

September 12, 1961

Dear SNCC Members:

I write to you at this time as the out-going Executive Officer of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Having worked with you for more than a year now, I have the desire to leave with the organization, my proposals for a well structured SNCC. I sincerely hope that you will weight these recommendations based on my experiences with the entire Southwide student movement and SNCC in particular.

I am of the thinking that since Nashville, Tennessee has, in actuality, been the strongest of the student protest groups, and gained an image as the center of student activity that Nashville would logically be the place for a student and adult direct-action center. It is further felt that any national student action organization should have a strong base with community support, both to inspire and stimulate it, and also to provide financial support. In addition, it is recongized that Nashville has best assimilated a real philosophy of non-violence and has produced therefore people who are well grounded in its philosophy and developed some real leadership capacities in the students and adults.

Therefore, it is thought that the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee should be a movement that is both a Nashville local movement as well as a national action group. That it should have a strong Executive Director with full policy making prerogatives. That this Executive Director will receive his or her power from the Fall Conference and will be answerable only to student representatives at the Fall Conference. Therefore, this will exclude all representatives from other organizations or adult power figures.

Under this Executive Director will be a number of Field Secretaries to be working in the North and West as well as in the South. Also, under the Executive Director would be a full time public relations director who would also have as his/her duties: fund raising until there was sufficient money to separate the two. There would also hopefully be a retained legal staff and cooperation from the American Civil Liberties Union, et. al. An office secretary would also be hired.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee would function through membership of all student action groups on campuses in the North and West as well as the South. These groups would pay annual membership fees, would be delegated representatives in the organization, would coordinate their action with the other action groups and would be raising funds on their own campuses.

It is also to be hoped that in the near future there would be adult action oriented groups which would also be included as

members of the organization.

Possible sources for raising funds would be listed under two categories, local and national.

LOCAL

1. Fund mail appeals
2. Ten dollars per month from every Nashville church
3. Five dollars a month from every professional and business man in Nashville.
4. Milk bottles as collection devices in every store in Nashville
5. Dances, movie showings, concerts, parties and rallies

NATIONAL

1. Funds from every college action movement in the United States
2. Fund appeals with lists from
  - a. Church publications
  - b. Reporter, Progressive, Nation and New Republic Magazines
  - c. SCEF list and other civil rights agencies lists
3. Rallies
4. Fund raising parties
5. Folk sings
6. Foundations
7. Movie showings
8. Concerts

This list is not meant by any means to be exhaustive. All of these proposals would be combined with a newspaper which would be mimeographed and have a series of small news items which would be a cohesive device to contributors, members at large on campuses, and also a vehicle for fund raising appeals.

It is thought that the Field Secretaries working for the organization should have extensive training before beginning the job in terms of non-violent philosophy, photography, speech making and knowledge on writing news releases and public relations work.

I wish for SNCC continued success in our struggle to see that recognition of the first-class citizenship rights of Negro Americans are won in our time. It is further my wish to say that I've enjoyed working with you and that my services are always available if call on for assistance.

Faithfully In The Struggle,

EDWARD B. KING, JR.  
Administrative Secretary