

Memo: Re: Meeting with Belafonte (CONFIDENTIAL)

Slow Ella

From: Walter

To: Connie, Paul and Ed

Because of the urgent events in Albany, Georgia, Charlie Jones was not at the meeting. Diane Nash could not leave Jackson sooner than two days later.

Excluding Belafonte, only three persons attended this meeting, McDew, Moses and Yours truly.

Belafonte explained that SNCC had not shown the type of maturity and responsibility that he had expected. He cited the Herbert Lee incident and the Brenda Travis incident to support his thesis. Both times SNCC failed to rally around these persons to bring in nationwide support and pressure on federal authorities.

Belafonte also stated that he saw no reason why SNCC and Dr. Martin Luther King including SCLC could not get along. He felt that both groups could accomplish more by working together. He said that SNCC would not be subordinate--- they would simply use each other's resources to resolve certain projects.

McDew agreed with Belafonte about SNCC's acting irresponsible at times and said that steps were being taken to correct this problem. Several persons had been discharged and Moses would take over as Chairman of voter registration.

He also agreed to meeting at some point later with Dr. King to discuss the possibilities of working together on certain projects.

Moses nodded his head in agreement. He expressed an interest in seeing SNCC work with the above mentioned organization. He felt that on certain projects SNCC could be helpful to SCLC and on other projects SCLC could be helpful to SNCC.

Belafonte, evidently pleased at the answers, then asked what could he do for SNCC? I told him about a request from Boston for a benefit concert involving \$28,000 if he would perform and Dr. King speak. Half would go to SNCC and half to SCLC. He agreed to perform. The concert will be in March.

Thus, ended the meeting.

Everything turned out favorably. Keep striving.