

SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference  
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010  
Transcript Video Recording #4  
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 1 (00:00:17):

Take out session of the historic SNCC 50th anniversary conference, give ourselves a hip. We got a lot of powerhouses in the house this afternoon or this morning. And, um, we wanna try, try as much as possible to keep on schedule. My name is Karen Spellman and I have the, uh, honor and privilege of having worked on the conference for longer than I ever imagined I would have to.

Speaker 1 (00:00:52):

Okay. And, um, um, this afternoon or this morning, um, we, we, we're trying to do some things all during this conference that haven't been done before. Okay. Um, we're trying for the first time to bring those folks out that have been unheard from about the student nonviolent coordinating committee over this past 50 years, we think it's the most important thing we can do to help the young people. Many of whom are in this audience this morning and welcome, welcome student. Actually, let me stop welcome students. We love to see you in the audience this morning. Welcome all of you. Um, but we're trying to pass on our, our legacy to you. We, we want you to know what it was like to work in the movement. We want you to know what it was like to be a student in the movement. All of us were maybe in our teens and twenties. Maybe we hit 20, just barely 20. When we started working in the movement. I was 12. When I started, My dad used to get me up every Saturday morning and go picket it at Woolworth. So, you know, and I lived in Greensboro and my dad was head of the NAACP. So what else do you do? You go pick it at Greensboro at Woolworths. So by the time SNCC started, I was actually a veteran.

Speaker 1 (00:02:13):

So, but we have so many star stories like that. And, um, what we're trying to do today is to give you a look behind the scenes, uh, of what SNCC looked like as an institution, as an organization who were the people who were the clock, who ran the institutions, who, who kept the wheels going, uh, who, who, who was unsung? Nobody. Most of these folks probably aren't mentioned in many books, except for Judy, you know, Judy, Judy's our S psychologist. And we got the different And very dear. But, um, but we wanted to see you now, you'll notice you look at our panel and you'll see that there are women and men.

Speaker 2 (00:02:55):

Okay.

Speaker 1 (00:03:01):

So that should give you a clue about what was happening behind the cameras of the, of those who were covered for the student nonviolent coordinated committee.

Speaker 1 (00:03:13):

We were there and drove, uh, uh, um, don't pay attention to what the historians say about this was a male centered organization. Ain't true. We going to explore, we gonna expose some of these myths and, and get 'em out forever. Uh, cuz we, we were in very significant roles. We played a very significant role. We led, we made decisions. We executed those decisions that we made. Yes. Which is also something very unusual in an organization. But come on in guys, uh, we we're doing introductions now. Uh, don't feel shy. A couple of seats over here seat here. Got a seat. Anybody else over there? Need the seat. Okay. After that we're gonna have spillover room only. We can maybe put some folks up here sitting down on the ground. So we'll get some volunteers for some students to do the cross-legged thing. Cuz I don't know if many of us over 50 can do that anymore.

Speaker 2 (00:04:15):

Chris cross apple sauce. You Chris cross. We won't be. Yeah.

Speaker 1 (00:04:22):

Judy. Judy is. That's what my nickname for Judy, Judy, Judy, cuz she works so fast. You have to say it. Judy. Judy is gonna be passing out some materials, put

Speaker 2 (00:04:30):

Hands on the out on university.

Speaker 1 (00:04:33):

Yeah, that's right

Speaker 2 (00:04:38):

Here. The

Speaker 1 (00:04:38):

That's right. The women

Speaker 2 (00:04:42):

Feldman while you're doing that, you guys to silence their cell phones for the session.

Speaker 1 (00:04:46):

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for reminding me of my house, my housekeeping duties. Okay guys, turn off your cell phones. Turn off your vibe. Rating. Cell phones

Speaker 2 (00:05:01):

On vibrators singing.

Speaker 1 (00:05:03):

I didn't say vibrators

Speaker 2 (00:05:06):

My heart.

Speaker 1 (00:05:11):

Get, get yourself situated here. Um, there's free water outside, but um, we'd like for you to have no flashes flashing because we're documenting this series. This is so important to us. We have, uh, we've been able to bring in a wonderful woman own company called Ascension productions, Natalie burrows, brown based here, teacher at St. August Saint Augustin's and um, we're completely recording every single thing that goes on at the conference. So you are part of our history, uh, and we in order for us to make it smooth. And so we can pass these tapes back to you. We need to make sure we have some, uh, some ground rules about how we can, um, how the media doesn't get interfered with, with all of your technology. So that, that will help us tremendously everybody off on their cell phone. Okay. Now those of you who wanna take photos, no flashes please.

Speaker 1 (00:06:03):

And uh, if I hear, um, a camera click, click, click, click clicking, which will interfere with our sound, I'm gonna probably send a hook over and ask you to turn, turn off that stop doing that click, click clicking. Is that, is that right? You're the hook. Here's the hook Zahi Ali, who is one of our wonderful production associates from, he came all the way down from Columbia university to be a part of our staff. So, um, he's been managing all the documentarians part. It's very important that we catch this record. Okay. And uh, I should introduce our, our fifth 1, 2, 3, our sixth member of the panel. Who's sitting out in the audience he's so special. He doesn't even

have to come up on stage. All right. And that's uh, brother ed brown. Who's sitting here in the middle of the audience here

Speaker 1 (00:06:47):

Long time, long time, SNIC supporter, brother of Jamele ALA mean AKA rap brown, a trap brown who is going to at the end of our, our presentation. I've asked him to say a few words to you so that you'll be brought up to date and know what we need to do in order to keep and support, uh, brother Alame. Okay. So I'm going to move now into the panelists and um, Judy and her great fashion has organized the panel for me. So I don't even have to do anything except say that. So, um, and I'm gonna follow Judy's instructions and that is we're gonna do self introductions. We're gonna have people come up and speak based on the era, you know, SN span about 10 years roughly. And we've organized ourselves by the years that have that we represented so that you'll start at the beginning and then we'll move through the, uh, the years. So you can see how things changed, uh, as, as people come and speak. So, uh, without further ado, Judy, Judy Richardson, Judy,

Speaker 3 (00:07:46):

Judy.

Speaker 4 (00:07:49):

Okay, good morning, morning. Thank you. This is not my favorite time of the morning. Let me just say so I need all the encouragement I can get. Um, first of all, I'm let me give you an intro. And what we're gonna do is just intro ourselves for a little, very brief intro and then we're gonna come back and each of us will talk about, um, uh, what we did when we were in the national office and then hopefully shortly short enough, um, that we can go to a lot of Q and a, um, afterward. So, um, first I'm Judy Richardson. Um, I will was in the Atlanta office, um, beginning in, uh, 1963. I came through, uh, Cambridge, Maryland. That's where I had been. I had got into Cambridge via Swarthmore college, um, got into a national office and then we moved the national office to Mississippi the summer of 1964.

