

MINUTES

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

July 14-16, 1961, Baltimore, Md.

1. **Introductions and Announcements: Staff**

SNCC Members were invited to join picketing of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company and the C. & P. Telephone Company, by the Jackie Robinson Youth Council of the NAACP, because of racially discriminatory employment practices.

2. **Office Report - Administrative Secretary**

SNCC has \$2,016 in standing account. The additional funds came contacts through the office.

3. **Area Reports**

Area reports were heard from Tennessee, Maryland, South Carolina and Virginia by SNCC Members. The administrative secretary reported on Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, Missouri, Texas and North Carolina.

4. **Review of the Minutes**

The minutes were received as read.

5. **Report on Status of Freedom Riders, Jackson, Mississippi, Charles M. Sherrod, Field Secretary**

Report:

The Freedom Ride Coordinating Committee met on June 27, 1961. General measures were discussed and finally one specific project was introduced. Mr. Sherrod urged the Committee to finance an effort to involve Jackson citizens in the Freedom Rides. This meant the establishment of an office on a trail basis for three weeks at which time there would be an attempt to overflow the jails as previously planned. Further details included the salaries of Marion Barry, and James Beval to be paid by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a sum of \$35.00 a week each; for room and board to be paid by CORE and the upkeep of the Jackson office by CORE.

The group has been active in Jackson recruiting people to join the freedom rides and has received considerable support from the young people of the community. Thirty-six Jackson citizens have gone to jail. Since the establishment of the group in Jackson, interest has increased on the part of individuals and groups in Mississippi for direct action against segregation. The problem remains one of lack of leadership and of fear, but the group feels the prospects are good for the development of a stronger protest movement in that city.

The report was received by SNCC.

It was suggested to include in the minutes of this meeting a commendation by SNCC in appreciation of the work being done in Jackson by students. It shows the kind of potential within the movement for reaching the people.

SNCC decided to issue a press release on the project in Jackson. It was issued the evening of July 16th.

6. **Report on Mississippi Voter Registration Project, Cleveland, Mississippi, Field Secretary**

The administrative secretary gave a report to familiarize Members of SNCC

with the Project. Since last summer Mr. Bob Moses has been doing voluntary field work for SNCC. He suggested the Mississippi Voter Registration Project. Communications with him have been going on. At the Louisville meeting it was decided to send someone to Cleveland, Miss., to gain more information from Mr. Moore and Mr. Moses concerning this project.

Mr. Charles Sherrod met with Mr. Anzie Moore. Mr. Moore was under the impression that students could best do the job of registering voters in Mississippi. Mr. Moore said facilities in homes are available for the students but that the main problem was in transportation. He said that the Mississippians were ready to move.

It was moved to accept Mr. Sherrod's report.

A report from the administrative secretary suggested conflicting information on the situation in Mississippi. A discussion concerning provisions available for the students followed. Mr. Moses wants SNCC to get volunteers for the project. The office has communications with people who have volunteered.

It was then pointed out that the Mississippi project was tabled last meeting and it was questioned why it was being discussed now. It was decided that until SNCC votes on a decision to participate in the project, no steps should be taken.

7. Mr. Bob Moses request for Official Status, Voluntary Field Sec'y
SNCC discussed the question of the status of Mr. Moses considering his position on the staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and how this would affect his relationship with SNCC in this project. Mr. Walker said that SCLC was concerned with getting the job done and that SNCC could do it any way it wishes.

It was suggested to consider the formation of a committee to work with Mr. Walker on this matter.

Clarification of item #13 was requested, consideration of Voting Program. This resulted in a series of motions to alter the agenda:

It was moved to continue discussion of item #7 and item #13 together with item #8 in the position of #8 on the agenda.

It was suggested to include in the minutes as item #1 for future meetings consideration of the agenda.

8. Report from the Committee meeting with Harry Belefonte, Washington, D.C.

A. Report by Mr. Charles Jones

Mr. Belefonte invited several Members of SNCC to attend a meeting in Washington, D. C. They discussed the possibility of expanding the student movement in the United States to involve 100,000-200,000 students. They also considered finances and personnel.

The Committee felt that the only group that could do a complete voter registration program southwide was a student group. They felt that voter registration was the most important issue and that the real possibility to enact a successful program was at hand. Three students have already committed themselves to devote full time to this project. The effects of this are expected to be tremendous on the nature of the South, the movement, other civil rights agencies and organizations and personnel. It was the feeling of the group that this should be done now. Mr. Belefonte's role was not definitely defined. The impression left with Mr. Belefonte was that SNCC would seriously consider this matter. It was stated that the students at the meeting did not speak for all the students in the South and that the project was still under consideration.

