

May 12, 1965

Mr. Carl Braden  
4403 Virginia Avenue  
Louisville, Kentucky 40211

Dear Carl:

When you first presented the idea, I agreed with what I thought you had in mind. In your understandable eagerness to get AEPAC under way, you have, no doubt, overlooked the possibility of its being so clearly identified with SCEF that its identity as a separate organization may well be lost. From my own experience I know how difficult it is to turn loose an organization one dreams up when it is old enough to be on its own. Weaning off-spring is not an easy job.

I know how you like to get things done in a hurry and it is easy to understand why you offered to have SCEF assume responsibility for finances and personnel of AEPAC when it was floundering, but under such circumstances, it is easy to see how readily AEPAC can become SCEF with another set of initials in the minds of the public.

As I stated in the January meeting, to carry on and develop an AEPAC action program, we need a staff of planners and trainers for the organization. I did not then, nor do I now, consider Carol and Bruce experienced enough to pull together and work with such a staff. When Washington Butler took the presidency, he said he would only be available until summer, and with Buford's resignation, AEPAC is certainly not in a position to conduct a project independent of SCEF.

Our Board of Directors has, as you know from our experience with the CIO, always looked with disfavor on Highlander being a tail to some other organization's kite. Other affiliated organizations may feel the same way.

I suggest that you make the present Appalachian action plans include the Application for Organizational Projects, another SCEF project - thus leaving AEPAC as the expression of all the affiliated organizations. This would cause some delay in getting a project started, but it would keep AEPAC in tact for the long haul. If it falls by the wayside, it will be difficult to set up another.

There is still a good reason for SCEF to develop as many action projects under its own name as possible. AEPAC should be in a position to look at several projects which have been tested on the field. A variety of approaches to the Appalachian project should be tried before AEPAC sponsors its own. You should test out the approaches you have in mind and other affiliate organizations should be encouraged to do what SCEF and Highlander are doing.

Although we may not fully agree on what an organization like AEPAC should be and how it should function, I know you will understand the spirit in which I am making these suggestions. Many of the questions raised may never have occurred to you. There is a lot to be done and it is important that the few of us presently interested in Appalachia work out a basis of co-operation.

Carl Braden

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Best Wishes to you and Anne.

Sincerely yours,

Myles Horton

MH:jd

cc: Jim Dombrowski  
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