

MINUTES

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

February 3-5, 1961, Butler Street Y.M.C.A., Atlanta, Ga.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Meeting began Friday evening, February 3rd. Those present for all or part of the meeting were: Mr. Charles McDew, Chairman, South Carolina; Mr. Harold Howard, Tennessee; Miss Mary Ann Smith, Georgia; Miss Birdie McHugh, Kentucky; Mr. Charles Sherrod, Virginia; Mr. Charles Jones, delegate-at-large, North Carolina; Miss Diane Nash, delegate-at-large, Tennessee; Miss Ruby Doris Smith, (for Mr. Lonnie C. King) delegate-at-large, Georgia; Mr. James Monsonis, NSCF; Observers present were: Miss Rosetta Gardner, National Student Y.W.C.A.; Miss Constance Curry, USNSA; Mrs. Estelle Wycoff, SCEF; Dr. Murray Brancg, SCEF; Miss Sandra Cason, Students For Direct Action, Austin, Texas; Mr. John Constable, SRC; Mr. Dick Ramsey, AFSC; Mr. James Woods, SCLC; Mr. Albert Porter, Lane College, Jackson, Tenn.; Miss Shirlene Ross, Lane College; Miss Louis May, Lane College; Mr. Henry Nichols, Lane College; Mr. Eddie Burts, Lane College; Dr. A. L. Ward, Lane College; Mr. Robertt Haber, SDS; and Advisor present was Miss Ella J. Baker, National Student Y.W.C.A., Atlanta.

Mr. Charles E. McDew presided over the meeting as official Chairman, and Miss Louise May was asked to serve as recorder. The agenda was adopted as printed.

I. Review of the November Minutes

Members of the Committee received copies of the November minutes and the recommendations were reviewed for any changes or clarifications.

The Committee decided that the word "spokesman" shall be interpreted to mean the person in power with full knowledge to explain the policies that are adopted by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

II. Coordination

Mr. Harold Howard of Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee, was selected by the Coordinating Committee as the Tennessee Chairman. The Committee pointed out that SNCC make an effort to obtain representation in Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and West Virginia.

III. Communication

Mr. Al Haber, President, Students For A Democratic Society, proposed to the Coordinating Committee that we lend our support for a conference to be held of Northern and Western supporting groups in Chicago, Illinois, April 14-16, in order to broaden the lines of communication between student protest groups in the South and those supporting the same in the North and West.

In reference to the proposal by Mr. Haber, the Coordinating Committee expressed its views as follows: "The Coordinating Committee feels that coordination is needed among students in the North and West and we would certainly lend the necessary assistance in establishing the much needed communications of the two named regions and the Southland".

The Committee requested that the Administrative Secretary represent SNCC at the meeting of Northern and Western student groups if held, and to assist the Students For A Democratic Society by contacting interested students and protest groups in the South of the planned Chicago meeting.

IV. Committee Action

The Committee spent much time considering the course of action to take regarding the Rock Hill, South Carolina crisis, where nine students from Frienship Junior College were serving thirty day sentences on the Chain Gang, for staging a sit-in demonstration. A proposal was made that SNCC call upon students throughout the South to join the nine jailed Friendship College students, for those out of jail on bond because of participation in sit-ins, to drop their bonds and go back to jail, and to renew the "JAIL NO BAIL" idea throughout each community. A Committee was selected to study this proposal and bring back specific recommendations for SNCC. After much discussion, it was decided that a statement be drawn up concerning this matter. The statement reads as follows:

"There are nine students here serving thirty days on the York County Chain Gang for sitting at lunch counters and requesting service. Their sitting-in shows their belief in the immorality of racial segregation and their choice to serve the sentence shows their unwillingness to participate in any part of a system that perpetuates injustice. Since we too share their beliefs and since many times during the past year, we too have sat-in at lunch counters, we feel that in good conscience we have no alternative other than to join them".

Four students decided to go to Rock Hill, South Carolina from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. These students were Charles Jones, Charles Sherrod, Diane Nash, and Ruby Doris Smith. The above statement was released to the press and a letter was to be sent to all protest areas urging them to join the students "NOW IN JAIL".

V. Area Reports

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

VI. Selection of Advisors

It was decided by the Committee that if Dr. Benjamin Mays, President of Morehouse College, could not serve on the Committee as an Advisor, Dr. C. A. Kirkendoll, President of Lane College should be asked to serve in that capacity.

VII. Southern Conference Educational Fund Proposal

The Committee requested that the SNCC office continue to assist SCEF in their effort to secure an individual to work among Southern white college students and to encourage them toward direct action and participation in the student protest movement.

VIII. Negotiations with A B C Paramount Theaters

The Committee requested that the SNCC office find out from the Congress Of Racial Equality the results of their negotiations with the president of A B C Paramount Theaters, Inc., Mr. Leonard Goldenson.

IX. Employment of Field Director

The Committee voted to hire a Field Director who would assist with the operation of the Atlanta headquarters and to make closer contacts with students in local protest areas. The Committee requested that Miss Diane Nash be given first consideration upon her release from the Rock Hill jail

for the job as Field ^{Secretary} ~~Director~~.

X. Tom Rose Button Project

The Committee discussed the Tom Rose button selling campaign and after much deliberation, decided that since Mr. Rose has worked so faithfully in California to raise money for SNCC, and in view of his being in direct contact with the Administrative Secretary, that Mr. King be given complete discretion as to how best alleviate the situation.

XI. Finances

The Committee approved the 1961 SNCC budget submitted by Mr. James Monsonis, chairman of the Finance Committee. The total budget for operations was set at \$15,980 for the entire year. The Committee stated that the issue of funds for the General Conference would be discussed at the next SNCC meeting and that Mr. Monsonis should be given authorization to write letters for the Finance Committee, seeking potential sources revenue.

XII. Election of SNCC Chairman

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

XIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held the week-end of April 14-16 in Frogmore, South Carolina, at the Penn Community Center, if the Chicago conference requires the majority of the Committee members to be present there on Easter Sunday week-end.