B. Clarification of Issues

There was a request for clarification of the issues involved in the meeting with Mr. Belefonte. Four points were raised and they were answered separately in the form of recommendations by Mr. Charles Jones. There was discussion concerning each.

Point 1 - The matter of priority of the Voter Registration Project.

Recommendation - The voter registration project should be given top priority by SNCC not excluding the direct action projects such as sit-in, etc.

It was clarified that the voter registration project would take priority in all respects if it were accepted. The question was raised whether consideration of the total SNCC program was made during the meeting with Mr. Belefonte.

Point 2 - Personnel, who will work on the project, how and when?

Recommendations - That SNCC consider employing full time 8-10 people to deal with this project; b. That SNCC get a permanent administrative secretary; c. That this meeting of SNCC authorize the administrative secretary to employ an unspecified number of field secretaries; d. That the advisory committee continue in its role in the employment of these people.

Mr. Jones said that the forthcoming money is an assumption. The money is not conditioned on the voter registration project. Research into this matter has been in progress by the various agencies which have been studying intensely the problem of voter registration. Mr. Jones also clarified that the persons will be used as a core of leadership to set up an office in Atlanta to work out procedure for the voter registration project. They would begin with an initial study of one county in Georgia. The group would then bring in more students to work on the program.

The other points concerned the role of Mr. Belefonte and the consideration of the recommendations at the present meeting. Before this discussion was completed a resolution consisting of six points was passed.

C. Resolution

1. That we commend the committee for its planning and work on voter registration as our major emphasis and that we approve of this in principle for one of the major emphases for SNCC.

2. That their report be written out in full, including the complete recommendations, and the possible effects on SNCC structure.

3. That this report be distributed, as soon as possible together with the minutes of this discussion, to all of the Members of SNCC and others as seems advisable, together with a summary of such research as is available.

4. That money be sought for research as to, what kind of action might be taken, what other organizations would be involved, (e.g., direct action groups, local action groups, local protest groups) and how they will be related.

5. That a full SNCC committee meeting be called for one month from this weekend, and that special funds be secured to insure a full meeting. The primary concern of this meeting will be the voter registration project.

6. That the meeting next month decide the particular procedure for acting on this emphasis.

The Chair appointed a committee to meet and decide the time and place of the next meeting. (See item #14)

D. Issue Of Communication

It was moved to tighten procedure and to incorporate a reciprocal, two way, form of communication in SNCC.

9. Report From The Fall Conference Committee

A detailed report by the Fall Conference Committee will be available separately.

The following motions concerning the Fall Conference were passed:

1. That there be an overall workshop for the entire conference to discuss nonviolence on different levels and then move into discussions in workshops of how this philosophy works in practice.

2. That we have a separate workshop on nonviolence to run parallel with the others.

The report, including the above motions was declared received by the Chairman.

Discussion Of Finances For The Fall Conference

Three motions concerning finances were passed.

1. That letters be written to the Ticonic, Field, Reynolds and other foundations, and to the AFL-CIO to appeal for funds for the Fall Conference.

2. That SNCC not pay transportation costs of delegates to the Fall Conference with exception in special cases to be determined by the finance committee.

3. That the available members of the finance committee and the advisors meet to determine the tentative cost of the conference in Atlanta, July 18th.

10. Report From The Staff Committee

A. Bob Moses was called on the phone but he was not reached. He will be called again to see what arrangements are to be made with SCLC.

B. Position of the Administrative Secretary - The committee will continue to accept names and available people, no decision on this can be made until the next meeting.

C. Field Secretary - this matter will also be discussed again at the next meeting of SNCC.

11. Consideration Of The Washington Lobby And The Freedom Walk

The Committee considered the letter sent to the Justice Department requesting a meeting with Mr. Burke Marshall regarding Interstate Travel facilities and Mr. Marshall's reply with the invitation to meet with him in his office July 17, 1961. It was decided to send a telegram to Mr. Marshall and to phone his office postponing the meeting. It was the consensus of the group that SNCC had not come to a definite clarification of its own role and there were no new questions raised that needed clarification by the Justice Department.

The Committee felt that SNCC had not committed itself and the Chairman would explain the position of SNCC to the Baltimore Civic Interest Group and that SNCC would not participate.