Speaker 4 (00:08:36):

Then I went into Southwest Georgia lounge county, Alabama, um, uh, was the one and only, um, assistant, uh, working on Julian bonds campaign. I was his campaign office person, not the manager, um, that was Ivanhoe and, and, uh, Charlie Cobb, um, and then went to, um, Hmm. Then I went back to school. I went to Columbia, um, then, um, and this is very short bio, um, helped worked with Charlie Cobb and a number of other former SNCC folks on drum and spear bookstore. Um, oh, some people know it. Hello? Okay. Yay. All right. It becomes the largest African American bookstore in the country. We founded that in 1968, then I do some other stuff and then end up with, um, wait anyway. Um, uh, filmmaker, filmmaker. Yes, but between that also United church of Christ commission for racial justice as the director of communications. And then filmmaker, beginning with eyes on the prize, did the 14 hours and then just recently did a film called scar justice. The Orangeburg massacre. That just was on PBS. Yes. Oh, good. My God. You saw it. Okay. Uh, PBS national last month. Okay. Finished.

Speaker 5 (00:09:42):

I'm finished. Okay, good. Um, I'm Tommy O uh, ed Nawa say, and I represent, uh, the Asian part of the civil rights movement. Right. Um, I just finished the first draft of, uh, of a autobiography of the sixties. And it's called, uh, what is it called? Soul on rice.

Speaker 5 (00:10:16):

And, uh, I owe brother ed that, uh, that title it, uh, it may stick. Yes. I think it's gonna stick. I like it. We like it. We like it. Okay. So, uh, I'll come back to it. But, uh, I joined SNCC in 1963. Uh, I ended in the south and the deep south on Birmingham Sunday. Uh, and I'll get back to that later. I, I joined SNCC in 63 foreman had me as a, uh, janitor. Yeah. Wanted to clean up the garbage

and everything. And so, um, I did that and he went back to do doing some work. So I said, well, okay, I'll drive you home now. Foreman had a formidable story. Right. Okay. No, I'm just, I'm just saying, okay. We'll we'll just, all right. So chauffeur, even photographer and I go to you.

Speaker 6 (00:11:20):

Okay.

Speaker 5 (00:11:21):

That was great. I've wetted. The,

Speaker 7 (00:11:25):

Okay. My name is, uh, my name is Betty Garman. I was Betty Garman and SNCC and, uh, I, my, I use the last name Robinson now. Um, I was a, a graduate. I was an SDS person. And then I was a graduate student at Berkeley and I was raising money for SNCC in California. Nobody knew what SNCC was or what they didn't, they couldn't care less out in California in the early sixties. This was, but I came to SNCC in, um, March of 64 to the national office at, in the, at the encouragement of Casey and foreman who were, um, managing the fundraising operation. And that's basically what I did for two years, 64 to 66. And then I'll do what Judy did. After that. I was involved in the anti, the women's movement. I worked in a factory for eight years, along with a lot of other young people who went to work in factories in the seventies. I worked in public health for 17 years and I came back to community organizing about 15 years ago. So I'm very involved in the current grassroots organizing work that's going on in the country.

Speaker 4 (00:12:31):

Hello. My name is Freddy green and I, I am from Mississippi. I was born in Greenwood, uh, which is in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. Luckily as Nick began to move from the Southwest part of Mississippi, up into the Delta area around about 62, 63, I was in high school. So that was my first familiarity with SNCC. I went on to college for a couple of years. Couldn't take it being in college. And as a result in, in the fall of 1965, I went to work in the Atlanta SNCC office. I stayed in the Atlanta SNCC office until 1960 and the summer of 1968. I left that and moved into the city of Washington, went back to college, finished up and got my degree in an accountant. And I've done various jobs in business administration. Now, as you see by the gray hair, I'm over retire woman now,

Speaker 2 (00:13:33):

Right?

Speaker 8 (00:13:36):

My name is Margaret Herring, AKA Lauren MC Shirley and MC Shirley. I came to SNCC after the democratic national convention in August of 64. I worked in Pinola county. And then I worked in, um, the M F D P challenge to the seating of the regular Congressman from Mississippi. And after that, I worked in the SNCC office with Betty Garman. And I did also did some work with Jack men in the research department, which I'll touch on. Um, after that, uh, we, I believed in the message that black people should run their own liberation movement and that white people should go home to the white community, the poor and working class, white people and organize them, uh, with the same agenda to form a co after. And I got married and moved to east Kentucky where I was involved in a lengthy civil rights case, fourth amendment case because our home was raid and we were charged with sedition. And, uh, anyway, that's kind of what happened.

Speaker 9 (00:14:59):

Okay.

Speaker 10 (00:15:00):

So let's, let's go back to the beginning now and we're gonna do this historically chronological, do you?

Speaker 11 (00:15:09):

No, no, don't worry. Don't worry. I,

Speaker 1 (00:15:12):

I don't have to keep getting up while we are situating ourselves here. How many of you are in the back there? Are there any seats vacant next to you? Can you raise your hand? Vacant seats over here? Come on, get in them quickly. If you wanna get a seat over here all the way up Vacant seat over here, y'all gonna move in or what? You just gonna stand at the, at the door

Speaker 4 (00:15:39):

And there's one right over here.

Speaker 1 (00:15:39):

There's one right here.

Speaker 9 (00:15:41):

That's broken.

Speaker 4 (00:15:42):

Oh, it's broken. Okay.

Speaker 1 (00:15:44):

You got, is that seat broken up there where you are? Okay. Seat, seat up there. That seat.

Speaker 9 (00:15:48):

There's a seat in the back too.

Speaker 1 (00:15:52):

And you can, uh, if you can fold your legs, you can sit anywhere up here. Just don't block the aisle, bro. That's all. Okay. Cause the fire marsh will throw us all out. Okay.

Speaker 4 (00:16:06):

Oh you all right. Lemme tell you first how I got there. Um, it's 1963. I have just taken off what I think is gonna be, um, three, just my, the semester of my sophomore year at Swarthmore college in Pennsylvania. Um, I had come through, um, uh, Cambridge. We had worked there and I was on my way back to Cambridge with the field secretary there, SNCC field secretary there, Reggie Robinson, back to Cambridge and he says, um, oh, let's stop by the national office on our way back to Cambridge. And so I get there and I'm thinking national office, right? Whoa. Okay. I get there. It's this little dinky office on at eight and a half Raymond street off the side street off. What was then hunter street above a beauty parlor. Um, and when I get there, what I see is, um, Reggie go up to this rather large black guy who has overalls on and he's up at the top of the stairs and he's sweeping the stairs. And I see Reggie go up to him and they just hug each other. And he says, and Reggie says, Hey captain, how you doing? And, and the guy says, how you doing? And I'm thinking, boy, this is egalitarian organization. You know, he's hugging the janitor. Okay. Yeah. Well then I find out that this is, you know, forum and the executive secretary who

Speaker 4 (00:17:16):

Routinely swept the office. Now he did not do it very well. Let me just say, but it was his thing. He would, he would sweep the office. And the reason was he wanted to show that no job was too small for anyone in the organization to do. And that every job was equally important. He finds out foreman finds out that I came out as Swarthmore or that I can type 90 words a minute. And that I took what was then called Greg shorthand, which is like a texting. It's like a shorthand, but

with symbols. Okay. Yeah. The older people understand. Yeah. Okay. So I never left. I never went back to Cambridge and my six months becomes three years in various places. Okay. But when I come up those stairs, what I see in this office is this incredible network. So I see, for example, and we were all young, just remember this, we were all, I, I mean, I, when I come into the Atlanta office, I was 18 years old.

