

MEMO:

FROM: HOWARD ZIEN

TO: JAMES FORMAN AND JOHN LEWIS

RE: SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AT  
SPECIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING ON LONG-  
RANGE PLANNING

1. Are we all pretty much agreed on the basic goals -- long-range -- of the organization? Do these include:
  - racial equality and integration?
  - economic justice?
  - a just distribution of political power?
  - free expression of every kind?
  - non-violence in social relations?

Should we strike any of these out? Amend them? Add others? (Agreement on fundamental goals seems important, because it determines -- or helps determine your attitude on day-to-day problems. If integration is our goal it may help in working out immediate white-black relations, If non-violence is a goal it may help in determining day-to-day tactics. And so on). Is there understanding throughout the organization that these goals alive within the organization, to constantly enrich their meanings, to make other people aware of them?

2. Are we all agreed on the general kinds of things the organization must do to advance these goals? For instance:
  - That it is fundamentally an organization of students because here are the qualities of youth, energy, and the not-yet frozen commitments to the going society?

That our work is in the communities and colleges of the Deep South, because here the need is greatest, because here no one else is doing it?

That our aim is to organize and educate in these communities, become part of the communities, develop new leadership within these communities?

That we must help with immediate needs of these people -- food, clothes, housing, education, medical care?

That we must, by example of ourselves, show the new society (by showing racial integration, political democracy, economic sacrifice, free expression, non-violence?)

3. For the next three months, or the next six months, what tactics will we use to achieve our goals?:

- In voter registration & political action
- In legal action
- In economic aid and economic organization
- In campus organization
- In reaching the white community
- In winning the right of free speech, assembly, etc.

What will be the communities of concentration?

What will be the tactics to concentrate on?

How will outside help and Northern support be utilized?

4. What organizational steps should be taken to best put the above into practice?

- A. Should we have an educational program -- both for staff and for the community -- which not only deals with immediate problems like literacy and leadership, but with long-term goals in economics, politics, etc.? Should there be one person on the Atlanta staff in charge of education, as many of the best unions have had? Should there be a volunteer educational advisory committee -- of faculty people, students, etc. -- to help?

- B. Should there be a more clear-cut division between a large coordinating committee to discuss problems and a small executive committee (Forman, Lewis, Moses, Miss Baker) to plan tactics every few weeks or every month?).
- C. Should there be a notional advisory committee of volunteers to pass on suggestions to the coordinating committee & executive committee? On long-range legal, economic, political problems?
- D. What should we do about beginning a long-range program for work in the white community? Should we give that responsibility to a few people to work out -- without publicity?
- E. Should there be a staff person in charge of the problem of physical security?
- F. Should there be, as Bayard Rustin suggested, a full-time person or persons in Washington to lobby for the interests of the organization?