand workers in Freedom Schools, Negro voter registration, Community improvement centers and other projects in Mississippi.

The record of that state for violence against civil rights workers must be well known to you, and we are extremely concerned about the physical safety of the volunteers during the Summer. In order to focus national and federal attention on Mississippi this summer, and, if possible, to secure the presence of a peace keeping force that will minimize the threat of violence and chaos, we are sponsoring hearings here in Washington on conditions in Mississippi.

A group of Mississippians of both races will testify before a panel of "jurors" to the conditions in Mississippi which make it necessary for federal protection of the rights and lives of our workers this summer. This panel of jurors will be comprised of a number of prominent persons. They will listen to the evidence, and, we hope, issue a statement in support federal action to head off any bloody incidents in Mississippi.

National civil rights leaders have been asked to join with COFO workers to seek an audience with President Johnson

"One Man, One Vote"

Mr. William Penn Warren

Page 2

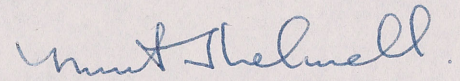
on June 10th. The evidence presented at the June 9th hearing will be made available to him, and we will request that he use the full powers of his office to insure a peaceful summer for Negro and white Mississippians.

Your presence on the panel will lend weight and prestige to our insistence that morality and order must prevail in Mississippi this Summer, and might be instrumental in averting any tragic incidents that will bring more shame to the Southland and our Nation. Please consider this request seriously. Stokely Carmichael has asked me to add his personal request that you appear.

I shall be happy to answer any questions that you may have, and I hope to hear from you at an early date, as time is short.

With every good wish,

Yours for Freedom,


Mike Thelwell
Director
SNCC Washington Office

P.S. I have just learned that Mr. C. Van Woodward, the historian, has consented to appear and I pass it on for your information.

GILBERT BOND

PEACOTTONCORE

REPRINTED FROM:

Newsweek

February 24, 1964

MISSISSIPPI:

Allen's Army

The second summer of the Negro revolt was still months off. But ever since the first, Allen Thompson, the graying, satin-smooth mayor of unreconstructed Jackson, Miss., has been acting as though Armageddon were just around the corner.

Girding for a new wave of civil-rights demonstrations this summer, Thompson is massing an impressive—and expensive—deterrent force of men and military hardware. To defend the capital city of 144,422, he is building up his young, tough, riot-trained police force from 390 to 450, plus two horses and six dogs. The force is “twice as big as any city our size,” Thompson boasted last week—and it will be backed by a reserve pool of deputies, state troopers, civilian city employes, and even neighborhood citizen patrols.

With a hefty \$2.2 million budget to spend, the department recently bought 200 new shotguns, stockpiled tear gas, and issued gas masks to every man. Its motor fleet includes three canvas-canopied troop lorries, two half-ton searchlight trucks, and three giant trailer trucks to haul demonstration POW's off to two big detention compounds. “I think we can take care of 25,000,” the mayor said.

Weepers: But the pride of Allen's Army is Thompson's Tank—the already popular nickname for a 13,000-pound armored battlewagon built to the mayor's specifications at roughly \$1 a pound. The twelve-man tank, abristle with shotguns, tear-gas guns, and a sub-machine gun, flopped on its first mission—putting down a demonstration at all-Negro Jackson State College two weeks ago. As it rolled up, a tear-gas shell went off inside, and all twelve men stumbled out crying. Nevertheless, Thompson says reverently: “It's a wonderful thing.”

Would a collision come? Thompson thought so—and so did the young war-hawks of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, already mapping a massive summer campaign in Mississippi. SNCC was dispatching questionnaires last week to prospective recruits for its own nonviolent army of 500 to 1,000—mostly college students—to staff



Thompson, troops—and armor

“freedom schools,” community centers, and voter-registration drives. “The summer of 1964,” SNCC chairman John Lewis said, “could really be the year for Mississippi. Before the Negro people get the right to vote, there will have to be a massive confrontation, and it probably will come this summer . . . We are going to Mississippi full force.”

And when they come, Thompson feels he has the means to contain them. “There will be no unlawful marching

and peaceful picketing,” he vowed. “We are not going to let them come into the downtown area.”

The mayor insists his army is only a second-strike force designed to preserve law and order. “We have to wait,” he told NEWSWEEK's Karl Fleming, “until they start trouble.” But Thompson is certain trouble will come. “This is it,” he said. “They are not bluffing and we are not bluffing. We're going to be ready for them . . . They won't have a chance.”