Speaker 4 (00:18:05):

Okay. Most of the people I see in this office when 'em up, those stairs are 18, 19, 20 years old foreman, who is the one who really was the main person, kind of constructing all these various departments. He was a little older. He was, you know, in his mid twenties, uh, mid to late twenties, I guess. Okay. Late but late twenties. But what I see is a communications department. At that point, it was headed by Julian bond. Who, of course, you know, um, and then when I was there, it was also, um, Mary King now communications meant that they were constantly sending out, um, press releases. Um, every, um, every, at the, every week we had a student voice and that student voice had the news of any church burnings, any shootings, uh, with photos, if we could, um, then there was the Watts line that was the wide area, telephone service Watts.

Speaker 4 (00:18:54):

That was like an 800 number. And it meant that if you were in the field and you were trying to call to tell us that a church was burned, or somebody had just been arrested, then you would call again, this is before cell phones. Okay. So you would call and you would call, you could do person to person. So you would, um, I'm calling say, they're calling from McComb, I'm calling, um, uh, person to person to say Judy Richardson. And then we were trained to say, I'm sorry, she's not here right now. Can you, you know, can you, um, tell, uh, leave a message and the person yes. Thank you. Um, he's an echo here. Bring back memories in, bring this. It is I, no. And so then, um, the person on the other end would say, um, okay, will you, will you tell her that say, um, uh, Hollis Watkins is calling and I would then know to call now on this 800 number to call back.

Speaker 4 (00:19:45):

Um, and what would happen though? Sometimes these Southern operators, of course, all of them were white, Southern women, um, would then finally caught up to us and they were no longer telling us who the person was. But, um, what we would then do though, is once we got the reports say of a jailing, we also had a friends of SNCC organization. They were in every major city, they were in Chicago and Los Angeles, San Francisco, um, Philadelphia, New York, everywhere. You would then call once you got the information and you call say, Mrs. Shaw in Chicago, you would say, Mrs. Shaw, Hollis Watkins is in jail. Um, and she would then call the sheriff if she knew the number, if we had the number. And the main thing was to say, we know you've got Hollis, he better come out the same way he went in because too often, of course they would go in.

Speaker 4 (00:20:29):

Nobody would know. And that's what the Mississippi, Alabama of Southwest Georgia, whatever authorities were betting on. So there were all of these friends of SNCC, there were campus friends of SNCC and all of these folks are gonna, and, and now, and also the photo department. Hello. Okay. Um, but I'm gonna get to you in a second, cuz then you're gonna tell all about it two more minutes. Oh, two more minutes. Okay. Um, research department research. This is one of the things that Jack min did. Jack Minna was, excuse me, a crusty old white guy who could get research from a stone. This is before there were computers. He told us exactly what Julian said, that we, he could find out who, the boards of trader, who were the chambers of commerce. We, what the economic pressure points were. Okay. That's research. Um, and then this was the Mississippi chronology to show no incidents of, um, of violence against white, uh, against black folks trying to vote was not just an isolated incident.

Speaker 4 (00:21:19):

It was part of a pattern of institutional racism. That's what these things did. Then we had the print shop, um, uh, which you were also involved in at some point. What I most remember Tommy for mark Mike mark suckle was, um, Tommy becomes the photographer, which he'll talk about what I remember about Tommy O was that he would go into the dark room and five days later he would come out and he would just, it would be, he would have this beard. He would, he was, his eyes were red, poor a child. Um, and then there were the campus organizers. We had people organizing on HBCUs, not called that then the black caps. So, um, um, and then this is my last point. Now I'm gonna stop it. Um, the, the, uh, Bobby Yancy who was here also, um, but not on this panel, Bobby becomes the second in command at the Schaumburg, the big research library in New York. Right. But she was the head of campus organizing to organized SCC chapters on, um, college campuses around the black community, on black campuses. So that was that okay. I'm finished. Okay.

Speaker 12 (00:22:17):

Right.

Speaker 1 (00:22:20):

We'll come back for questions and answers. So I, I'm trying to get everybody present so that you, you can ask your questions. So we'll have time for that to

Speaker 5 (00:22:26):

Me. Uh, I think I'm gonna have slowed this down a bit here. I'm

Speaker 1 (00:22:30):

Sorry. And do duties fast.

Speaker 5 (00:22:32):

Okay. I'm taking you back to 1963. Uh, I just finished three years at university. Uh, I'd fallen in love for the first time, but she was having nothing to do, but with it. So my heart was broken and I went home to lick my wound. And I was living in a little town called Chatham Ontario. It's about 50 miles, uh, north of Detroit, uh, incidentally it's, uh, it was determinants of the underground railroad. And from two blocks from my house are two churches with historic markers, you know, designating John Brown and of, of slavery. Okay. So, uh, that summer I borrowed, uh, \$800 from my mother and bought a blue Volkswagen Beetle, which, uh, many of you will remember. And, um, it was a, it was that allowed me to get a, a, a great job in, in, uh, in Chatham at that time. Uh, but it was a, it was a, a disastrous because my heart was broken.

Speaker 5 (00:23:47):

And the only thing that could break through this Paul of misery was this amazing spectacle happening in the Southern United States. And I turned on the TV one day and I think it was Danville, but there were group of students, you know, my age and they were sitting at a counter and they'd get eggs broken over them. They'd get Coke bottles, you know, thrown, uh, over their heads. They'd be thrown up on the floor and they just picked themselves up and quietly sit down again. And I looked this spectacle and in a very deep, but still unnamed part of me, I really understood the essence of their struggle. Now why that, that resonated so profoundly in me was that I'm a Japanese Canadian and I was born 1941. And before I was a year old, my country, my government had decreed that I was an enemy alien.

Speaker 5 (00:24:55):

And my mother carried me in her arms into the cattle stalls of Hastings part, which is the P and E you know, national exhibition, big, uh, state fair. And, uh, we spent a few months there moved into, uh, I'm sorry. Was that an internment camp? Internment camp? Yeah, we, we, we, we went into an internment camp and after the war, we were refused entry. See, people are really

surprised that this happened to Jas Canadians and in a lot of ways, it was worse than what happened to our American brothers in, in the states. So after the war, they, they tried to send us back to Japan, uh, which for me was a foreign country cuz I'm born in Canada. So, uh, we, we eventually found ourselves and Chatham. Um, okay. So, so, so back to that summer. And um, so at the end of the summer, I, I said, well, uh, I've worked hard all year.

