

April 5, 1965

Mr. Rennie Davis
ERAP
1100 E. Washington
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Rennie:

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 experiences gained through working in the northern ghettos.

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 -- ~~in~~ 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 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. Now, I understand from Courtland Cox that there

-2- Rennie Davis

will be a meeting of northern students around the 15th of this month in D.C. to make plans for action around the FDP Challenge. Since I am also writing to Bill Strickland and Tom Hayden (besides people like Noel Day, Staughton Lynd and other northern and southern contacts) I'd like to know if you feel it would be easier to get together in D.C. just before or after the Challenge meeting, since the three of you, at least, will already be there.

In any event, I'd like very much to hear from you concerning the residential freedom school and whether you'd be able to attend a meeting to discuss it either the second or third week-end of this month.

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.