

**There are
40 million
white people
in the South**

**WHO
WILL
ORGANIZE
THEM ?**

THE KU KLUX KLAN?

GEORGE WALLACE ?

|| OR THE
FREEDOM
MOVEMENT ?

The answer to these questions may decide the fate of this country and perhaps the world. The Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) has an expanded program which we believe will help answer the questions in the right way. We ask you to read about it — and join us in our efforts.



An Old Problem....

Eleven million, or more than one fourth, of the 40 million white people in the South are poor—that is, existing on incomes below the government poverty figure of \$3,000 a year. Seven million, or almost two thirds, of the South's 11 million black people are poor. They all stay poor because they have not been able to organize effectively to take control of the South out of the hands of the few and distribute power among the many.

Except for a powerful few, even those Southerners above the poverty level have little or no influence in the decisions that affect their lives. The South has never had real democracy, for it has always been controlled by a small minority.

In recent years, Southern black people have begun to organize to win political power.

But the majority of the South's white people remain powerless because they have not yet united with black people to gain strength. Instead, many still listen to the false call of those who say they are better than black people because of the color of their skin.

.... A New Hope

But today there are new signs of hope.

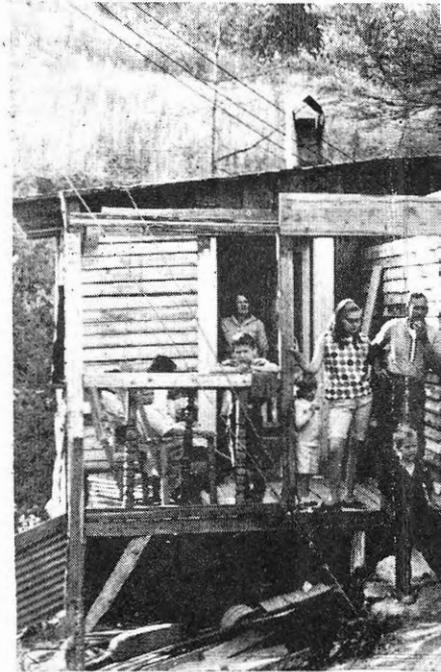
In **North Carolina**, white mill workers join black workers to build a stronger union. ("That's a black power picket line, you don't want to get on that," one worker says to another. "Black power — white power — who cares?" replies the other. "We need power. I'm going to join that picket line.") . . . In **Louisiana**, white parents join black parents to keep racists from closing their schools . . .

In the **Mississippi Delta**, poor white farmers seek out the Negro liberation movement looking for opportunity for their children to attend Headstart centers . . . In **Appalachia**, poor white people organize and study the way black people in Lowndes County, Ala., organized to seek county political power . . .

There is a new factor operating in the South today . . . the strength of the new black movements. Here and there, powerless white people are coming to see that they *need* the black man more than they need their age-old prejudices.

The Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) has developed a program to seize on this new awareness — and out of it to build a movement that can unite white Southerners with black ones to build a new South.

It brings to this moment of opportunity the experience of almost 30 years of work in the South. The Southern Conference was organized in 1938 after the New Deal government issued a report calling the South the "nation's No. 1 economic problem." Its purpose was to organize the South's powerless people so they would have the strength to effect change. But it was three decades ahead of its time.



A SCEF organizer (right) talks
Eastern Ken

What SCEF Is Today

In its early years, the Southern Conference organized around the South's economic problems — supporting union efforts, helping poor farmers find a voice. But it soon became apparent that there was a fatal road block to change in the South. This road block was racial segregation enforced by law.

So, for 20 years after World War II, SCEF along with other militant organizations worked at a single task — the ending of segregation. It spread information, held interracial conferences, broke the silence, enlisted white people in freedom movements.

New mass movements arose, court decisions came, new laws were passed. By 1964, the legal back of segregation was broken. Racism still poisoned the region, but the South's closed atmosphere was cracked open and now there was new freedom to organize. The Southern Conference then decided to concentrate again on its original objective — organization of the South's people, white as well as black, to tackle economic problems and distribute political power.



talks with a miner's family in Kentucky.

Community of Organizers

This effort received new impetus in 1966. Important groups in the black community (like the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) declared that black people would have to organize themselves and that white people should reach and organize other white people.

Suddenly many young white people realized that, while they were organizing black people, white Southerners were hearing mainly the voices of the Ku Klux Klan and the White Citizens Council. The most able and talented of these young people turned for a rallying point to SCEF, the organization that had long been working at the task of reaching the white community.

Thus, SCEF has changed from being a lonely voice crying in the wilderness to a new community of young organizers. Today we have a staff of 26 people, over

half in the field. Our organizing efforts center in three major projects:

The Southern Mountain Project, in Appalachia, where our organizers are helping some of the poorest people in America build on the experiences of the Southern freedom movement to organize for political and economic power.

The GROW Project (Grass Roots Organizing Work), in the Deep South, where Bob and Dottie Zellner, young veterans of the Southern student movement, are helping white people find common cause with black people.

The Southern Peace Education Program, through which our Southwide travelers stimulate discussion of our foreign policy and help local groups organize action for peace. Our objective is to build a Southern anti-war movement that unites black and white.

We believe we are beginning a massive new organizing effort that can shake the South and the country. We invite you to help us now — when we need you most.

It's Your Future

The Southern power structure still controls this country through the stranglehold of Southern senators and representatives on Congress. These men cripple laws to improve social security and medicare, to raise minimum wages, and to help small farmers, labor unions, cooperatives, and credit unions — and they are a roadblock to world peace. Southern racism also threatens the nation with a mass base for American fascism, and George Wallace is carrying this campaign northward.

Wherever you live, your future may depend on whether the racists or the freedom movement can organize more effectively among Southern whites.

SCEF does not claim it can organize all of those 40 million white Southerners, but we are making a beginning — and as people in small areas organize effectively, new movements will spread.

Whether you live in the South or elsewhere, we need your time and talent to help us — and your financial support. \$250 pays salary and expenses, including travel, for one field organizer for one month; some groups are raising that amount to “adopt” a worker. \$25 pays a month's rent for a cabin for one mountain organizer. A contribution of \$20 will print 3,000 copies of one issue of a magazine-size community newspaper. (We use our own press.)

SCEF is an entirely independent organization, receiving no support from the government or big foundations. Our money comes from concerned individuals who believe that democracy means people organizing for themselves. Write us for more information and send contributions to:

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