Speaker 5 (00:26:02):

Uh, before going back to finish university, I'm gonna take a short vacation to the south. Now, here I am, this, this, this like dumb kid from little farming town in Chatham. I knew nobody had no contacts. Didn't have a clue what I was doing, but I drive south in my little blue Volkswagen and, um, I'm in Nashville. And as my wife will, will will say is I'm a lousy tourist. And if you've seen one impressive state building, you've seen them all. So I was going back to my car and I'm thinking, well, what the hell am I doing so far away from home? I think maybe I'll just go back. And then the radio flashed and said that a bomb had gone off in the 16th Baptist church for young children were known to have been killed. I checked my map, saw it was about a 200 mile straight south drive. So I headed south and I hit, um, I hit the deep south. I, I crossed the, at the, uh, the border into Alabama and I remember this golf station I pulled in there for some gas and some coffee for me. And I finished up and was going to go find me a bathroom. And that was when I first encountered, uh, the first of many existential dilemmas because there was two bathrooms, one Mark White and one mark cuing.

Speaker 5 (00:27:40):

So anyway, I get down, I get down to Birmingham and I'm immediately, you know, got, got lost in this kind of Ritz area. And I'm surrounded by a bunch, bunch of black people cuz they're, they're pretty upset and uh, I'm surrounded. And I, and I, I know I can't outrun it, so I get out and they're moment entire stop because, uh, I'm not black, but I'm not exactly white either. So in that momentary,

Speaker 2 (00:28:12):

Keep your hands still.

Speaker 5 (00:28:13):

Oh, okay. Sorry about that. So, um, uh, I say I'm a, I'm a student from Ken, I'm going on a vacation in Mexico. And could you direct me

Speaker 5 (00:28:27):

To the Y M C a in, in downtown, uh, Birmingham. So they said, well, you go this route and he said, but you get there in a hurry cuz there's no night for you to be wandering around Birmingham. So I, I, I find the main street of Birmingham and it's, um, and, uh, it looks a lot like, like a university, a in Toronto, it's a pleasant little Boulevard. And except that this, uh, illusion of familiarity was broken when around the corner comes this Jeep and it's, uh, got about five, uh, grim looking soldier is, uh, the top of the Jeep looks like a steel picket fence with bay and rifle, uh, sticking out of there. And I I'm, I'm looking for a place to eat and I find this one place that's open two minutes. Okay. I'm just gonna quit when my time's up,

Speaker 2 (00:29:27):

Get to the Atlanta office now.

Speaker 5 (00:29:28):

Okay. So, um, I find this place that that's open and it turns out to be one of these, uh, ubiquitous, uh, uh, rib joints. And I walk in and there's about five guys that look very black and very big. And I take a, a seat at the counter and I feel all eyes are boring into my back there. So I order some ribs and coffee and I'm sitting there, you know, wondering what's gonna happen. And, and, and my, my, a patch of, of red DEO cigarettes are, are out out there. And the counter guy looks at 'em

and he's zing it. I say, well, they're, they're Canadian cigarettes. They're different. And I gave him one, so that broke the ice and the owner came up and started talking to me. You

Speaker 13 (00:30:18):

Can you get us to, um, meeting foreman and, and, uh, the

Speaker 5 (00:30:21):

Rest of them, no, gonna wander that. No, I don't wanna do that. Okay. Okay. I'm just, I'm just gonna wander on here too, til my time's up.

Speaker 6 (00:30:31):

Got one minute

Speaker 5 (00:30:32):

To, I got one minute

Speaker 1 (00:30:33):

You wandered.

Speaker 14 (00:30:34):

Okay.

Speaker 5 (00:30:37):

I'm supposed to go. Okay. So, so you can just meet them. All right. So To cut to the chase, so to speak.

Speaker 6 (00:30:46):

Yes.

Speaker 5 (00:30:48):

I, I, I wind up in, in, uh, at the ag Gaston motel. Oh, where I meet, uh, all the SNCC workers, you know, they're filing in there and I, I go over and, and see John Lewis, uh, who had impressed me mightly at the, uh, March on Washington, cuz he was young and he was so passionate and he was so pissed and he's like really laying it down. And so he introduces me to Julian and at that time I was taken under the wing of uh, Annie Pearl, Avery, who I, I met. And she, uh, she made sure that, that I had enough to eat that I had, I had, uh, a bed in one of the rooms that SNCC had, uh, had rented. And, and we went to the funeral of, of, of three of the girls and uh, I was driving down and I looked over at my shoulder and I, and, and Annie Pearl had disappeared and I looked down and Annie Pearl was scrunched under the, uh, the dash. And I said, a Pearl, what you doing down there? And she says, Tom, we in Whitey territory. And they seemed like black ass with you in this car. So we in a lot of trouble. So get us outta here. So off we went to the, to the church and I drove back to Atlanta after the funeral. And I had in my car that day, uh, foreman, uh, Julian barn and, um, Danny Lyon, four of us went, went to Atlanta and the rest, as they say is history.

Speaker 1 (00:32:23):

Okay. All right,

Speaker 5 (00:32:29):

Read all about it. And

Speaker 1 (00:32:31):

I think you'll see that, um, as, as we do this, that those of you who are out there that are documentarians, that are looking for the real deal. And as far as SNIC experiences are concerned, uh, you know, certainly go to those who are noted, but also spend some time with people like

Tamika so that you can get the stories that you wouldn't normally get. And these are all new, they're firsthand, their primary source data. So, um, we're helping you to, uh, do your dissertation here on this, on this panel. Okay. All right. Um, the next person, uh, is, uh, Betty Garma, Betty Gar.

Speaker 7 (00:33:06):

Um, okay. So I, uh, um, the way I start with this is I'm a, I'm a senior at Skidmore college in upstate New York and the lunch counter sits happen. And I am shocked that people cannot sit at a lunch counter. I'm like, I can't believe this is my country. So, uh, I love the, by the way, the piece that, uh, Hollis presented with Jimmy tra the interview with Jimmy Travis. Yeah. Because I think that's message is so important that there is nothing that stands between you and, and what, you know, what you wanna do except yourself. So you need to surmount, you know, it's a, it's a challenge to surmount your fears and take some risks. And I think that's a really critical, uh, juncture that we're at now in 2010 America. But, um, but anyway, what I did, I worked with some other, uh, women at my college and we organized a support them for the Southern students.

Speaker 7 (00:34:02):

And we had 200 of the 1200 students at the college participated in picketing the Woolworths. I won't tell you the rest of the story when you get hands on the freedom plow, you'll it's there. But, um, then I did different things. I got hooked up with SDS through national student association and that's another it interesting piece of the history is how interconnected all these organizations were of students. We traveled, we met each other, we listened to each other's stories. We heard about the work and we participated in whatever way that, that we could. So, um, I, then I ended up, as I said before, as a graduate student at, at Berkeley and Tom Hayden and to Al Haber, Tom Hayden and Paul Potter were tra traveled to McComb in the fall of 1962 when Hollis Watkins and Brenda Travis and Curtis, uh, Curtis Muhammad, et cetera, were, uh, working with Bob Moses, one of the first attempts at voter registration in Mississippi.

