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1965-

Southern

Conference

Educational

Fund, inc.

*Invites Your*

*Cooperation*

*In Putting*

*Into Effect*

*The Following*

*Action Program*



# Today's Great Issues: A Call to Action

Resolutions on several great issues facing the South were adopted by the SCEF board at its semi-annual meeting in Oct., 1965. Action proposals, things any individual can do even alone, were suggested to implement them. Because of their general interest, we print excerpts from both the resolutions and action proposals.

## On Foreign Policy Debate

"We express our deep concern about the war in Vietnam and especially the lack of public discussion throughout the South regarding the foreign policy of our country. . . . This reflects a traditional illness of the South: it has silenced discussion on the matter of race relations and in the process has tended to stifle debate on all public issues.

"Therefore, insofar as possible, we plan to encourage a series of workshops and conferences throughout the South at which can be discussed varying points of view on both foreign and domestic policies of the nation.

"This is in line with the long-time objective of the Southern Conference Educational Fund of bringing true democracy to the South. . . . We feel that such discussion is especially important in the South at this time because the civil rights movement, now that it has struggled for the right to vote for all, must move on to finding something meaningful to vote for. We believe that democracy demands people at every level of society discussing the basic issues that face their community, their region, the nation, and the world.

"In the past, too many elections have been fought out on the single distorted issue of keeping white people in power. Now we must inject into election campaigns debate on basic issues that affect all

men's lives, and this means first of all creating a ferment of discussion around these issues."

*Action Suggested: If public discussions of foreign policy are already in progress in your community, support them, urge friends to attend them. If none are planned, try to start them—through colleges, churches, etc. If those who oppose the war are being attacked in your community, defend their right to speak and urge others to do so.*

## On 'License to Murder'

"We express concern about what has correctly been called 'license to murder': repeated acquittal of white people who kill Negroes and white civil rights workers. . . . We support proposed federal legislation making it a federal offense to injure or kill a person because of his color, his involvement in the civil rights movement, or his exercise of the constitutional right to seek redress of grievances.

"We renew the appeal we made a year ago for a system whereby jurors in federal court would be selected from anywhere in the nation, not just the district where the court is located. In this, we are not renouncing the principle of trial by a jury of one's peers. Rather we say that, in a world that has shrunk as ours has in modern times, the geographic area in which our 'peers' live has expanded. . . .

"Furthermore, we question whether the men who have been acquitted in Southern courts on charges of killing and injuring civil rights workers have really been tried by a jury of their peers. In situations of community hysteria, where only the voice of racial bigotry is heard and Negroes have little voice at all, the jury is chosen from only a small section of the defendant's 'peers.' We believe our proposal is

## What You Can Do

actually the way to save the system of trial by jury of one's peers.

"We also propose to carry on an educational campaign to call to the attention of the public, especially the Southern public, the shocking facts about the extent to which murder has been a part of their way of life."

*Action Suggested: Write and get others to write congressmen and senators urging legislation to make murder a federal offense in civil rights and similar cases. Support the proposal for federal jurors from all over the nation and explain it to others. Write the U.S. Justice Department and demand enforcement of laws now on the books barring racial discrimination in juror selection. Talk to people you know and organizations you belong to and ask them to act also; point out that so long as violence goes unchecked in the South, each U.S. citizen shares part of the blame.*

### On Enforcing Laws

"We call on the federal government to move much more decisively to enforce and bring to life civil rights measures already enacted. Especially, we call for cut-off of funds to any locality that uses evasive tactics to avoid compliance.

"We are concerned by a series of recent statements by U.S. Atty. Gen. Katzenbach indicating a weakening of will to enforce civil rights legislation, and causing us to lose confidence in his policies.

"We urge that he immediately send federal registrars into all Deep South counties where Negro voter registration has been restricted; the small number into which registrars have been sent represents only a small beginning. . ."

