

7-6-1964

## Memos, John C. Stennis, July 6-7, 1964

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

HARRY L. WINGATE, JR., CHIEF CLERK

July 6, 1964

### MEMO FOR THE SENATOR.

We have several newspaper reports about the activities of the National Council of Churches in Mississippi racial matters. Some of these reports are confusing and even conflicting. Generally, however, the newspaper accounts paint this picture:

The National Council of Churches is sponsoring a task force of men and money into the Mississippi Delta to wage war on what it calls persistent poverty and racial injustice.

The project has a budget of \$250,000 which will pay for 15 field workers, a director, and general administration. This amount will be paid as follows: 60% by the National Council of Churches and 40% by the World Council of Churches.

When the program was announced on February 26, it seemed to be primarily directed at poverty and want among the negroes in the Delta. Since that time, other news stories have tied this program in with the over-all "Mississippi Summer Project" being sponsored by COFO, CORE, SNICK, and others.

Within the last day or two, the National Council of Churches has defended its role in training volunteers for voter registration projects in Mississippi this summer. The reports are that the National Commission on Religion and Race (a commission of the National Council of Churches) actually conducted the training school at Oxford, Ohio for those going to Mississippi. In addition, it has announced it will provide 50 ministers to serve as chaplains for the invaders and will provide lawyers and set up a system for supplying bail bonds.

Beyond the information above about the \$250,000 budget and the 15 field workers and director, we have no specific information about payment to other workers. Those participating in the over-all Mississippi Summer Project were instructed to bring \$150 for living expenses and be prepared to raise up to \$400 as bail bond, if arrested.

The attached newspaper stories discuss this program and the role of the National Council of Churches.

Eph.

[Clippings transferred to Vertical File]

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

HARRY L. WINGATE, JR., CHIEF CLERK

July 7, 1964

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE SENATOR.

I received a call from Mr. Hyman Bookbinder of Governor Collins' Civil Rights Community Relations Service Office. He states that the following four Mississippians have accepted appointments to the Advisory Committee. They hope to hear from others but still profess not to have a complete list of those invited to serve. I think they just don't want to tell us.

Those who have accepted are:

Reverend Duncan Gray -- Oxford.  
Carl Weisenberg -- Pascagoula.  
Dr. Beittel -- Tougaloo.  
Father Bernard Law -- Jackson.

Governor Collins might be in touch with the Senator some time soon -- just to touch base.

Any questions or information we have can be directed to Governor Collins, Mr. Bookbinder, or Mr. Harold Fleming (Assistant to Governor Collins) by telephone -- 112-3159.

Leroy Percy of Greenville has wired he will be unable to serve since whatever influence he might have for moderation would be defeated by serving on the Committee.

Eph