Speaker 7 (00:35:00):

Um, and they wrote these long descriptions of what was happening in McComb. And I went around to all my new radical friends at Berkeley. Okay. Berkeley was the hot bed of radicalism. All these lived different left sex were out there. So I go around from one to another and I say, come on, we gotta do something. They look at me, no, we got much more important work. What this is is the, uh, this is 62, right? This is 62 fall or 61 fall McComb 61 fall. So I'm going around. No, got much more important work to do. So I actually organized a support organization to support the Southern organizing. And then that led one thing led to another. And I ended up at the Howard, uh, SNCC conference in 1963, uh, in Washington over Thanksgiving break. And that was when the invitation again, as, as Hollis.

Speaker 7 (00:35:54):

So, uh, clearly put it this morning. The invitation came both by Casey and foreman saying to me, come on, you gotta come south. We really need you. But also because of the singing and that was what reached my soul. And I knew that I was leaving graduate school and I have never gotten an advanced degree yet. I'm 71. But, uh, but anyway, um, you know, I made some attempts, but, um, but anyway, that that's neither here nor there. So I went south, I worked in the Atlanta office. Um, the Northern coordinator at the time was dinky Romley and case Casey, who had been the Northern coordinator had gone to, um, Mississippi in preparation for 1964 summer. So I worked with dinky and I learned what the fundraising operation was all about. And I'm gonna tell you some of the pieces of it. First of all, SNCC was not a 5 0 1 C three.

Speaker 7 (00:36:53):

We were not a 5 0 1 C three. So you didn't tax deduction for your donation. And we had to figure out how to raise money. And as you heard Julian speak this morning, we had, uh, what, what did

he say? Wait a minute. He said we had 31. I wrote the numbers down 31 staff in 1962 or three, by the spring of 64, they close to a hundred full-time staff people. We got a check of \$9 and 64 cents that was after taxes. The, so the 36 cents was the taxes that were taken out. So you got a weekly check if you were in the field for of \$9 and 64 cents, if you worked in a, um, in a city, in an office and an, I think we got about 20 something, 25, I think it was raised later on if you were married, if you were married, you got a little bit more.

Speaker 7 (00:37:49):

Um, but because we had to pay rent in Atlanta, and if you were in the field, you normally were living in somebody's house. So you didn't have that expense. Um, the contributors that we nurtured, we saw them as allies in a struggle, in a political struggle, a social justice struggle. They were not people that we appealed to, even though there were lots of images that we could use about the appeal, like so and so got beaten up. And so, and so was, you know, put in jail and so on. But we really, I think, and I, I'm looking back at some of the memos that I wrote to the Northern offices, uh, talking about how we were gonna realign the democratic party and that people, it was critical for people to, to send us money and to support us by doing demonstrations in the north, because we were gonna realign the democratic party.

Speaker 7 (00:38:40):

We were gonna get rid of the Southern Democrats, uh, because African American people were gonna vote. So it was in our, it was all in everybody's interest to be an ally in this struggle, the people in the, in the south African Americans, from those impacted communities, they were the leadership, but we as Northern supporters and myself as the kind of the link, we were the allies and the struggle, and it was gonna benefit all of us to have this piece of the country liberated forever and ever, we thought you couldn't have told me that, uh, at age 71, I, I would still be working in the same arenas, you know, but that, that's another that's for another story. Um, so we built a Northern fundraising apparatus. It started with Jim foreman's brilliance, going to New York and engaging a group of professional fundraisers who did direct mail and do, and, and had these house parties on long island.

Speaker 7 (00:39:38):

And so on for four SNCC and field workers would go up and would tell their story and talk about what their work was and meet the people. And then we would raise thousands of dollars that way. I mean, thousands, literally thousands. We also had a Northern office by, at, at, uh, by the fall 64, we had 12 Northern offices. So we had a Northern office in, in every major city and we had 65 or 70 friends of active friends of SNCC groups. So we had campus friends of SNCC groups, and we had friends of SNCC groups in cities that we didn't have Northern offices in. And they were constantly doing three things. They were doing, uh, fundraising. They would figure out how to, you know, have the freedom singers come and sing, sell the freedom singer records, uh, have a house party, have, uh, one of the field workers come do a mailing, whatever.

Speaker 7 (00:40:33):

Uh, am I close to my two minutes? Okay. So we, they did that. Did media work for us? Uh, so the communications folk were in, in touch with them and they also did demonstrations. So those were the three things they did. Um, the, the fundraising ranged from people collecting pennies to these wealthy folks in, in New York, through the professional fundraisers, given a thousand \$5,000 contributions. Um, I wanted to say, so I would just touch on these three things. I wanted to say some of the critical questions that I remember that were part of the debate, the debate, there was always a debate about resource distribution, who got, what, how it got distributed, who made the decisions about how it got distributed. That was one, there was, was always a tension between the field and the office staff, which, which, which was an important tension to acknowledge and recognize and talk about. But the office was really a critical piece of the organization and, and nobody should ever say, all you did was work in the office. Um, there was also the struggle over once the Northern groups got engaged, what would they do locally in their

own cities? There was a struggle there. So that was another critical question that I remember a critical debate. So I'll stop there and

Speaker 1 (00:41:53):

Okay. As I, that signal that I have to have a hard stop at noon, so everybody can go over to eat lunch. So as the panelists to be mindful, we're gonna try to hold about 10 minutes for questions at the end, but, um, go ahead, Freddy.

Speaker 4 (00:42:08):

Oh, okay. You want this one? Doesn't matter. Okay. As I said, I will, as a growing up in Mississippi and all of a sudden we have changes that's going on in this country. And I think the one thing that's very, very clear in the Delta, it was extreme segregation. I grew up in the black community. I never came across white people period because in my blue town was all black people. All of my schools, even though I finished high school in 1963, which we all know is after the Supreme court decision on school immigration. Right? So that's basically, what's really happening with me. I am also a part of this green family. My brother Dewey is probably my first introduction into the movement. And he is then working in Mississippi, in Jackson for what's called the Mississippi free press. And this is really one of these little community papers that allow, y'all never heard of.

Speaker 4 (00:43:11):

That was one of the ways in which some of the stories about what happened really got out Dewey in return meets Bob Moses. Who's really coming up from, uh, the McComb area, the admit county area in that area, everybody, all of the movement, people are constantly the catch is to make contact so that you could make a, your community connection, you know, your community organizing. So Bob is in return introducing him to the then Howard students that were coming down periodically Stokley Carmichael, who was one of the early on ones that I met. All of these students are then coming in and you are introducing them on to these different communities. So as they work their way up from the Southern part of miss, uh, miss state of Mississippi up into the Delta area, which is really in, in about the heart of the, uh, Greenwood is 120 miles south of Memphis, and about 96 miles, uh, north of Jackson.

