

April 5, 1965

Mr. Esau Jenkins  
244 Spring Street  
Charleston, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

A few weeks ago the SNCC executive committee approved my proposal for a residential freedom school. The idea has been kicking around SNCC for about a year and there are presently about 3 of us who are now working on the implementation of this proposal. I felt your ideas on the subject would be valuable because of your contacts and experience gained through your work in South Carolina.

My proposal stated that there should be 2 residential freedom schools, one in July and one in August, each lasting about 2 weeks. One would be held in a southern community and the other in the north. High school age kids (this, of course, includes drop-outs, too) would be the participants. Both schools would be located in communities where both northern and southern students could live as their counterparts do -- in the northern and southern ghettos.

The basic idea behind the school is that northern and southern teen-agers should get a chance to get together and discuss the similarity of their situations, the people who try and make sure they remain in that situation, and what they, together, can do about it all. It would also provide an opportunity for the kids of both northern and southern ghettos to talk about the motion and activity which is going on in their own communities with each other so that they can feel some unity in that motion.

Given the basic idea, we are still very open to thoughts about how that idea might best be implemented. The people we invite as speakers and seminar leaders (assuming that most of the discussion takes place in small groups) is just one thing which still has to be talked over and is a most important factor in determining what could come out of such a school and the atmosphere which prevails there. Also, some have said they felt the school should last longer, possibly for the entire summer. We are still very flexible on all this.

What I'd like to do is set up a meeting for the second or third week-end in April when people interested in the idea could get together and make some definite plans. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I hope that you can find the

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time to attend such a meeting since I'd like very much to hear your ideas on the subject. In your reply I'd appreciate it if you would mention which weekend would be most suitable for you.

Freedom

Judy Richardson

P.S. I'm working in Lowndes County, Alabama right now, but you can write me at the Selma office: 31½ Franklin Street, Selma, Alabama.