

MINUTES

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

November 25 - 27, 1960, Butler Street YWCA. ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Meeting began Friday afternoon, Nov. 25. Those present for all or part of the meeting were: Mr. Charles McDew, South Carolina; Mr. Frank James, Arkansas; Miss Gwendolyn Green, Washington, D. C.; Miss Birdie McHugh, Kentucky; Miss Mary Ann Smith, Georgia; Mr. Marion Barry, delegate-at-large; Miss Diane Nash, delegate-at-large; Mr. Henry Thomas, delegate-at-large; Miss Sylvia Ryce, Paine College, Augusta, Georgia; Mr. Timothy Jenkins, USNSA; Mr. Jim Morsonis, NSCF; Reverend James Blake, NAACP Youth Council; Observers present were: Miss Rosetta Gardner and Miss Ella Baker, National Student YWCA; and Miss Connie Curry, USNSA.

Mr. Tim Jenkins was chosen to serve as chairman for the meeting, Mr. Edward King was asked to serve as recorder, and the agenda was adopted as printed.

I. Review of the October Conference

Members of the Committee received copies of the recommendations that were passed at the October Conference and the recommendations were reviewed for any changes or clarifications in the following areas:

A. Coordination

The Committee agreed that the Conference had not passed section G. under Coordination and that it should not be included. The question was raised as to the meaning of the word "spokesmen" in section D. under Coordination and as to whether SNCC members are at liberty to make policy statements on SNCC in their respective areas. The Committee decided that each member of the Committee, in serving as equal "spokesmen" for the movement would be able to give general interpretation of policies, programs and principles already adopted by the Conference or Committee, except in cases where a policy or no publicity had been adopted.

B. Communication

There were no additions or changes in this area.

C. Finances

As directed in Section B. under Finance, the Committee voted to establish a Finance Committee composed of three to five members of SNCC and authorized the Finance Committee to secure consultants as they see fit. It was also decided that the Chairman of SNCC and the Administrative Secretary would be ex-officio members of the Finance Committee. Clarification was made under Section G. of Finances that the Administrative Secretary could act as the legal agent of the Finance Committee Chairman in the handling of funds coming into the SNCC office.

II. Area Reports

Reports of activities in various areas were given by Committee Members. (Most of this information was included in the November Student Voice or will be in the December issue.)

III. Office Report

Mr. Edward King gave a report of office activities since the Conference. The report was accepted as information and the Committee expressed appreciation to Mr. King for his services with full recognition of the difficulties under which he had to operate during his six weeks as temporary Administrative Secretary.

*(Office Report attached)

IV. Future Role of the Coordinating Committee

A great deal of Committee time was devoted to discussing the meaning of SNCC—what its role is at present and what role it should play in the future. Such questions were raised (1) can SNCC make decisions for the total movement (2) what authority does SNCC have to speak for the students (3) how much leadership should SNCC assert in the movement. After much discussion the Committee agreed on the following guides for SNCC:

- A. In relation to local protest areas, SNCC's role is suggestive rather than directive.
- B. In relation to those groups which are interested in the movement, SNCC is to serve primarily in an informational capacity.
- C. In relation to those national and regional groups where some form of negotiating is necessary, SNCC may serve as a spokesman, but in a cautious manner in which it is made quite clear that it does not control the local groups.
- D. In relation to action, SNCC, with a 2/3 vote of the Committee members present, can initiate action in the name of and by SNCC, in cooperation with local protest groups.

Coordination

The Committee agreed that SNCC's major responsibility is to provide a channel for coordination and communication within the student movement. The following suggestions were made:

- A. SNCC should be a clearing house for information on the student movement and should release this information through the newsletter and other media.
- B. In order to be this clearing house, SNCC must be kept informed by the local protest areas through letters or calls. The Committee asked that each protest area be written again and requested to appoint a reporter to maintain direct contact with the SNCC office.
- C. To give further help in coordination and communication, a questionnaire is to be sent to every protest area in the South, asking about their student organization, their chairmen, their contact with a state organization, etc.
- D. A descriptive piece on SNCC is to be drawn up to include the following—what SNCC is, the members of SNCC, the services that SNCC can provide for local groups. This piece is to be sent out with the questionnaire described above.
- E. In cities or states where we have no contact, SNCC should write the NAACP branches for names of key people to work with us.
- F. Information should be gathered on a state-wide basis and this information should then be circulated as suggestions for other states to follow.
- G. An investigation should be made to determine the costs of having "The Student Voice" printed in the future, and if the cost is not too far above that of mimeographing, the newsletter should be printed.

Office Staff

The Committee discussed the duties and responsibilities of the Administrative Secretary of SNCC and asked that Miss Baker, Miss Curry, Mr. Monsonis and Mr. Edward King work out a list of things to be done by the secretary until the next meeting. The Committee accepted this list and asked Mr. King to remain as Administrative Secretary until the next meeting. As policies during this period, the following recommendations were passed:

- A. The sum of \$62.50 is to be paid per week to the Administrative Secretary.
- B. The Administrative Secretary is to work with the SNCC Atlanta Advisory Committee, composed of Miss Baker, Miss Gardner, Miss Curry, Miss Jane Stenbridge, Miss Mary Ann Smith, and Mr. Lonnie King.
- C. If the Administrative Secretary feels a necessity to travel to a protest area, the Atlanta Advisory Committee is to determine if the travelling should be done in the name of SNCC and if SNCC funds are available for travel reimbursement.