Speaker 4 (00:44:14):

So that gives you a geo area. One of the, probably the most segregated pods, because the Delta area is also the area where cotton was king. So, uh, that whole area. So that's basically, however cotton has really began to die out because at the present time, uh, plantation owners are now beginning to use cotton machines and all of that. So then, but there's still all of these people, that's then stuck on plantations. That's pretty much working, like share crops like fan Lou Hama, which I'm sure a lot out of you all have heard of. So basically what you really have is that the community organizes a meeting, people, encouraging people, educating people and, and, and just encouraging you to get involved. So as a family, my brother Dewey, and my brother, George and I began to get very involved into, to the movement. And this is all around 62, uh, very little going on.

Speaker 4 (00:45:18):

I'm still in high school. Then one night as George is returning from a meeting, uh, somebody follows him and shoots into my family's house. So it's like all of a sudden, you know, but this is the whole process. Now immediately George Dean called Bob and all of our friends, you know, uh, Jim foreman, you know, Sam block, Willie peacock, all the people who are around people immediately come, you know? So it's like, this is, if this is the source to help you out. If something happens, it's not like somebody shoots you. Now you call the police. It's Nick that you call. I mean goes, this is, this is, this is who's coming to help you out. So that's basically the whole process that's really going on. So I am now beginning to encourage people since I'm like 17, I can't register to vote cuz you could not.

Speaker 4 (00:46:11):

At that time to, uh, registered to vote in Mississippi, you had to be 21, but I'm going around soliciting people to go down to register, to vote and bad things are happening to people who go to album to register, to vote. I mean, share proper are being thrown off plantations. There are people being evicted from the houses and within the black community, people are really terrified because that's all of these horrible things that's happening. No one wants to get involved. I mean, I shouldn't say no one, there's a limited number of people who want to get involved with the movement, cuz people are afraid. They're afraid of losing that job. They're afraid of losing their house. They're afraid of getting killed, you know, which was unheard of. So all of this is really the, so the impact of just being involved, understanding what's going on.

Speaker 4 (00:47:07):

So I do this all during the time I'm in high school and I finish high school the summer, uh, these 60 summer of 63, I then, uh, work full time for SCC during that summer. And then in September I go away to college and I go to college my freshman and sophomore year. And then at the end of that, I'm just feeling frustrated. It's just, it doesn't seem like with all the things that's going on in the world, it does not seem like I should be sitting at di university in new Orleans, Louisiana studying nursing. You know, I mean, it just did not seem cuz first is I didn't, I no longer wanted to be a nurse. I had no idea what I wanted to do, but it's like all of this pull of what do you do? So of course, since my strongest connections was really with SNCC in terms of that.

Speaker 4 (00:48:00):

So then I go back to Mississippi and I'm in McComb, Mississippi, uh, the summer of 65 working back in, working in voter registration, encouraging people to register, to vote, helping out in freedom schools and basically working as a general, uh, community organizer. Now the way things operated in CC, people are always like, nobody really is telling you what to do, but people are encouraging you to think and about doing other things. So Jim foreman says to me, uh, one of the times when he's passing through McComb, he said, Freddy, I think you should come over and visit me for a few days in Atlanta. Cause there's some things around the office I want to show you, you know? And then, you know, and it's like, you know, it's so, and in that September of 65, I go to Atlanta because I mean, Jim, I, I pretty much idolize.

Speaker 4 (00:49:00):

I mean, because Jim, there's no job that Jim won't do, he will help you do everything. And he'll talk to you just about anything. I mean, he would pretty was very, very open. So he encourages me to go. And then as I come into the SNCC office, visiting Jim, we sit and talk for a few minutes and then he said, come on. I got somebody who I think that y'all could really work really good together. And he brings in, he connects me up with rubs Robinson and who I know and had met before. But Ruby was a very organized person, very disciplined person. And she pretty much was running the office at that particular time. And she, she was really trying to organize some community organizers in a business like fashion. So we could really do things. I mean, she was in charge of the Mo fleet, uh, you know, providing services for all of these community organizations that we have, the SNCC, all these projects, SNCC has that's going on all throughout the south.

Speaker 4 (00:50:06):

And the connections between the SNCC office in Atlanta with the, with the field of the field offices in the south, the Northern offices, the west coast offices and all these offices rub is really keeping that connection. She's also making sure that bills get paid and all these kinds of things. So he's really connecting me up with Ruby and Ruby. The, I mean, Ruby is like fast talking has a hundred things on her agenda, but she, she's very, very organized and she's just like, well, you do this. And, and she's, you know, people are steadily passing out in a positive way. Well, can you help me out with, and you just give the, and you know, and you're waiting, you know, you do

your part and you're just thinking, and the next day you say, oh, you finished, oh, I have a couple other things. And the next thing that, you know, it's like automatically you are really involved in an, in a group and it's really, um, all inclusive.

Speaker 4 (00:51:08):

I mean, it's all, do you have another one? This is the way I do it. Do you have another way that we could do it? You know, so it's, it's a, and you always felt that you were a pod and it was always very, very clear. And, and one of the things that she used to express the strongest to me is that Freddy, we have to make sure that we can provide the things for that the field actually needs. And, and in a lot of ways she acted, she, okay. She acted like a buffer between the field and the, because there, there were times when there was resentments, people would say that for those folks up in the New York office, you know, they're not even there and I'm still out in the field, you know, and trying to get people to understand that the fundraising office may, they may not be there at eight o'clock when you may be going to, to, to some meeting down in low county, but understand the way that they actually function and how it all fits together.

Speaker 4 (00:52:08):

So I definitely think that she functioned and she taught me and broke me into doing that kind of thing. Now, strangely during this whole process, she became very, very sick. So, uh, somewhere in between, in the six to six year, she became, uh, very, very sick. And I, because of the whole way, the whole process worked, I had actually ended up becoming Ruby. So by the time 68 came around, I was one that, uh, I was running that office because it's not like there's not time to recruit and to get somebody to in for this spot. It's like, it's time for you to do we need it. That, and that's pretty much how it went. So I was there to 1968.

Speaker 8 (00:52:55):

My job with Pearson was to open his mail and read, filter the mail and also to type up his personal diary. Uh, when I opened the mail, I read all the SNCC press releases. So I was familiar with the terrible things that were happening in the deep south. And I kept trying to get Mr. Pearson to write about this, but his friends were Lydon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Earl Warren, Wayne Morris. Um, and he took his information from them rather than some little secretary. However, I did prevail on him in ask him to take me to the democratic national convention in Atlantic city, into August of 64 and one night he got so tired of me. He said, okay, if you think I should write about these people and the demonstrations out in front of the convention, then you go and interview some people and I will put it in the column.

Speaker 8 (00:54:01):

So I did, I went over to the gym hotel. I met a guy named Jack MENA and Jack MENA was the head of the research department for SNCC. And one of the things that Jack taught me was the relationship between racism and capitalism. And I had never thought about these things that, about how beneficial it was to the people that owned the means of production to have the races fighting each other and to have dissension and hatred, how that played in a part in the way our country was run. Anyway, I worked in, uh, Pinola county and then I helped with the M F D P challenge to the seating of the regular Congressman. And then I worked in the Atlanta office and I helped Betty some. And I also helped Jack what Jack did was demographic research of the communities that SNCC had projects in or were sending people to so that the organizers would know, um, the, the, uh, you know, the, the statistics, the income, uh, the graduates from school, what the schools were like, what industries were in that town who owned those industries, what boards of directors.

