

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 "ryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113
January 2, 1965

Mr. George Raymond
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear George,

Sometime ago I wrote you suggesting that it would be good for the representatives of the co-op to come to New Orleans to consult with our lawyer here, or else talk to the COFO lawyer. Ernest Chanes talk to some of the people involved--perhaps you--at some length at my request. One item he reported with some disappointment, and I share that disappointment also.

Chanes said that the co-op is set up in such a way that the larger stock holders have more voting weight than the small ones. This could mean that a few people holding anything over 50 per cent of the stock, could band together and run the co-op as they see fit. This is not typical co-op procedure, but more like the operation of a corporation. "One man, one vote" can be applied to a co-op just as much as to a local election. This problem could be worked out with legal assistance. I think also that the matter of directors who are really interested and active in the co-op could also be worked out by legal consultation.

It would be well to consider the source of the salary for the long time business manager whom you suggest. I assume the co-op is prepared to pay such a salary, but it would be well to know how much they are able to pay. You will be surprised how suddenly experienced people become available once it is known that there is a living wage involved.

I suggest, then, that your first step is to arrange an appointment with Collins, Douglas & Elie or some other lawyer. Then try to determine whether it is a business manager or an accountant that you need most. I cannot help wondering at this point what the business manager would manage.

I will write to you shortly on other items; hope all went well with through the holidays.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
Southern Director