

VOTER PROJECT TO EXPAND

JACKSON, Miss.,--The involvement of many of this Nation's sons and daughters, most of them said to be from white middle and upper middle class families, in Mississippi's racial anguish appears to be just beginning. And through them the Nation itself is becoming involved.

Hundreds of student volunteers are here now spreading through the State, living with Negro families, assisting Negroes in attempting to register to vote, teaching Negro children and adults in 41 Freedom Schools.

By summer's end, most will have returned to college campuses across the land.

But it is already clear that the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, sponsored by the leading civil rights organizations and assisted by the National Council of Churches, is misnamed.

Officials of the Council of Federated Organizations (CFO), a coalition group that is directing civil rights activities in Mississippi, say the project will be continued into the fall and beyond.

THERE IS NOW a plan to broaden the project next summer across the black belt of the Deep South--the Delta of Mississippi and into Alabama and Georgia. It will be known, in fact, as the Delta Project.

They add that immediate plans in Mississippi do not include any demonstrations because workers are concentrating on Freedom Schools and voter registration drives. Thus there is no conflict with a call for suspension of demonstrations until after the election issued by six national Negro leaders. Even when the civil rights drive is extended into the fall, it is unlikely to take the form of mass demonstrations.

Too much else remains to be done. In Mississippi, where the core is hardest and the Klu Klux Klan is resurgent, racial progress is measured in inches. Ten years after the Supreme Court decision, for example, a Negro child has yet to attend the same public school with white children.

EVEN WITHOUT demonstrations there has been progress this summer, not by a direct assault on the white community, but by awakening the Negro community that comprises over 40 per cent of the State's population.

The immediate problem in Mississippi, as COFO leaders see it, is Negro fear of seeking

change and what might be termed the habit of degradation. That translates into apathy.

To Robert Moses, 29-year-old project director at COFO headquarters here, the progress this summer can be measured by the more than 1000 Negroes in many parts of the State who agreed to go to courthouses and attempt to register to vote, by the 2060 Negro students attending Freedom Schools, and, most importantly, by the hundreds of Negro families who are housing and feeding white student volunteers.

John Pratt of New York, an attorney with the National Council of Churches' Commission on Religion and Race, said the COFO project has to continue beyond the summer if only because many Mississippi segregationists believe it will end with the summer.

"THE REFRAIN is heard around the State that all we have to do is wait for the end of summer," Pratt said. "Then everybody will go home and things will be like they were. That's what a lot of people are thinking."

Pratt, who has been here much of the summer, said lawyers are planning to stay on, in (See. PROJECT, page 9)

Boys Club Tours Air Base

A TOUR of Nellis Air Force Base has been scheduled for tomorrow for members of the Las Vegas Boys Club, many of whom are eagerly looking forward to a week of summer camp at Lee's Canyon later this month and early September.

Other tours being arranged for the Boys Club include visits to a local ranch, lobster company, bakery, bottling company, police station, fire station, Red Cross headquarters and the Clark County Court House plus a demonstration

of Scuba diving equipment and a look at Las Vegas by Bonanza Air Lines (Sept 26-Oct. 1).

Art classes are still open at regular weekly meetings of the Boys Club at Jefferson Center every Thursday evening from 7 to 9:30.

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