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
8½ Raymond Street, N. W., Atlanta 14, Georgia

Labor Donated

REPRINTED FROM:

The Atlanta Journal
AND
THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1964

Governor Seeks Power For Patrol

By **KENNETH TOLER**
Jackson Bureau, Memphis
Commercial Appeal
Special to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

JACKSON, Miss., March 7. Full police powers for state highway patrolmen to give him a "highly mobile, professional force" to deal with anticipated racial conflicts has been asked of the legislature by Gov. Paul B. Johnson.

Patrolmen are under the jurisdiction of the governor but are restricted to enforcement of traffic laws.

Gov. Johnson did not disclose any of the anticipated disorders but did tell the legislators in joint session this week that "the situation we face is loaded with the most powerful emotions, feelings run deep and blood runs hot."

"THINKING CLEARLY is not easy amid the pressures which we all will have to endure in the months ahead," he said.

Mississippi officials anticipate mass invasions of upwards to 1,000 biracial outsiders within the next few months to protest segregation and laws they contend discriminate against the rights of Negroes to vote.

With the racial "tag" attached, the legislative reaction at the moment is favorable. However, leaders and many members want the governor to "spell out" a bit more in detail his plans to make certain they do not include raids in areas where liquor is openly sold without local law interference.

In the past, proposals for state level law enforcement has met with defeat in the legislature. Major opposition has come from the powerful sheriffs association because of those officials' exclusive law

enforcement authority in their particular bailiwicks.

GOV. JOHNSON assured the legislators that if given the state level authority he will "use it carefully, in the interest of law and order, public safety, constitutional government and the integrity of our state's sovereignty."

"I alone will stand accountable," he added.

The governor told the lawmakers that "we must decide now that law and order will be maintained at all times and under all circumstances, by disciplined, uniformed duly-authorized law enforcement officials . . . and no one else."

Gov. Johnson also urged the legislature—which enters its tenth no-limit biennial session Monday—to authorize cities and counties to send their "overflow prisoners to a detention center at the state penitentiary at Parchman in the delta."

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

8½ Raymond Street, N. W.

Labor Donated

Atlanta 14, Georgia

PROGRESS IN MISSISSIPPI DEPENDS ON YOU

The Mississippi Summer Project needs money now to establish and support the activities described in this pamphlet. We are asking the people of America—individuals as well as institutions—to contribute now to assist SNCC in its commitment to the struggle for justice in the state of Mississippi.

A contribution in any amount will be of help. For example:

\$5 will supply school materials for one day-student for the entire summer.

\$25 will pay the utility bills for one Freedom School for the summer.

\$50 will buy office materials for one voter registration field office.

\$100 will buy materials for a home nursing and baby care class for one Community Center.

\$125 will buy one tape recorder for a Freedom School.

\$400 will provide scholarship money for one Southern Negro college student, enabling him to return to school after working in Mississippi for the summer.

\$2000 will rent and remodel a building for one Community Center.

\$3000 will buy one used bus for transporting vote workers and registrants.

Send your contribution to:

MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

8½ Raymond Street, N. W.

Atlanta 14, Georgia



MISSISSIPPI
SUMMER
PROJECT



VOTER REGISTRATION

The struggle for freedom in Mississippi can only be won by a combination of action within the state and a heightened awareness throughout the country of the need for massive federal intervention to ensure the voting rights of Negroes. This summer's program will work toward both objectives.

Voter registration workers will operate in every rural county and important urban area in the state. These workers will be involved in a summer-long drive to mobilize the Negro community of Mississippi and assist in developing local leadership and organization.

Forty thousand dollars must be raised for a Freedom Registration campaign. The registration campaign which was launched in February will be implemented by summer workers. Freedom Registrars will be established in every precinct, with registration

books closely resembling the official books of the state. The Freedom Registration books will serve as a basis for challenging the official books and the validity of "official" federal elections this fall.

Finally, voter registration workers will assist in the summer campaigns of Freedom Candidates who will be running for congressional office.

FREEDOM SCHOOLS

An integral part of SNCC's voter registration work is the development of leadership for politically emerging communities. Freedom Schools will begin to supply the political education which the existing system does not provide for Negroes in Mississippi.

The summer project will establish ten daytime Freedom Schools and three resident schools. The daytime schools will be attend-

ed by 10th, 11th, and 12th grade pupils; the schools will operate five days a week in the students' home towns. Instruction will be highly individualized—each school will have about fifteen teachers and fifty students. The program will include remedial work in reading, math and basic grammar, as well as seminars in political science, the humanities, journalism and creative writing. Wherever possible, studies will be related to problems in the students' own society.

The three resident schools will be attended by more advance students from throughout the state. The program will be essentially the same as that of the day schools, with emphasis on political studies.

The students who attend the schools will provide Mississippi with a nucleus of leadership committed to critical thought and social action.