- D. By the next Committee meeting a full job description of the position of Administrative Secretary for SNCC is to be drawn up by Miss Curry, Miss Baker, Mr. Monsonis and Miss Gardner.

The Committee also asked that a letter be written to Miss Jane Stenbridge expressing appreciation for her services as Office Secretary for SNCC.

Finances

- A. The following were elected to serve on the Finance Committee: Henry Thomas, Jim Monsonis, Lonnie King, Tim Jenkins and Marion Barry.
- B. Because of the difficulty sometimes in obtaining two signatures on a check, the Administrative Secretary was authorized to establish a \$50.00 operations fund to be used in emergencies.
- C. The Committee asked that no blank checks be signed in advance. (All checks should be made out in full before they are signed by either of the two persons required to sign.)
- D. The Committee voted to write the NAACP and other organizations for information on finances that have been received for defense and scholarships for the student movement. These organizations should also be asked what portion of this money is still available for scholarship and defense and what procedures are necessary for securing such assistance.
- E. The Committee asked that SNCC members who speak to groups throughout the country make clear the financial needs of the student movement and point out the agencies to which funds may be sent for specific purposes. These agencies are:
 1. For Administration, coordinating and communication within the student movement, money should be sent directly to the SNCC office.
 2. For Legal Defense, contributions should be sent to the NAACP.
 3. For Scholarship Aid, contributions should be sent to the National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students.
- F. The Committee requested that a special letter be sent to each protest area informing them of the cost of the newsletter and the need for them to have newsletter information, and asking them to send a contribution to help cover the cost of publication.
- G. The Finance Committee was asked to meet before leaving the meeting and was authorized to set up a temporary budget.

V. Selection of Advisors

The following were chosen as Advisors for SNCC and letters are to be sent asking them to accept the position: Dr. S. J. Wright, Miss Ella Baker, Reverend James Lawson, Jr., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mr. Harry Golden. Provisions were made for alternate choices in the event that any of the above five are unable to serve.

VI. Student Peace Union Proposal

A proposal from the Student Peace Union was presented to the Committee. The proposal called for SNCC's cooperation in an Inauguration Day Project in which student activities would emphasize the need for civil rights action and would call for cessation of nuclear testing. The Committee discussed the proposal and decided that although SNCC shares in this concern for peace, it must withhold action at this time, because the student movement in the South has not yet equated the organized movement for peace with the civil rights struggle. A letter is to be sent to the Student Peace Union thanking them for their interest and explaining the Committee's position.

VII. Southern Conference Educational Fund Proposal

The Committee was asked to give its reaction to a tentative proposal of the Southern Conference Educational Fund. The proposal concerned the employment of an individual to work among Southern white college students and to encourage

them toward direct action and participation in the student movement. The Committee strongly endorsed this idea and asked Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Monsonis and Mr. Jones to aid SCEF in finding a qualified person for this position.

VIII. Christmas Shopping Withholding Campaign

The Committee voted to send out immediately information on a project encouraging people to refrain from their usual volume of Christmas shopping. It was felt that such a withdrawal from shopping areas would call attention to the fact that some of the Southern states have not yet dropped their racial barriers at lunch counters and in other areas. The campaign also encouraged Negro students to use facilities now open to all in their travels during the Christmas period.

IX. Opening of Congress

The Committee authorized the Chairman of SNCC to draft a letter and send it to key persons in both houses of Congress, calling upon them to enact meaningful Civil Rights legislation, such as revision of Senate Rule 22 and the passage of Title 3 of the 1957 Civil Rights Act. These letters are to be sent for the opening of Congress in January.

X. Fellowship of Reconciliation

Mr. Jones expressed the support of FOR for the student movement and stated that their help and facilities are available upon request. The Committee asked that a letter be sent to FOR thanking them for this support and asking about specific areas of their proposed assistance.

XI. Tom Rose Button Project

The Committee was informed of the activities of Mr. Tom Rose in his efforts to sell buttons for SNCC in California. Since a representative of the Committee was to be in San Francisco the following week, the Committee asked that the representative meet with Mr. Rose and discuss the Project with him.

XII. February 1st Action

The Committee agreed that some type of action should be planned for February 1st to commemorate the 1st anniversary of the student movement's beginning. Various suggestions were made and Diane Nash was appointed to draw up tentative plans for this date. Several members of the Committee will meet with Miss Nash on January 6, in Nashville, to make final plans for an action project.

XIII. Television Debate Program

After viewing the scheduled debate on the sit-in movement between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mr. James Kilpatrick, Editor of the Richmond News-Leader, the Committee took out time to discuss and evaluate the program. The group voted that the Committee Chairman contact the program (Nation's Future, NBS) and urge that a student involved in the movement be included in a future program of this type.

XIV. Election of SNCC Chairman

Mr. Charles McDew of South Carolina State College was elected to serve as Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee until the next meeting.

XV. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held the weekend of February 3-5. The Administrative Secretary was asked to investigate other possible locations for the meeting, where members would be able to remain together during the entire meeting.