

MINUTES

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 9-11, 1961, Henry Clay Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Meeting began Friday morning, June 9th. Those present for all or part of the meeting were: Mr. Charles McDew, Chairman, Orangeburg, South Carolina; Mr. Ed King, Administrative Secretary, Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. Reginald J. Robinson, Baltimore, Md.; Mr. Kenneth H. Miller, Louisville, Ky.; Mr. K. D. Kerry, Louisville, Ky.; Mr. Arthur Smith, Louisville, Ky.; Mr. Charles M. Sherrod, Richmond, Virginia; Mr. Nathaniel C. Lee, Birmingham, Alabama; Mr. Marion S. Barry, Memphis, Tennessee; Mr. Tom Kahn, Washington, D.C.; Mr. Charles Black, Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. Lonnie C. King, Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. Nathaniel Green, Holly Springs, Mississippi; Mr. Rawul Cunningham, Louisville, Ky.; Mr. Sam Solomon, Toledo, Ohio; Mr. David L. Crippens, Yellow Springs, Ohio; Dr. Robert B. Johnson, Yellow Springs, Ohio; Mr. Paul Brooks, Nashville, Tenn.; Mr. Bjorn Kumm, Washington, D.C.; Mr. James McWilliams, Madison, Wisconsin; Mr. Jon W. Hatfield, Knoxville, Tenn.; Mr. Ralph Lucker, Durham, N.C.; Miss Birdie McHugh, Louisville, Ky.; Miss Lynn Pfuhl, Louisville, Ky.; Miss Roberta Bailey, Louisville, Ky.; Miss Beverly Neal, Louisville, Ky.; Miss Julie Bloom, Yellow Springs, Ohio; Miss Diane Nash, Nashville, Tenn.; Miss Marjorie House, Yellow Springs, Ohio; Mrs. Jose Bennett, Louisville, Ky.; Mr. Frank Stanley, Jr., Louisville, Ky.; Mr. Timothy Jenkins, National Student Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Miss Connie Curry, National Student Association, Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. Estelle Wychoff, Southern Conference Educational Fund, Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. Anne Braden, Southern Conference Educational Fund, Louisville, Ky.; Mr. John Constable, Southern Regional Council, Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. Thomas Gaither, Congress Of Racial Equality, New York City; and Mrs. Ella J. Baker, Advisor, National Student YWCA, Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. Charles McDew presided over the meeting as official Chairman, and Miss Lynn Pfuhl and Miss Marjorie House were asked to serve as recorder.

I. Review Of April Minutes

Members of the Committee received copies of the April minutes and the recommendations were reviewed for any changes or clarifications. There was a clarification under Section V, FUTURE ACTION PROGRAMS, to read After much discussion, the Committee decided to accept the proposal coming from the Advisory Committee concerning a Southwide Employment Project for the Fall.

The minutes were approved as read.

II. Agenda

It was moved that we revise the agenda and add consideration of Staff.

III. Fall Conference

It was decided to place on the agenda for the Fall Conference, consideration of the organization of SNCC.

It was decided to recommend to the Fall Conference as to what we think SNCC should be.

It was decided to place employment on the agenda for the Fall Conference.

- a. Workshops
- b. Techniques of Nonviolence
- c. Leadership Training Program

It was decided that we hold workshops at the SNCC Fall Conference.
It was suggested to ask specific questions concerning the various areas of the workshops.

Recommendations of Workshops:

1. Political Activity
2. Public Facilities
3. Employment
4. Education
5. Relationships With Other Organizations
6. Religion
7. Jail vs Bail
8. Organization
9. Nonviolence
10. Voter Registration
11. Public Utilities

The Committee decided to establish a Conference Committee at this meeting to work out the particulars of an agenda.

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| 1. Lonnie C. King | 4. Marion Barry |
| 2. Connie Curry | 5. Miss Ella Baker |
| 3. Estelle Wychoff | 6. Charles McDew |

It was decided that the SNCC Fall Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee. Tentative dates, October 7-8-9, 13-14-15. Marion Barry will find out the days for said meeting, and the Committee will decide the persons available.

IV. Voter Registration In Mississippi

It was moved to move item #7 on the agenda to position # 13 on the agenda.

V. Fall Action Projects - Long Range Public Utilities Employment Program

- A. Telephone Company - Negro Operators, Linemen, and Repairmen.
- B. Bus Company - Negro Drivers.
 - a. Phone Companies

The motion was made and carried to begin working on this project now from the Atlanta office and to recommend the project to the Fall Conference.