*Action Suggested: Order the excellent report of the Southern Regional Council on continued school segregation. Pass it on to friends. See what can be*

*done in your community to speed up school integration; this is not just a Deep South problem.*

*Write the U.S. office of Education and demand cut-off of federal funds to school districts that are evading the 1964 law requiring good-faith desegregation. Write Atty. Gen Katzenbach urging the sending of federal registrars into all Deep South counties where Negroes have been deprived of the vote.*

### On Economic Reprisals

"We are concerned about the continuing numbers of people in the South who are subjected to economic reprisals—loss of jobs, credit, etc.—because of their civil rights actions . . . We call on the federal government to help these people through the channeling of funds from the anti-poverty program for their assistance.

"The federal government has enacted laws to bring about changes toward equality . . . but laws are only brought to life when people in local communities step out to implement them. The federal government must support those who are supporting the changes."

*Action Suggested: Write to President Johnson about this. Ask others in the civil rights movement to take up the campaign to get anti-poverty funds used for this purpose.*

### On HUAC and the Klan

"We note with continuing concern the hearings on the Ku Klux Klan by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). We have protested the idea of these hearings since they were first proposed. . .

**"We believe HUAC is unconstitutional and a danger to democratic processes because it investi-**

gates men's ideas. We object when it attacks our most intense opponents, because if Constitutional protections of free thought and association apply to one they must apply to all.

"Furthermore, we consider the hearings a cruel hoax, because they will not stop violence and breakdown of law enforcement. This calls not for investigation of men's ideas, but for enforcement of laws against criminal acts."

*Action Suggested: If you agree with the SCEF position on this, write a letter to your local paper and state why. (Press coverage of the Klan hearings implied that long-time opponents of HUAC were not protesting these hearings; actually civil rights groups condemned them repeatedly. A strong joint petition opposing them was sent to President Johnson by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, Highlander Center, and SCEF. Copies available from SCEF.)*

*Also, write your congressman and ask that the Klan hearings not be resumed and that HUAC be abolished.*

### **Long-Range Program**

The preceding action program is part of the continuing work of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), which has as its goal equality for all people, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, or economic condition. SCEF especially tries to bring white and Negro people together to work for these aims; its present program calls for work in the following 10 fields of action, approved by the SCEF board in May, 1964, and reaffirmed in October, 1965:

1. Assist in development of economic programs where needed—such as co-ops, credit unions, home industries, development corporations to attract industry, etc. (The need for this has been especially evident in West Tennessee and Mississippi, and SCEF has already done some work along these lines.)

2. Assist in more and better interpretation of the

integration movement, its goals, etc., to the general public—leaflets, brochures, etc., especially in crisis situations. A great need.

3. Expand *The Southern Patriot* as soon as feasible by attempting to double the circulation with an eye toward increasing the frequency of publication to twice monthly. (*The Patriot* is now a monthly journal, reporting news and trends in the Southern freedom movement.)

4. Continue program of education in civil liberties and the relationship of civil liberties to civil rights. (More workshops such as one held in Atlanta in 1963.)

5. Legislative activity, building grass-roots support for civil rights legislation, national, state and local. The Western States Project (in support of national civil rights legislation) was a program along this line.

6. Political activity—support for civil-rights candidates on a non-partisan basis, building political activity at the grass roots. Some of this is already in progress.

7. Helping, through education and stimulation of idea exchange, to broaden the objectives of the movement to encompass political and economic issues, general reform of society.

8. Parochial visitation—that is, individual contact with people, building a framework and a network of key people in communities across the South, people who can be moved into simultaneous nonviolent action when issues call for it and who can have some manner of contact with each other.

9. Encouragement and help of militant local nonviolent movements where possible.

10. Encouragement and help to the labor movement and peace movement in the South, where possible.

*(See next panel for what else you can do to help.)*

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If You Would Also Like  
To Help Finance  
This Action  
Program, Send Your  
Contribution To  
Any of The  
SCEF Offices:

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Fund, Inc.**

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**THE REV. FRED L. SHUTTLESWORTH, *President***



Our publication, *The Southern Patriot*, is sent to all  
persons who give \$2 or more a year to SCEF

