

## STATE CONFERENCES

### I. Background

The South is an area of economic, social, and cultural destitution as a region. To render any one of these areas as an area of improvement will create changes in another. The destitution in the local areas drains the resources of the state, and of the nation. Local areas form the root of the problem in the South, and wherever there is one of these problems there is evidence of another.

Because of the divergence from the mainstream in the South, it also lacks in leadership that can effectively relate to the ideals and goals formulated by the larger society. It is not the point that the South is without leadership, but the point is that the leadership in the South usually does not relate to ideals of the larger society, nor do these leaders relate to sources of change.

### II. Sources of effective leadership

To effectively reach the sources of leadership potential in the South, the politically guided educational system must be combated. The private institutions in the South are at present the most fertile grounds for breeding southern leaders. These colleges have led the struggle in the educational sphere against the mandates of southern laws. Basically, there are attempts to create atmospheres of academic freedom, and cultural attributes. They are usually the only true cultural outlets in the state. Their opposition to the southern methods of education have been proven by their stands on education, and by their invitations to liberal minds.

### III. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Southern Colleges

Although many southern institutions both Negro and white such as: Morehouse, Duke, Tougaloo, Tulane, Emory, Talladega, and Vanderbilt have openly opposed southern education, there has been no drastic revolutionary change in education. Primarily this has been because the state still reaches the minds of most students in elementary and high school, and they have enforceable control even over private institutions.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee realizes the value of bringing white and Negro southern students together to discuss problems of education, and problems of the South: first, because they will be the leaders of the South and future opposition between the two must be curtailed. And secondly, because there is a need in the South for each state to have realistic evaluations of problems, and attempt to deal with these problems.

#### IV. State Conferences

The solution to bringing campus leadership together is first on the level of state conferences that deal specifically with local issues. This is the most realistic solution because it deals with issues closest to the students; it allows generalizations to be kept at a minimum. Negro and white students and professors have expressed interest in this idea.

The plan is:

A.

In each state approximately 100 students will be brought together for three day periods on a college campus or an available conference site. Major speakers and resource personnel will be persons from college campuses, government agencies within the state, etc.

B.

The conference theme will revolve around " Leadership and its Responsibilities," with emphasis upon the need for graduating students to remain and work in their own states. Workshops will be conducted during the conference on issues that concern the students, and what they can do to aid progress in their state.

C.

Budget:

Room and board for 100 students.....	\$ 1500
Expenses.....	200
(a) Speakers, (b) Resource personnel	
Transportation scholarships.....	250
Materials.....	50

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Total \$ 2000