12. Report On The NAACP Convention, Philadelphia, Pa.

The report on the NAACP Convention was given in two parts,

1. by Mr. Ed King

Mr. King attended from the pre-opening session through Tuesday. There were considerations of how NAACP can become more active, noticing rise of other groups in the area of civil rights. The NAACP was concerned about getting their youth chapters to display more initiative. The

main issue was what can the youth chapters do in terms of voter registration.

2. Mr. Sherrod

There were about 1,000-2,000 people attending with about 300-400 students, most of whom seemed to be of high school age. The students seemed to be conscious of the conflict within their communities and offered to the body a resolution to this effect in the form of a change in the constitution of the NAACP. They requested and received from the conference a change reading from the youth chapter if "subordinate to" the youth chapter is "coordinate to" the adult chapter. It was also decided to have youth on the national board. Both these decisions must go to the members of NAACP in the form of a referendum.

A resolution was passed to establish a national youth committee on voter registration.

It was also decided to have youth on the NAACP convention committees. SNCC considers this reflection of mass thinking within the organization as significant in the NAACP becoming aware of the importance of appreciating youth activity.

13. Consideration Of Voting Program

This item was considered together with item #7 and item #8.

14. Date And Place Of Next Meeting

The committee members were John Moody, Charles Black, Rosetta Gardner, and Dick Ramsay. The report was delivered by Miss Gardner:

In order for SNCC to have a strategy meeting with a minimum of distraction the August meeting should be held in a "retreat" setting. There will be no outside audience, no mass meetings, no commitments outside of the business on hand, no time wasted by going out to restaurants to eat, and in general all attention given to the meeting getting the most out of our time.

The first choice of sites is Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tenn. If that is not available another similar site will be decided upon such as Bricks, N. C., or Roselyn, Va.

The structure of the meeting should be set up:

1. All arrive for a supper at 5:30 P. M. Friday
2. Friday evening agreeing on the agenda, office reports, announcements, etc.
3. Saturday meeting:
 - 9:00-12:00 with a 10:30 break
 - 12:00-1:30 Lunch
 - 1:30-4:00 Meeting
 - 4:00-5:30 Free time for volley ball, etc.,
 - 5:30-7:30 Supper
 - Free time after supper
 - Sunday meetings as needed

The dates for the meeting are August 11-13 first choice, and August 18-20.

15. Other Business

A. Shriner report by Ed King - The office has been in contact with Mr. Brown of the Shriners who will try to get a resolution on the floor of the next convention to give financial support to SNCC. It was moved that the administrative secretary, Mr. Mody and the advisory committee write up the form of the resolution asked for by Mr. Brown.

B. A motion was passed to accept the resignation of Mr. Lonnie King from the staff committee and replace him by Mr. Moody.

C. Consideration of a directive for the field secretary - It was decided that the field secretary would work in the following areas until the next meeting:

1. Public Utilities
2. Freedom Rides
3. Terrell County, Georgia
4. Field work with protest groups to establish better communications with SNCC.

D. Communication - A motion was passed that the administrative secretary make one more effort to contact all the Members of SNCC, and to present at next month's meeting a carbon of his letter to them and their replies.

It was also moved that all committees that have a directive, the field secretary and the administrative secretary hand in written reports before the beginning of the next meeting.

E. Report by Mr. Moody of the Nonviolent Action Group in Washington, D. C. It was suggested to include on the agenda ~~for~~ the next meeting the request by Mr. Moody for SNCC consideration of the NAG projects. This request is to be submitted in writing explaining the action projects.

F. Hearings with the Interstate Commerce Commission - It was moved to take necessary steps for appearing before the ICC. A motion was passed asking for the submitting of names at the present meeting for people who will meeting with the ICC. Mr. John Moody, Mr. Henry Thomas, Miss Ruby Smith were submitted. Mr. Moody was named active spokesman of the group. It was suggested that the office and the field secretary investigate the possibilities of appearing before the ICC.

G. Charles McDew was elected to serve as chairman.

PROPOSED BUDGET

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE FALL CONFERENCE
Nashville, Tennessee - October 13-15, 1961

TRANSPORTATION

Discussion Leaders (10 at \$40.00 average cost)	\$400.00
Resource Persons (5 at \$40.00 average cost)	200.00
Student Travel Needs - Meeting Emergencies	600.00
Total	<u>\$1,200.00</u>

OFFICE SUPPLIES \$200.00

POSTAGE \$125.00

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAMS \$150.00

PROMOTION OF CONFERENCE \$100.00

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS \$500.00

WORKING PAPERS \$ 50.00

FINAL REPORTS \$ 50.00

CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP \$200.00

ROOM AND BOARD FOR STUDENT DELEGATES \$2,000.00

Grand Total - - \$4,575.00