

YOU TOO CAN HELP



Ten ton shipment of food from Boston arrives in Ruleville on Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12, 1964.

To sustain an average sharecropper's family for a month, it takes:

- 4 lbs. of lard
- 2 sacks of flour
- 3 cans of meat
- 3 boxes of milk
- 15 lbs. of meal

SEND FOOD FOR FREEDOM

TO CHANGE THESE CONDITIONS
SUPPORT THE MISSISSIPPI
SUMMER PROJECT NOW.



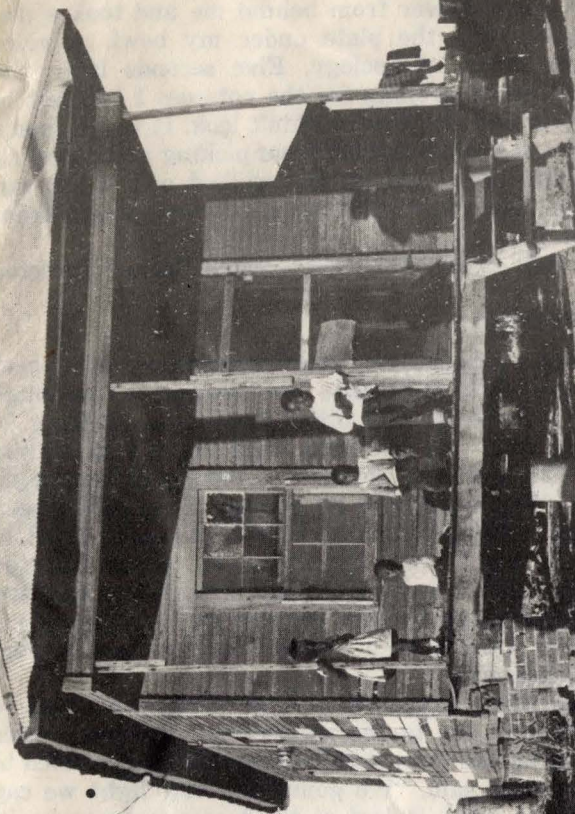
Negroes registering to vote in Greenwood, Miss.

S N C C

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was founded at a conference of student sit-in leaders on Easter weekend in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1960. It began as a small group of students who worked in the movement while still in college. Since that time hundreds of students and recent graduates have worked full-time for a summer or for a year or two taking the freedom movement to the millions of oppressed Negroes of the South.

For further information contact -

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
6 Raymond St., N.W.
Atlanta 14, Georgia
688 - 0331



THEIR DAILY BURDEN . . .

HUNGER



HELP THEM IN MISSISSIPPI

LIFE ON THE DELTA

Greenville, Mississippi

Just this afternoon, I had finished a bowl of stew when a silent hand reached over from behind me and took a discarded neckbone from the plate under my bowl. A voice mumbled some words of apology. Five seconds later, the hand was back again, groping for the potatoes I had left in my bowl. I never saw the face; I didn't look. It was a man's hand, dark, dry and wind-cracked from picking and chopping cotton. Lafayette and I got up and walked out. What can you do when a man has to pick up a left-over potato from a bowl of stew?

Bob Moses, SNCC Mississippi Project Director

Ruleville, Mississippi

Ever since we began our voter-registration drive here in Ruleville, the white folks have been making it real tough for the Negro workers. The other day, I was talking to Leonard Davis who was just fired from the city sanitation department. The mayor of Ruleville, Charles M. Dorrough, told Leonard, "We're going to let you go. Your wife's been attending that voter-registration school." Leonard tried to explain that he hadn't been attending the school but the mayor said that didn't make any difference. When Leonard told him he was going to find another job the mayor replied, "Well it's going to be a little difficult for you to find a job here in Ruleville."

The same thing happened to Fred Hicks who used to drive field workers out to the plantations. The bus owner told Hicks that he had been fired because his mother tried to register. The owner said, "We gonna see how tight we can make it — gonna make it just as tight as we can make it. Gonna be rougher than you think it is." Leonard could have his job back, the owner said, if his mother withdrew her name from the vote list.

Charles Cobb, SNCC Field Secretary

Greenwood, Mississippi

I saw a ten-year-old kid on his way to school pick up a piece of bread out of a garbage can and start eating it. I stopped him to make him throw it away and he started crying because he was so hungry. He asked me for a nickel to buy some milk at school but I didn't have a cent. The need for food is very bad and it's like this all over LeFlore County. Last year, just before Thanksgiving, county officials took 22,000 people off the relief rolls because of voter registration activities, and they have no way to earn money until the end of May.

Sam Block, SNCC Field Secretary



MISSISSIPPI — THE BARREN STATE

Since the Civil War the main Mississippi cotton-producing center has been the Delta — a flat stretch of fertile land running from Vicksburg north to Memphis. Here the plantation system has remained almost intact. Today Negroes are sharecroppers instead of slaves, but their lives are much the same.

By agreement with the plantation owner the sharecropper raises a crop of cotton and splits it 50-50 with the owner. The costs, however, are paid entirely by the sharecropper in return for use of the land. The cropper's cotton is turned over to the owner who sells it and handles all finances. This makes the cropper subject to all kinds of financial chicanery. Several sharecroppers and day laborers have reported that they have had to pay out social security even though they had no social security number. Mrs. _____ Johnson of Ruleville reported that even her ten-year-old son has had social security taken from him.

Mrs. _____ Robinson, who sharecropped on a plantation near Ruleville, picked 20 bales of cotton this past season, yet she cleared only three dollars. There are approximately 550 pounds in a bale of cotton and the current selling price is 30 to 34 cents per pound. Before deductions, Mrs. Robinson should have made \$3,300 to \$3,740. Sharecroppers generally clear \$250 to \$160 a year.

In addition to this exploitation is the growing threat of automation. The standard cotton-picking machine displaces from 30 to 40 laborers who are then given \$20 to start a new life for their families. This year more cotton was picked by machine than by hand.

The cotton-picking season runs from August through to December. After this there is little or no work for men until the next season. The only Negroes able to work after December are women who earn about \$19 for seven days work as cooks or maids. Often large families, numbering as many as 15, must live on a maid's wages.

In the past, plantation owners have helped to tide their croppers over to the next season with food, clothes and medical supplies. The cost was then deducted from the earnings of the following year. In this way plantation owners have been able to keep Negroes dependent. Debts were often incurred which kept the cropper in obligation to the planter for several years.

Once Negroes started voter registration activities, the paternalistic system which held them in bound was threatened. In reprisal, planters now often withhold winter subsistence from sharecroppers when a vote drive begins.

The survival of many Delta families now depends on commodities — the surplus government foods given out to persons on welfare. But since vote activities have increased, even this last means of survival has been taken from the laborers. In Ruleville, commodities have been denied to many people through enforced use of a registration card which requires the signature of a "responsible person", most likely, a white plantation owner.

We of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee are dedicated to give the Mississippi Negro freedom from hunger until the day he has secured his full and complete democratic freedom. We can do this only with your help.