

SNCC IN THE NORTH

It has been stated many times, that there is a place for the Northern Offices of SNCC-----

Groups supporting the work of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committed in the North serve two important functions. They are the primary source of financial support for the work being carried on throughout the South, they act as information centers for spreading word of the activities of the Southern movement in the North, and they organize demonstrations and protest campaigns to bring national pressure ~~to~~ on the Federal Government for action.

SNCC's Northern supporters are more than fundraisers. The fund raising activity, which the South desperately needs, becomes in the North a means for involving and informing more and more people throughout the country about the facts of the Southern Movement and the vital role played by SNCC in the movement.

....SNCC is fraternally related to almost every national student group, including the National Student Association, the National Student Christian Federation, and the Northern Student Movement.

Members of the SNCC staff working in the North are aware of their role. We know that without SNCC in the South there would be no need for our existence-----we are also aware----without the offices in the North there would possibly be no SNCC in the South.

Being cognizance of the above mentioned facts and that there is hell in the South----and that we are (have to) working from a handicapped position, we only ask or state our (my) position on a few things.

For a SNCC office in the North to work well, there must be a certain type of relation or understanding between National SNCC in Atlanta, and the office in the North. There must be some type of coordination from some point. To carry on fund raising activities in the North there must be some tupe of responce to our desperate cries for help. SNCC is growing everyday----and we must be able to keep in touch with the growth of SNCC. Groups working in the North should or must have a more active participation within SNCC. Groups in the North must be able to state their position about certain matters (affecting them and maybe National SNCC) without being set up by Atlanta or someone in the Atlanta office.

We all have to give and take. Give and take in the sense that there is cooperation, and cooperation from both ends of the field. Phone calls ~~xxx~~ MUST be returned, and returned not four or five days later. We should be in on the decision making (that which affects the North). Aware of the fact that Atlanta is the National Office and that there are certain lines along which SNCC works-----but----SNCC must also become aware, that there are certain problems that exist in the North and by being in the South one isn't always familiar with these problems. Not only should the Northern Staff take a more active participation in the activities of SNCC, but those working with us, (The chairman of the local SNCC or Friends of SNCC.)

Please don't misunderstand me, I'm not saying that every Tom, Dick and Harry---as well as---Mary and Sallie Sue should take or be in such a position, but those whom we know are workers, those who have worked with SNCC since it's begining and those whom we know are committed to the principles and goals of SNCC. These people should and must have a role within SNCC, a role that is more than;that of some one up North (a do-gooder) who is trying to clear his or her conscience for some strange reason.

Again, don't musunderstand, I make these statements because there is a very little feeling of ~~responsibiliaty~~ responsibility towards the Northern offices. How can these problems be solved? I don't know but maybe ~~xxx~~ here is a suggestion.....Some type of central office should be set up in the various sections of the country and these offices be responsible to atlanta (with Atlanta being responsible to them, for information etc.) and working with atlanta. These offices should in turn relate the information on the the other SNCC groups in their areas. Exactly how this type of set up would work or the details of this type of thing I don't know, but we know nothing until it's tried.