

SNCC STAFF MEMO February 28, 1965

To: All Projects (Brothers and Sisters)

From: Cleve Sellers, Program Secretary

1. Reports to Executive Committee

There will be a meeting of the newly-elected Executive Committee and the Personnel Committee here in Atlanta beginning Thursday, March 4, at 4 p.m. The meeting should go on until Saturday, making room for a COFO conference to be held Sunday. For the meeting, we would like all projects to send us reports covering the following topics:

Tell us about personnel in your project: what needs do you have? What suggestions do you have about transferring or firing people?

About automobiles, for each car connected with your project, tell us the make, model, and driver; where it is used; and its condition and repairs needed. Please give us this information about all cars connected with the project, even those considered "junked" or in the shop.

About finances, tell us how much money your project receives, how much money you need, if you are in debt, and anything else about your project's financial status.

Also, let us know about any new counties or areas your project has moved into, new programs you are working on, and any other problems you wish to bring up.

All reports should be sent Air Mail Special so they will arrive in Atlanta on Wednesday, in time for us to read them over before the meeting begins.

2. Assistant Program Secretaries

Each state will have a program secretary whose job will be to handle field problems. If you have problems with regard to personnel, finances, cars, or programs, you can contact Roy Shields, Albany, Georgia; Fay Bellamy, Selma, Alabama; Doug Smith, Jackson, Mississippi; James Jones, Little Rock, Arkansas; John Battiste, Cambridge, Maryland. Also Jesse Harrison and a secretary will be working full-time in the Atlanta office to handle field problems.

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Brothers and Sisters--Well, here I am, Program Secretary. Thank yuh. Entering into this position, I have found many problems and much resistance from staff members who for some unknown reason resent the Atlanta office. I do not personally want to become attached to this stigma. I have also found that there are many, many problems still unsolved in our fight for equality. Because of this, it is very essential for us to open our minds and unite as brothers and sisters in harmony.

Some examples of recent problems that have come up which make it very evident that our work is far short of where we have to go are the brutal and violent murder of Malcolm X, the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson, at the hands of State Troopers in Marion, Ala.; the death of Willie Henry Lee by an unknown source in Rankin County, Mississippi; and the near race riot in Batesville. With this in mind, I make a plea for a changing attitude and an awareness of the obstacles that may prevent us from attaining our goal. We must make ourselves mobile so that it will be possible for us to move into the other problem areas that exist. At the present time, there is a dire need for personnel and automobiles in Arkansas, Southwest Georgia, and especially Alabama. Therefore, several of you will be approached and asked about possibly leaving the area that you are in and going to another area where a person of your caliber and character might be needed.