Speaker 8 (00:55:27):

So they sat on and he was very good about interlocking boards of directors, uh, the median wages. Um, uh, so that's kind of what I did. And one day Jack and Jim foreman came to me and they said, uh, as you know, there's a March plan from set Selma to Montgomery. And I don't

think SNCC was really wanting that to happen because it was too dangerous. However, there were other forces that were saying there was gonna be a March. And so they said, uh, we'd like you to go to Selma, uh, and interview the mayor and the, a chief of police and the sheriff and the judge, and find out what the white power structure has planned. So, So I, because they said that I kind of had a Southern accent. So I actually went to, uh, Dillard's and I bought a dress and some stockings and Which I didn't wear anyway. So I, I drove over there by myself off, and I checked into, uh, this beautiful hotel where the national press was staying. And, uh, I told, I made appointments with these people, and I told them that I was a freelance writer for parade magazine.

Speaker 8 (00:57:04):

And I remember walking down the street in Selma and I saw worth long coming the other way. And he looked at me as though I've seen her somewhere before, but, you know, I was, I just kept going. I was really scared that he would recognize me, but he didn't. So anyway, I interviewed these, uh, officials and wrote my report. Um, and while I was staying in the hotel with these, like Doug Kiker and people like that from NBC, we got a report that a man had been shot in the back, uh, Jimmy Lee Jackson, and a little town outside of Selma and, um, things heated up. So I left and went back to Atlanta and gave my report. And then the March happened and the rest is history is Tam.

Speaker 1 (00:58:10):

I'm gonna check the chairs prerogative and put my 2 cents worth in because I 2:00 AM a veteran of SNCC. And, um, although usually the moderator doesn't get to talk. If the moderator wants to talk, they can go

Speaker 2 (00:58:20):

Ahead. Right?

Speaker 1 (00:58:23):

I'm a daughter of a free Eden fighter. My dad who's no longer with us was, um, engaged in so many struggles. And among those were the struggle for the desegregation in Greensboro, North Carolina, uh, when I was a high school student in back in the mid fifties, uh, a lot of people think that the sit-in movement began in 1960 in green borough. That is a fiction. Uh, it was happening in 19 56, 19 57, 19 58, Zel Blair and David Richmond. Two of those who were the credited with the sit-ins and we give them all the praises due were members of the NAACP youth council. During the fifties, the mid fifties, we were sitting in, uh, testing public accommodations, but not private accommodations. Our strategy at that point was to integrate the schools. So we had a lot of first Josephine board was the first African American to attend, um, Greensboro senior high.

Speaker 1 (00:59:20):

Uh, and also we were doing some other things. We were testing the swimming pools, the libraries, all of those things that were funded by our public dollars. So I spent many an evening in the, uh, white Greensborough, um, public library, uh, where people moved out and just wouldn't let us, they didn't wanna sit nearest. Uh, we tried Wade ins in the swimming pools, all of this was happening, but, uh, it's important to know that. And, and those of you, especially the young people who are organizing, there was not a lot of support within the black community for this work. My dad suffered persecution as did my parents. And so did we, um, first week it came from the white side, you know, the cross spurlings in our front yard, uh, the bomb threats that happened, uh, for us and the FBI would often be crawling through my bedroom at night.

Speaker 1 (01:00:09):

My sister and I would wake up and the FBI would be peeking under our beds. So these things happened. Um, and, and, but there was still a sense of struggle. There was a strongly knit, small community, Zel Blair's father, Elle bla union was one of those people. And I'm, I'm calling these

names because those of you who are from North Carolina and are maybe part of the Greensboro, um, museum need to make sure that when you're doing your documentation, that you go back and understand that everything is a continuum. There's nothing to just stop starts immediately. Um, and, and, and you have to credit your ancestors for all of this. So your folks were probably a part of the Greensboro movement. NAACP was, was the organization of choice. Uh, my dad bought, uh, Martin Luther king to Bennett college. He was a professor at Bennett college.

Speaker 1 (01:00:55):

Uh, he lost his job about a year later. My mother taught in the public school system. She lost her job and it were wasn't the white folks who did it, these were the people who were the, the tools of, of the white power structure. We, we never saw white people at all, um, doing this to us. And, um, my grades started falling. My SIS, I have three sisters. We were at the top of the honor roll and all of a sudden I was getting D's and F's. So, um, Charlie Cobb's father, uh, was my dad's best friend. And, um, at one point my mother called Charlie's father and said, you gotta get us outta here cause um, they're gonna kill us. And so we were literally secreted away in the night and moved to new Haven, Connecticut. So, uh, epi new Haven, my dad never stopped.

Speaker 1 (01:01:39):

Um, every morning as every Saturday morning, uh, there were all of these sympathy demonstrations going on around the country for what was going on in the south. So we had a Woolworth and a Kresge and every Saturday morning we'd get outta bed at eight o'clock and walk the picket line in front of the Woolworth in new Haven. And, um, people would say, why are you, why are you picketing here? You know, we can go to the lunch counters and we had to do all of the explanation about what happens here is, is can they to what's happening down south, we all are in a national struggle for ending the, uh, segregation in these school systems and also within public accommodations. So fast forward, as I said, I was a, I was a burnout SNCC veteran, a burn, um, civil rights veteran. By the time I was, uh, I'd finished high school.

Speaker 1 (01:02:23):

I decided after two years of being out in a very small remote white school in college, that I'd had enough of a desegregation. So I moved to Howard university and my junior year. And, um, and my parents were, didn't have much money and all the, I wanted to go home for, um, the, um, Thanksgiving break. We didn't have enough money to send me home. So I had to stay at Howard over that Thanksgiving break. And that's what changed my life. Um, I, I was able to go to a conference that obviously Betty Garman was at. I didn't even realize this changed her life. So we have this interconnectedness going on and Iselle was speaking there. And the, um, Zel Blair, who was one of the original Greensboro sit in. So I knew Zel from pastime. So I went to hear him speak, and then I got introduced to SNCC.

Speaker 1 (01:03:09):

Um, my buddy, Charlie Cobb had been in SNCC, but it really didn't come home to me until I was a campus student listening to all of the stories that were told by the student sits the people who were working SNCC and in core and NACP that I realized I needed to get back involved again. So fast forward I graduated and worked a year to help bring my sisters, uh, through school. And then, uh, Ralph Featherstone and Stokely and Cleve, all of whom were now actively involved. We, we all graduated route the same time. Uh, Michael Farwell, all of whom were here year now that you need to meet and talk to. We were all a part of the group called the nonviolent action group, which was our student chapter of, of, uh, SNCC. We weren't allowed on campus. We only were allowed the NAACP was allowed on campus.

