

April 6, 1965

Mr. Monroe Sharp
Chicago SNCC
765 East Oakwood Blvd. #212-3
Chicago 55, Illinois

Dear Monroe:

Hey! How's it going. I'll tell you why I'm writing you. You see, a few weeks ago the exec committee approved my proposal for a residential freedom school. The idea, as you know, has been kicking around SNCC for about a year and there are presently about 3 of us (Nancy Cooper and Sharon Jackson) who are now working on the implementation of the proposal. I thought your ideas on the proposal would be valuable because of your contacts and work in the southside of Chicago.

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 teenagers 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 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 18th of this month in Washington, D.C. Since many people will be there just prior to that for the meeting on the FDP Challenge and for the demonstration on South Vietnam, it would probably be the most convenient time for many people. Ralph Featherstone, Jimmy Garrett, Bill Strickland (NSM), Sharon Jackson, Noel and Peggy Day and others have already said they'll come. I really hope you can come cause I'd like to know what you think about the idea and its possibilities. I'm working in Lowndes County, Alabama right now, but you can write me at the Selma office: 31½ Franklin Street; Selma, Alabama.

Freedom

Judy Richardson