

## THE BRICK FACTORY

Over the three years that I have worked in Mississippi I have seen the civil rights movement grow and change as the consciousness of the Negro people has grown. We are now at the point where we all have learned, from long nights in jails, from numerous demonstrations, from being fired because we attempted to vote, who is responsible for our hunger, bad health, and poverty. And we know how tight and tough the system of oppression is. But the question with which we're now faced is: what do we do?

I would like to develop discussion and movement around this question of what to do. If we are hungry, how do we get food? If we are sick, how do we get medical help? Where I want to begin with it is: if we live in miserable houses, how do we get places to stay where it can be made warm in winter and where there's room to turn around? So I want to build a brick factory. I want to build it because our people need houses and hospitals and schools, and getting them means getting building materials - bricks.

The first step in developing the necessary discussion and movement around this particular need is to have a three day workshop on August 19 through August 21 with 100 people from around the state and from different interest groups that have grown up in the last year. Thus we should have people from the Canton sewing co-operative, the Delta plantation strike, the Ruleville quilting project, etc. They will elect from their number a 50 man board for the non profit corporation. The focus of the workshop will be that we are building this factory for people who need houses and hospitals, and that is why they are the ones who are present at the workshop and who will

run the factory. After establishing the framework of making bricks because we need houses, we will be able to open up and revitalize the discussion of what people need. If people are hungry, then we have to talk about and plan for raising food. If the children need playgrounds, then we have to get land and sandboxes.

I see the brick factory as the source for the development of many good things in addition to the provision of low cost housing. We can try to get government training programs for training bricklayers, plumbers, etc. We can build other needed facilities such as canneries, supermarkets, and outlets for goods made in co-operatives around the state. We can establish an emergency revolving fund to be used to buy land and bricks; these can then be given to the people who are put off the plantations. The possibilities are endless.

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