Suggestions For Specific Actions

1. Negotiate - establish contact
2. Search for possible applicants
3. Collect statistics on the number of Negroes working in the respective States and in what capacities.
4. Contact an Attorney
5. Begin local preparation
6. Use the nonviolent technique in full and leave direct action for the Fall.
7. Use the SNCC mailing list

The new Field Secretary is to give this project priority.

- b. Bus Companies

Discussion of this action project was tabled.

VI. Staff

The resignation of Mr. Edward King from the office of Administrative Secretary was ruled on and accepted.

The Chairman asked for a mandate that the Advisory Board and Miss Diane Nash, Mr. Marion Barry, and Mr. Tim Jenkins discuss the matter of staff and present concrete recommendations concerning staff employment to the body.

There was a request for possible persons to fill staff positions. The Committee met and reported the following recommendations:

1. The Southern Conference Educational Fund should employ and supervise the secretary who will work closely with SNCC. Two reasons given.
 - a. SNCC wishes to maintain its autonomy
 - b. SNCC is not ready to take on the responsibility for supervising two persons.
2. SNCC should hire a temporary Field Secretary for the summer to be reconsidered at the Fall Conference.
3. Two names were suggested for the position of Field Secretary - Mr. Marion Barry of Memphis, Tennessee, and Mr. Charles Sherrod of Richmond, Virginia.
4. An intensive search should be begun for a person to fill the position of Administrative Secretary. Names to be submitted at the next meeting of SNCC.
5. The responsibilities of the Field Secretary are to establish contact with protest groups, to begin working on the Fall program and to use creativity.

The motion was made and carried to alter recommendation #1 by requesting Mrs. Anne Braden to take the proposal back to the board of directors of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, to request a lump sum grant earmarked for hiring a white student to do field work in the white colleges of the South.

It was moved to accept all five proposals with the incorporation of the change in #1.

Mr. Charles Sherrod became the new Field Secretary.

VII. Defining The Role Of SNCC In The Freedom Ride Coordinating Committee

The role of SNCC should be to intensify support and continue cooperation with the Freedom Rides. A letter from the Chairman of SNCC should be sent to the public relations committee of the Freedom Ride Coordinating Committee to clarify SNCC's position in the Freedom Rides. SNCC should recruit more Freedom Riders.

The Field Secretary will replace the Administrative Secretary on the Freedom Ride Coordinating Committee, he has the authority to speak for SNCC and to issue press releases.

VIII. Summer Recreational Facilities

It was moved to hand over the matter of summer recreational facilities to the Administrative Secretary in consultation with the Advisory Committee to send to protest groups suggestions for action in this matter including suggestions for direct and legal action. The brief of litigation procedure is to be sent to the office of Thurgood Marshall.

It was moved to include in the minutes suggestions by non-committee members to be included in this letter sent to protest groups. Approved suggestions were, regarding the Freedom Rides, actions such as posters, leaflet distribution and contacting churches. Another approved suggestion was that SNCC issue a communication including information regarding exactly whose call is being issued for more Freedom Riders, the unscrambling of the various letter organizations, who prospective Freedom Riders contact and where funds should go.

IX. The Mississippi Project

After discussion on this matter by Miss Ella Baker, it was decided that the financial and personnel problems were too great for immediate summer commencement of this program. It was moved to table this matter until the July meeting.

X. Consideration For the SNCC Conference

It was moved to send a representative group to have a conference with Harry Belafonte to consider fund raising and a program.

The Personnel Committee met and selected Mr. Charles McDew, Miss Diane Nash, Mr. Lonnie King, Mr. Charles Jones, Mr. Tim Jenkins, and Mr. Marion Barry to go to Washington, D. C., for the conference. The members of the Committee would meet in Washington the day before. A report of this conference should be placed on the agenda for the July meeting.

It was moved to accept the report of the Personnel Committee.

XI. Date And Place For The Next SNCC Meeting

It was decided to hold the next meeting of SNCC, July 14-16 in Baltimore, Maryland.

It was moved to accept the proposal for the action project in Washington, D. C. following the July SNCC meeting on the contingent that the office make the contacts to arrange for people to participate; it is in the framework of these considerations and with the personnel of SNCC that this Youth Lobby will be the action project for the next meeting.

XII. Other Business

The Personnel Committee will work out the details of salary and other arrangements for the Field Secretary.

It was moved to send a telegram to Mr. James Moody and Mr. Henry Thomas in Jackson, Mississippi. Both are Members of the Coordinating Committee and are serving sentences for being "Freedom Riders".

XIII. Election Of SNCC Chairman

Mr. Charles 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.