Speaker 1 (01:03:53):

So a lot of us joined the NACP youth chapter and on campus, but we also met off campus in the, uh, Newan house to, uh, to form in laid our plans of sit-ins the, we, we were active on the, uh, route 50 desegregation. A lot of people forward thinking, a lot of us worked with Mar with, uh,

Gloria D. So, um, all of these things were going on and by 66, um, at the advent of black power really Rick's, um, made his, um, pronouncement that, and, um, the Meredith March was happening Meredith of course, is most of, you know, by the history books was, um, severely depressed, uh, had, had been shot. And we then that there was a national cry to bring everybody down to continue the Meredith March. And I went down south, had a chance to be involved in that, met king again, and also met all the SNCC people.

Speaker 1 (01:04:39):

And it was, I knew it was time for me to make transition. So in the fall of 66, I moved south. They convinced me that I should take Jack men's place because Jack was leaving. He was transiting out. And when I got to Atlanta, Jack was a legend. So I said, there's no way in the world. I'm gonna take Jack men's place. So I'm gonna have to make my own place. And that's pretty much what happened. I, there were, there was a transition SNCC. People were always moving in and out of office. So the national office would turn over frequently. Um, at the point I came in, in the fall of 66, there was a whole transition. So people are Kathleen ne who became Kathleen Cleaver had just come in and she was gonna be working with George weer on the campus travel program. So they lived on one side of us. And then Jennifer Lawson who had just left, um, Alabama was coming in to work in the communications office. Julius Lester was running the SNCC Photoshop. There was a huge SNCC opera. Wilson brown ran a huge printing operation down there. This the office was alive and I like everyone else was met by Jim foreman and overalls with a broom and the rest is history. So I just wanted to get that out

Speaker 1 (01:05:54):

Now, before we move to questions and we're gonna go because we started a little bit, you know, sea Cox has told us to be on time. So we'll be almost on time. I wanna recognize, um, I wanna recognize ed brown. Who's in our artist, he's our extra, our additional panelists. And, um, Not only gonna recognize him, but I'm gonna ask him to, uh, give us a few words to explain to us what's going on with, with DME mean, and anything else you would like to talk about? Does ed have a mic? Yes,

Speaker 15 (01:06:24):

It does. I have a mic. Yeah. I'm brown. Um, pet of stick, um, came apart of it about 19.

Speaker 16 (01:06:48):

I can put it a little closer.

Speaker 15 (01:06:50):

Came, came apart of stick.

Speaker 1 (01:06:52):

Give him some sound, go,

Speaker 15 (01:06:54):

Came a part of bag. Get the fill stick. Uh, first around 19 62 63. And, uh, we're south in the beginning of 1964, uh, were there until, oh, I was in, I was down down there till 19 68, 60. Yeah, about 1968. And, uh, it was wonderful experience, responsible lot for my education because I was in through stick and the involvement, the movement, I began to understand a lot about what was going on and about the world and would be beneficial to be in terms of helping me to the effectiveness of my ability to navigate the ways and turbo of the world. Uh, one of the things that happened when I was so stick,

Speaker 1 (01:08:15):

A lot of places,

Speaker 15 (01:08:21):

My brother became, uh, was actually involved in the loud county in, in Alabama. And he worked there and finally they decided that, uh, with the exit foren and, uh, John Lewis, that he needed a new chairman and he was put up to become chair, uh, tried to advise him that, uh, that was not the thing to do, but he was 24 and decided he was gonna become the chairman. So he became the chairman a stick at the time, uh, that black power. He merged as the top of the theme within the, uh, left week politics of that period.

Speaker 15 (01:09:28):

And so he ended up bearing the brunt of many of the, the people who were opposed to black power. Uh, many of those were blacks who were, had achieved founded positions, and therefore they turned on the students and others who had doing black power. Uh, he became the target of what is, what came to be done as Telpro to eliminate the potential of a black power aver black power advocate emerging at the national figure around which, uh, supporters of black power gravitate, uh, has a result of that and efforts to and enhanced the, that enhanced. It took many Forbes. Uh, at one point he became involved in fighting trucks within the black ommunity. And those was who were involved in drugs. He decided that, uh, these people were a hindrance to the struggle of black people and hand it to the progress. It won't be black people and therefore took it as part of his responsibility to purge the, these people from membership with the black community became involved in organizing demonstrations and efforts directed toward them as targets to get them out of black community. Finally, uh, he was arrested in New York for his attempt to race problems of drugs. He spent 15 years in jail, in New York city to eliminate the, he eliminate scored the drug drugs from the community, went in, he then moved to Atlanta where he subsequently became buried, moved into a community, which was the down C. They play with, uh, street violence and trucks in the community. And

Speaker 1 (01:12:43):

Therefore, and we have about one more minute. Okay. Okay. And, and this is an ongoing story at the conference. So don't feel that this will be the last time you'll get to continue. Perhaps we talk a about, this is a continuing story at the conference. We'll have every opportunity to tell Jame's full story.

Speaker 15 (01:13:01):

Sure. Uh, he was, uh, he eradicate, he eradicate the problems for drugs and violence in that community and was appreciated greatly by the members of that community for eliminating the problem and the issues associated with the social disorganization of the community. I cont to be involved. He was in, uh, the target of, of Del pro became involved in, uh, was in, was put in jail, the arrested, he put in jail as a result of his activities.

Speaker 1 (01:13:59):

Okay.

Speaker 15 (01:14:00):

And then,

Speaker 1 (01:14:02):

Okay. Oh, you need to wind it up, ed. Yeah. Okay. Uh, and, and you'll have some more time to talk another time. I, I let, let me just, um, if you don't mind, uh, let everybody know that in the, uh, SD hall auditorium, there is a table that will, is being, uh, set up with the materials about the Jamele een case, the, uh, history of repression that he's suffered and his, uh, wife, um, what's her name, not Lynn is Lynn. Name is now Kama. Uh, Kama, uh, will is here along with, uh, uh, rap, uh, Jamele. I know Jamele is rap, um, as, as Jame's, um, as is his grandson. So, um, this is an ongoing story of this whole conference. We, we can't forget those who struggle for on our behalf. Ed has just had a series of strokes. He, he was advised not to come to this conference, but while horses couldn't keep him away. So I just want everybody to get, stand up and pay their respects

to brother air. Uh, okay. We, we blew, we didn't get a chance to do the questions, but I, I do want before we have to go, because they're signaling us all sorts of ways to get outta here. Um, I wanna ask all of the people from that served in SNCC at the Atlanta, at all of the SNCC officers throughout the country to please stand so that people can recognize you and have a chance to talk to you again. And everybody give them a hand. All of our SNCC officers

Speaker 1 (01:15:46):

We're here in mass. There are for all of the wonderful stories on our panel. There are equally the same number out there in the audience. So go up and introduce yourselves to everybody. You know, this is a friendly conference. We're here to talk. We're here to talk and teach and have a good time. So get to know us, get to know us well and, uh, hopefully get to know us better through the work that you're doing in your own communities. Okay. On I'm half of the panel, let us give another big round of applause. And we're asking everybody now to proceed over to the gymnasium so that you can get this lovely luncheon and be in place when Reverend James Lawson delivers his keynote to, to rest at one o'clock. Thank you very much.