



ALABAMA

ALTON L. TURNER, STATE SENATOR
20TH DISTRICT
LOWNDES, BUTLER, CRENSHAW AND
COVINGTON COUNTIES
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LIVERNE
36049

SENATE CHAMBER

MONTGOMERY

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JUDICIARY
CONSTITUTION,
CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION AND AMENDMENTS
LOCAL LEGISLATION I
BANKING

January 31, 1967

Mr. Edwin Strickland
Commission to Preserve the Peace
State Capitol
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Ed:

I would appreciate your furnishing me any information you have on TICEP. This is some program being sponsored and operated out of Tuskegee Institute and they are operating in my county as well as several others in this area. On the surface, they appear to be conducting primarily an educational program, but I have been contacted by some of the people involved with a request to assist them in expanding their operations to solve other non-racial problems in Crenshaw County.

I would like to know as much background on this group as possible, if you have any information in connection with them.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alton L. Turner".

ALTON L. TURNER

ALT:pk



ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO PRESERVE THE PEACE

ROOM 332 STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

February 1, 1967

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MRS. MAVIS HICKS
SECRETARY

Hon. Alton L. Turner
Senator, 20th District
Luverne, Alabama

Dear Al:

Re: TICEP (Tuskegee Institute Community Education Program) has been in existence for just over a year and is funded by Office of Economic Opportunity in the amount of approximately \$400,000 per year.

The announced intent of this project is to help school aged persons, not attending school, to obtain some training in one of several fields and to obtain jobs for them when they become qualified. The second phase of the program is much like "Head Start" in that it supposedly prepares students to better compete in school. However, TICEP seems, in operation, to be much more far-reaching. It has generally aligned its program with a "civil rights" approach, and is known to be working closely with activists groups in Macon, Lowndes and Dallas. We obtained information last week from reliable sources in Selma that some TICEP money is being channeled to a group in Dallas that is headed by a white woman, Shirley Mesher, who is working to organize a "Union of the Poor" in ten Black Belt Counties. This Mesher woman is by far the most radical personality with whom we have had to deal. Even federal officers have privately expressed their opinion to me that she is a hard-core communist.

Ticep is also working closely with "Human Relations" groups. We have been impressed with the fact that wherever TICEP becomes active, it seems to stimulate other groups identified with anti-white programs.

I am enclosing copies of some TICEP material that will give you the general flavor of their approach. Particularly note that the play (by well-known Communist party functionary, Langston Hughes) and the book review, both support the anti-white, far-left approach. I am also sending copies of some material dealing with the Human Relations group at Tuskegee, which is closely aligned with TICEP. We have other material proving that, in turn, members of this group are connected on the various campuses with Students for A Democratic Society (SDS), an admitted Marxist group, and with Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC) which admits that it is affiliated with both SDS and SNCC.

We are in the process of completing a full investigation on these tie-ins, and will shortly do a report on it.

We feel we are on good grounds in saying that TICEP is posing a long term threat to the communities and counties in which they operate. If they stuck to their announced purpose, this threat might not exist. You mentioned that some of the people involved were trying to branch out into other fields of problems. At your first opportunity I would like to discuss this with you. It could fit into the picture.

If there is any additional information we could get up for you, just suggest it.

Sincerely,

Edwin Strickland

PS. I typed this myself, so overlook the errors. Mavis is in the hospital this week.