

Be glad to hear from you soon concerning your decision as to whether or not you will serve on the C.F. Board of Trustees

IMPORTANT: The next meeting of the board of trustees will be on Saturday, February 1, 1964 at 10 a.m. at the home of Polly and Amos Brokaw, 617 East Mitchell Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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MINUTES OF OPERATION FREEDOM MEETING, January 4, 1964

Present: Maurice McCrackin, Miriam Nicholas, Clarence Nelson, Lloyd Danzeisen, Ernest Bromley, Polly Brokaw, Wally Nelson, Virgie Hortenstine, M.J. Manghum, and Jack McKart.

Guests: Juanita Nelson and David Fankhauser

The minutes of December's meeting, which were mailed to board members, were approved as sent out. A treasurer's report was not given because the financial records are still at the auditors. The audit will probably be completed by the February meeting and at that time a treasurer's report for the past three months and the auditor's report will be given.

It was reported that after one year, crop loans are not "legally" collectible. In view of this it was questioned whether or not Operation Freedom should write off crop loans after one year. After much discussion it was decided that we should not write off crop loans or any other loans except, of course, those that are repaid. Present loan policy was discussed and reaffirmed, and the question came up of repayment of loans and what role should Operation Freedom play in collecting on loans. It was decided that as in the past year, it is up to the local committees in Tennessee and Mississippi to collect loan repayments, that Operation Freedom is not a collection agency, and that it will not apply any pressure on people to repay loans, although loans will not be written off. Virgie Hortenstine suggested that a meeting be set up between Operation Freedom representatives and the two local Tennessee committees to see if the local committees clearly understand Operation Freedom's feeling on this matter. A motion was passed to send a minute of the present Operation Freedom policy, as reaffirmed in this meeting, on loan repayments instead of having a meeting.

A motion was passed that Maurice McCrackin and Clarence Nelson investigate the possibility of reapplying for a permit from the Cincinnati Charitable Solicitations Committee to solicit funds in Cincinnati. This permit was denied when Operation Freedom originally applied about two and a half years ago. If the possibilities are now found to be favorable, Maurice McCrackin is then to reapply for this permit.

It was decided that the February 1 board meeting, which was originally set for Highlander Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, would be held as usual in Cincinnati because some of the board members living in the Knoxville area will be out of town that day and unable to attend the meeting. The purpose of having a meeting in Knoxville would be to give board members in that area a better opportunity to attend. At the February meeting the possibility of holding the March meeting in Knoxville will be discussed.

Maurice McCrackin and Jack McKart reported on their trip to Berea, Kentucky on January 3, 1964. The trip was made on behalf of Operation Freedom to investigate the sewing training program conducted by Womens Industrial, a group of church women in Berea. As was outlined at the last board meeting, it was felt that by learning about the Womens Industrial program some ideas might be found that would be helpful in encouraging similar programs in areas where Operation Freedom works, specifically in Ruleville, Mississippi. As they gave their report a few suggestions were made concerning follow-up on this, such as trying to arrange a visit of one or two of the Ruleville women to the sewing training program in Berea, if this seems worthwhile

and agreeable to all concerned. Various board members will follow up on this.

A letter received from Mrs. Deborah Cole, executive secretary of the Aaron E. Norman Fund of New York City (this is one of the Foundations Operation Freedom applied to for a grant) was read. Mrs. Cole suggested that Operation Freedom draw up a proposal having the endorsement of various civil rights leaders in Mississippi (such as Aaron Henry, state president of the NAACP; Bob Moses, head of SNCC in Mississippi; Charles Evers, Mississippi field secretary for the NAACP; and Clarie Collins Harvey, head of Womanpower Unlimited) and that we then send this proposal to her so that she can present it to the Board of Directors of the Norman Fund for their consideration. Polly Brokaw volunteered to write to Clarie Collins Harvey, who is a personal friend of hers. Jack McKart, who is leaving for Mississippi and Tennessee in a few days, will see all of these people personally.

A motion was passed authorizing the secretary, Ernest Bromley, to write and send out a newsletter, before the next meeting if possible, to all 1840 contributors to Operation Freedom. An appeal for administrative funds will be made in this newsletter; a return envelope will be enclosed for this purpose.

A report was also made concerning the letters Operation Freedom sent out recently to various civil rights organizations in hope of establishing closer relations with these groups. In addition to the organizations mentioned at the last board meeting, this letter was also sent to the National Council of Churches in New York and to the Michigan Friends of the South in Detroit. (A copy of the text of the letter was appended to the minutes of the last board meeting.) Replies have been slow in coming in but as they arrive they have been followed up with correspondence.

Since we have not heard from anyone in Tennessee or Mississippi concerning the Tennessee-Mississippi Cooperative Conference, and since this group seems to be fairly inactive now, it was decided that J. McKart would contact their chairman and other officers to find out what the future plans of the TMCC are, if any.

In addition to writing letters to various civil rights groups in order to establish a closer relationship with them, it was reported by Wally Nelson that he would visit the offices of some of these groups (such as CORE, NAACP) and talk with them personally about Operation Freedom. Wally and other board members in the Cincinnati area would get together a day or so after this meeting to make more definite plans about this.

Also, a motion was made and passed to close the Operation Freedom loan fund. Board members will recall that when Operation Freedom began, loans were accepted from contributors. Operation Freedom no longer accepts loans and current policy states that only gifts are accepted. All the people who originally loaned money to O.F. have now been paid back who wanted to be repaid (some people eventually turned their loan into a gift), have been repaid. About 157 dollars remains in the loan fund and this will be transferred to the general treasury.

Miriam Nicholas moved that Operation Freedom board members might show their concern over the recent stealing of the records of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (New Orleans, Louisiana) by U.S. Senator James O. Eastland (D-Mississippi) by writing their senators and urging that the Senate censure Eastland for this act. The motion was unanimously passed.

One unrecorded minute of the December 7, 1963 meeting is the decision that all Operation Freedom checks bear two of the following three signatures: Maurice McCrackin, Ernest Bromley, and Lloyd Danzeisen.

Ernest Bromley and Jack McKart collaborated on the above minutes for distribution to board members.
1/16/64