

SOUTH

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been targeted by powerful politicians and landowners in rural Alabama; people with the influence to bring in the heavy guns of the federal government.

The FSC is largely funded by the federal government, and cannot therefore, take an active part in overt political activity. But the members of its co-ops and its staff

members don't resign their constitutional rights — they can and do act as responsible citizens and participate in political as well as other civic activities.

As rural blacks formed coalitions and dealt themselves with economic issues formerly reserved for decision by the local white power structure, change was resisted fiercely. It took a black school boycott to force the Sumter County

school board to upgrade black facilities and hire more blacks.

Faced with the threat of a mobilized black community prepared to mount a political offensive, the *Southern Changes* article says that the local white power structure turned to Washington for help. A complaint about FSC political activism led to a federal audit, and the FSC passed it with flying colors as no irregularities were found.

Then, the Justice Department entered the scene. A federal grand

jury subpoenaed FSC's director last January and ordered all documents covering its funding and activities for the past four years. Since then the investigation has continued at a snail's pace, with FSC staff and records being tied up.

Such investigations are disruptive when they occur in large corporations, but when they hit a small, struggling community agency they can be devastating. Instead of going about their daily work, staffers spend their time dealing

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with labor and government to equitably distribute economic burdens in this time of reindustrialization, then it cannot expect the labor movement and working Americans to be willing to cooperate.

Corporations, particularly those in the energy field, have been reaping exorbitant profits at the expense of the working people of this country and have contributed significantly to the inflation in which we find ourselves. The greed exhibited by Tenneco,

Gulf, and Standard Oil of Indiana in their attempts to exclude the Plumbers, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, and the Mine Workers from the synfuel project and thus create a union-free environment must be condemned not only by working people, government officials, and political leaders, but also by responsible corporate leaders who do not wish to see a return to a period of heightened "class warfare."

In a time in which business and labor should not be at each other's throat, but should be shaping policy

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