COMMUNITY CENTERS

In addition to the Freedom Schools, Community Centers will provide services normally denied the Negro community in Mississippi. Staffed by experienced social workers, nurses, librarians and teachers in the arts and crafts, the centers will provide educational and cultural programs for the community. Instruction will be given in pre-natal and infant care, and general hygiene; programs will provide adult literacy and vocational training. The thirty thousand books now in SNCC's Greenwood office library will be distributed to these centers, and others will be obtained. The centers will serve as places of political education and organization, and will provide a structure to channel a wide range of programs into the Negro community in the future.

RESEARCH PROJECT

The program of voter registration and political organization will attempt to change the fundamental structure of political and economic activity in Mississippi. In order to accurately picture this structure, extensive research must be done into Mississippi's suppressive political and economic life. Skilled personnel are needed to carry out this program both from within and outside the state.

WHITE COMMUNITY PROJECT

The effort to organize and educate Mississippi whites in the direction of democracy and decency can no longer be delayed. About thirty students, Southern whites who have recently joined the civil rights movement, will begin pilot projects in white communities. An attempt will be made to organize poor white areas to make steps toward eliminating bigotry, poverty and ignorance.

LAW STUDENT PROJECT

A large number of law students will come to Mississippi to launch a massive legal offensive against the official tyranny of the state. The time has come to challenge every Mississippi law which deprives Negroes of their rights, and to bring suit against every state and local official who commits crimes in the name of his office.

Trained Personnel Are Needed

For applications write:

MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT

1017 Lynch Street — Room 10

Jackson, Mississippi

(applications must be received by mid-April)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI PROJECT

Although the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has active projects in thirteen Southern states, it has achieved its most dynamic success in the state of Mississippi. A state where individual political life is non-existent, where the economic condition of a vast majority of the population is appalling, the home of white supremacy, Mississippi has become the main target of SNCC's staff and resources.

In August, 1961, SNCC went into Mississippi under the leadership of Project Director Robert Moses. Overcoming violence and hardship, SNCC workers have been able to expand their activity into all five of Mississippi's congressional districts. By fall, 1963, SNCC had joined with CORE, SCLC, the NAACP and many voting and civic groups in forming a statewide organization, the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), and through COFO conducted a Freedom Vote campaign in which 80,000 disenfranchised Negroes cast ballots for Aaron Henry for Governor.

Preparation for real democracy calls for additional programs in the state. Literacy projects have been instituted, and food and clothing drives. But much more comprehensive programs are needed to combat the terrible cultural and economic deprivation of Negro communities in Mississippi.

This summer, SNCC, in cooperation with COFO, is launching a massive Peace Corps-type operation in Mississippi. Students, teachers, technicians, nurses, artists and legal advisors will be recruited to come to Mississippi to staff a wide range of programs that include voter registration, freedom schools, community centers and special projects.



All photographs were taken during Freedom Day at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on January 22, 1964. Above photo by Norris McJannet Namara; other photos by Danny Lyon.

PROGRESS IN MISSISSIPPI DEPENDS ON YOU

The Mississippi Summer Project needs money now to establish and support the activities described in this pamphlet. We are asking the people of America—individuals as well as institutions—to contribute now to assist SNCC in its commitment to the struggle for justice in the state of Mississippi.

A contribution in any amount will be of help. For example:

- \$5 will supply school materials for one day-student for the entire summer.
- \$25 will pay the utility bills for one Freedom School for the summer.
- \$50 will buy office materials for one voter registration field office.
- \$100 will buy materials for a home nursing and baby care class for one Community Center.
- \$125 will buy one tape recorder for a Freedom School.
- \$400 will provide scholarship money for one Southern Negro college student, enabling him to return to school after working in Mississippi for the summer.
- \$2000 will rent and remodel a building for one Community Center.
- \$3000 will buy one used bus for transporting vote workers and registrants.

Send your contribution to:

MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT

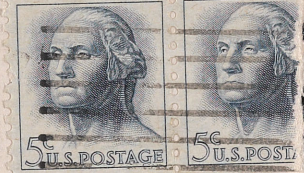
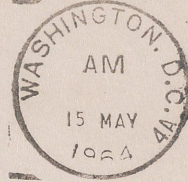
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

8½ Raymond Street, N. W.

Atlanta 14, Georgia

THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
3418 Eleventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20010

AIR MAIL



Handwritten in red ink:
7/5
2/20/64
N
USA

Mr. William Penn Warren
2495 Redding Road
Fairfield, Connecticut

Handwritten in red ink:
8
5
1
1
2
8
5
7

call Aishworth

Alie Kyjoff

Yan wiskey

M. Welsh

Plants

Sothe m-fores