

PROSPECTUS FOR A NATION-WIDE HIGH SCHOOL SNCC
CONFERENCE

BACKGROUND

The High school student has long been talked about as "young and impressionable". Many times this generation of young people has been talked about in only terms of juvenile delinquency. But at this very moment all over the nation in major cities such as New York and Washington and small Southern towns such as Moss Point, Mississippi, these students are forming definite convictions about the world around them. This in itself is not totally a new occurrence but for the first time, with some degree of unity, these students who are making these decisions have taken a lead in our society in putting their convictions to a test. In Albany, Georgia, in Selma, Alabama and in many other towns in the "Black Belt", students FIRST responded to the stimulation of the denial of rights. Only after the students proved to hold to these convictions did their parents begin to "catch up". In one county of Mississippi, students are boycotting the public schools and now have enrolled in Freedom Schools. Farther North, students participate in protests against the brutal Southern "power structure" which systematically attempts to oppress the Southern Negro. They also protest against the ineffective role of the Federal Government. As a result, high school students sit-in and go to jail; they also work on community action projects in Northern ghettos.

There is one factor missing: UNITY. All of the students believe in the basic ideals of freedom and the rights of each and every individual; but there is very little dialogue between the Moss Point, Mississippi COFO Project and the Washington High School Friends of SNCC group.

PURPOSE

The essential purpose of a nation-wide high school student conference would be to give a greater sense of unity to the militant youth movements all over the country.

Most of the Southern students will be coming from local community movements and specific civil rights projects. There are no set numbers of representatives. We hope to have many students from the states of Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Virginia, as well as Cambridge, Md.

For the most part northern students will come as representatives from the High School Friends of SNCC groups which are stationed in Detroit, New York, Chicago, Boston, Washington, DC, etc.

Another purpose of the conference will be to create an educational basis for unification. This will be accomplished by two systems. One will be organized workshops. These workshops will be addressed by prominent speakers in each of these subjects:

1. Economics-the Northern and Southern Power Structures
2. Nonviolent Techniques and Theories
3. Music of the Civil Rights Movement
4. the U.S. Government's Role in the Civil Rights Movement--What it is doing and what it SHOULD be doing

The other method of education at the conference will be discussion of different aspects of movements that students have participated in. This exchange of ideas and convictions will certainly be a great unifying and educational experience for all participating.

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES

After problems and experiences have been discussed, a more unified group will hopefully emerge. To expand on this, a motion will be made by the Washington, DC HSFOS, the initiators of the conference, asking for a vote on whether or not a positive group, possibly in the form of a nation wide Student Union, could be created as a result of the conference. An undetermined number of resolutions and expansions on this "group idea" are expected.

The youth of this country is a vital part of any social movement, because they have the ENERGY to carry out their convictions and they have not yet committed themselves to the rigid rules of conformity and complacency of the "establishment" or "society". The hope of this conference is to capture the energy and vitality of these students and apply it to a UNIFIED STUDENT MOVEMENT!

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