

C O R E S O U T H E R N R E G I O N A L O F F I C E

2209 Dryades Street

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70113

November 24, 1964

Mr. George Raymond Jr.
838 Iatz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear George,

Thanks very much for your informative letter of recent date. There are several items in this letter which require questions on my part, rather than suggestions. Up to this time I have not received very much information from you about the operation of the Madison County Farmers League.

There's the matter of legal guidance, for instance. I don't know how you determine that you need two weeks of legal assistance; I suspect two days would be sufficient if you know where the trouble spots are. I was under the impression that the COFO legal advisor was brought in on a full time basis precisely for handling such matters as this. If such is not the case, please advise. If necessary, you could bring a representative group from the Farmers League to New Orleans to consult with Collins, Douglas and Elie.

The lawyers will be prepared to go over with the League representatives such things as these: What is the purpose of the co-op? What are the State laws regarding the chartering of a co-op? What are the legal responsibilities of the organization to the State? To the community? To its own members? What are its protections? What assistance can it receive from the federal government? There are questions for which you should have at least a partial answer even before seeing a lawyer. The lawyer would be able to clarify the answers further.

There is another area of inquiry that must be investigated: the business aspect of the co-op. What is the purpose of the supply house, for instance? What community need does it fill? Does the co-op have enough members that the supply house will be a profitable operation? I think the National Sharecroppers Fund would be willing to send a consultant to go over this whole plan with you. In that regard write to Jac Wasserman, 5 Forsyth Street N. W., Atlanta, Georgia.

On the ASCF election—I almost get the feeling that no one but you is interested. As I told you in Jackson, it seems to me that persons who are running for office will be anxious to lend their support, including their cars. It's a simple exchange: they have the cars, we have the workers. Put them together to work for their benefit not ours. That

should not be such a hard program to sell. This is the same thing we have been talking about a great deal for a long time—developing community leadership.

One other question. To what extent are Negro farmers in Madison County now using Federal Programx? I'd like to have such particularies as are available.

I expect to be in Madison County sometime shortly after Thanksgiving. Hope to see you then.

Sincerely,

Richard

RH/vjr