

[c. 1964]

ADOPT A MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM SCHOOL



THROUGH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

You can Support a Mississippi Freedom School: one established by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) in Mississippi to provide democratic education for all children—both after regular (segregated and inferior) school and during the summer.


SIGN THE ATTACHED PLEDGE

YOUR SCHOOL CAN SUPPORT A MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM SCHOOL

DISTRIBUTED BY _____

ADOPT A MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM SCHOOL

I pledge to contribute one dollar every month until the end of the school year to the Mississippi Freedom School through _____ and the American Federation of Teachers. It is my understanding that signatures from a majority of the faculty will enable this school to sponsor a Mississippi Freedom School and to exchange letters and, possibly, visits with the sponsored school.



All money collected will be sent to "Freedom Schools Project", AFT, 716 North RushSt., Chicago, Illinois and then forwarded directly to the Mississippi Freedom Schools.

METHOD OF COLLECTION _____

ADOPT A MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM SCHOOL



THROUGH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

You can Support a Mississippi Freedom School: one established by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) in Mississippi to provide democratic education for all children - both after regular (segregated and inferior) school and during the summer.

SEE YOUR LOCAL PRESIDENT

YOUR SCHOOL CAN SUPPORT A MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM SCHOOL

CHICAGO, Ill. — Charles Cogen, president of the American Federation of Teachers, announced that AFT Locals throughout the country are being asked to each financially adopt or help support a Mississippi Freedom School for the education of Negro and other minority group children and adults.

Cogen said the schools have been conducted in limited number but mostly in summer by volunteer northern teachers over the last two years in Mississippi under the handicap of too little money and too few teachers.

While the main purpose of the schools is to supplement the inadequate and restricted education of Negro and other minority group children in the segregated state, adult education, community recreation, and voter registration are also to be provided or aided.

For Schools and Teachers

The Mississippi Freedom School program, Cogen said, is currently directed by the Coun-

cil of Federated Organizations (COFO) to whom money received by the AFT in its drive will be forwarded to establish schools and pay teachers.

He added that posters (as depicted above), with pledge sheets on the back are being sent to the AFT's 550 Local unions which are being given the opportunity of adopting a whole Freedom School or accepting contributions from members to the general program. Cogen said:

"We can not wait for the tortuous route of legal implementation of the civil rights law in the South. Too many children are receiving an inferior education, too many adults are prohibited from voting, and too many people are forced to work below their skills or not at all.

"We must act today, as citizens of the same nation, to assure this generation of Negroes and other minority groups in the South that it will have its chance to snap the syndrome of discrimination, ignorance, and poverty."

Union Teachers Help

Among the more than 1,000 Freedom School volunteers in Mississippi last summer, Cogen said, were a great many union teachers from all parts of the country, including over 40 from New York City's United Federation of Teachers, Local 2.

The schools continued this winter, he added, on Saturdays and after regular school hours, but they and the teachers are suffering under physical deprivation (teachers receive \$9.46 a week, supervisors less than \$20 a week), and continued harassment from white supremacist groups.

A dynamite bomb exploded in a Vicksburg, Miss., Freedom School last October (American Teacher, Jan., 1965), destroying an 8,000-volume library built up with great difficulty since last June. Other Freedom Schools have been burned.