

Bruce Hartford
819 Pearl St.
Grenada, Miss.
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Dear Tom;

As per our discussion I am sending you a letter about the need for a historical section with-in SCLC. It is a well known fact that the world judges by what historians write. If the Gauls, the Samnites, and the Thracians had left written records our impressions of the Roman Empire might not be as favorable as currant historians imply. If the U.S. labor movement had provided historical material rather then forcing writers to depend exclusivly on Newspaper articles the anti-union bias so prevelant in the press might not have carried over into the Universities. This is not a problem that we can put off to some future day. Historians are begining to write histories of the movement now. Recently the Southern Regional Council published a pamphlet called "Justice in Grenada". It was almost exclusivly reprints of Newspaper articles. Even though the press has been more favorable to Grenada then almost any other project, the SRC article still had gross distortédns, and presented a distorted picture of the Grenada movement. When books come to be written about other, not so sympatheticly reported projects the picture will be even worse.

If the University of Wisconsin god

If the University of Wisconsin goes ahead with it's plan to collect a vast amount of historical data concerning the movement I think that it would be essential to have an SCLC staff member working with them for many obvious reasons. Also it will be important that SCLC have it's own history section and not have to depend on the University of Wisconsin for the historical data that we will be required to use in the future. It should always be borne in mind that history is what the historians say it is, and what peaply happened. If we want to get the true story told we will have to work at it.

I am inclosing a list of some of the things that I think SCLC should do along these lines. I am also inclosing the first few pages of a summary of the Grenada Movement. If there is anything else that you would like for me to send you write me and let me know. If it is decided to have some of this work done I would like to have a go at it.

Thank You

Bruce Hartford

A historical section of SCLC should contain three main components.

- 1- A file on every SCLC project that we have had, containing;
 - A- Statistical information on the County or City.
 - B- Civil Rights contacts in the area such as persons active in the movement, churches, and civil rights organizations.
 - *C- A historical summary of the civil rights activity in the area.
 - D- The names of any SCLC staff who worked there and the dates.
 - E- As many of the official record as can be found.
 - F- As many leaflets, clippings, and photos as can be found.
 - G- Statements and memoirs of persons involved.
 - H- Transcripts of interviews, mass meetings, etc.
- 2- A file on SCLC staff and local people active with the movement giving more or less personal histories. Where they worked, what they did etc.
- 3- A cronology of SCLC and the movement. Showing the relationship of the projects to each other and the movement as a whole. AND giving an overview of the movement.

To begin to compile this admittedly large amount of material a number of things should be done. Much of what can be done can be done with only a small amount of finances.

- 1- Start to sort and file all the material lying around the office and the SCOPE house. This will be a large job as there is a wealth of material stuffed in boxes and filling cabinants, some of which is in danger of being thrown away.
- 2- Send out letters to past and present staff members and SCOPE volunteers asking for materials, statements, and memoirs (SCOPE volunteers should provided a great deal of material).
- 3- Ask project offices to send in material.
- 4- Ask the news media for photos and other material.
- 5- If finances permit begin to visit project sites and to interview participants.
- 6- Get some one on each currant project to keep a daily log of events. (I am inclosing a copy of a page or two of the log that I have been keeping for Grenada)
- 7- Transcribe some of Harky's tapes.

As far as possible these things should be done for the major SCLC drives if it is not possible to do them for every project. Historians will be particularly interested in such projects as The Freedom Rides, Albany, Birmingham '63, Gadsden, Danville, St. Augustine, Slema, SCOPE, Chicago, and Grenada.