

July 24 (Friday)

Chairman, Willard Fraser, announced additions to Steering Committee: Lottie Kuntzler Marcia Rabinowitz, Gladys Blum

I

Exact procedure worked out in case of arrests in Mississippi. Carol Rogoff, of SNCC:

XX
①
give phone
Nols.

1. When arrest takes place, parent of student is called directly by field office. At the same time Greenwood calls Carol. 1st call parent should make is to parents committee phone - once he has all the details regarding charges and amount of bail. Carol will also call individual parent with such details, then will call Parents committee. Parent should then call FBI, Justice Dept. Senators and Congressmen and local papers (information may be provided at parents committee phone to those who do not have this information).

3. MASS arrests - when these occur as in Greenwood - Carol will call Orris phone to alert her to this.

System set up through regional chairmen who will call maximum of 5 people and the entire membership will then be alerted. local police officers Justice dept. etc. should then be called so that they know "we know what happened and you will have to answer to us too".

II

Chairman said list of parents had not been exact - is now being worked out on national basis.

III

When Jim Forman was here Monday at special meeting (called on very short notice so that not all members were contacted) he said FBI in Greenwood has been giving COFO very little cooperation. He suggested that a group of parents might want to visit the President or Lee White, and report to him that this is going on and making causing a great deal of difficulty there. Urge him to advise the FBI to cooperate more closely - in some cases when people are missing the FBI knows they are arrested and what jail they are in - they let COFO continue to look for them without telling them where the arrested persons are.

MRS. ZWERLING will go as Chairman of a group to Washington to speak with the President of Lee White - Mr. Gelfant, and Mrs. Lubarsky also volunteered - (others were giving their names to Mrs. Zwerling at end of meeting).

IV

Mrs. Zwerling - message from Andy Goodman's parents - Mrs. Goodman said they have been doing everything possible in connection with the search for the missing boys, and for the protection of all the civil rights workers in Miss. Since she is in direct contact with Lee White she is not free to speak at rallies; - want to be notified of all our meetings which she would attend also if she were notified in time. She urged another trip to Wash. to see senators congressmen, etc. to ask support in finding the missing men and protecting the civil rights workers, as though they had disappeared yesterday - in other words no let up of the pressure. Mr. Wolf, atty for Goodmans, asked that we demand intensified search for missing boys.

Marcia Rabinowitz - urged that letters be sent daily with no let up - to Washington, etc.

V.

David Finkelstein - Radios were on the plane to Miss. 1st Saturday. Are being installed all over Miss.

Carol Rogoff reported some of effects of radios - about which workers were at first skeptical. on WATS line report of Thursday - a white minister driving along a road was being followed by car - he made call over radio - second car followed and got # of car following him. Also... Wendy Samstein was about to be attacked, he was able to get help through the phone.

David Finkelstein stated that the use of the radios is lessening the strain (battle fatigue the doctors told us about at last meeting) on drivers of these isolated cars.

②

Close to \$6,000 received so far for Radios. (\$10000 required)
David Pinkelstein - police demanded licenses - but this has been covered. One of students is out of jail on \$500 bond for using "profanity" over the air - counter-suit is being filed against police for "jamming".

LARGE STREET RALLY discussed last week's meeting.

Since that resolution was passed, and because of recent difficulties in Harlem - will not be held.

Steve Schwerner - brother of Mickey Schwerner spoke -

He had been asked to coordinate a large rally. Met with Cleve Robinson of Local 65 in order to arrange a rally with possibly 150,000 people. Naturally we would have needed large labor backing. After Wallace resigned from presidential race - unions did not want to embarrass President Johnson, -

We then thought we might have our own rally with about 2000 people - but Mississippi might use this to show how little support there was for such action. Then discussed an indoor rally. SNCC in the last few days made a suggestion for a rally for August 20th which we might want to join and support

Carol - a hearing was held on June 9th in Washington, sponsored by COFO before the summer project got under way - before a panel in a quasi-judicial manner.

On August 20th SNCC is planning a similar hearing in Town Hall which will focus on voting intimidation in Mississippi - before the democratic convention and in line with the challenge to the Democratic Party of Mississippi, possibly including Mississippi volunteers to testify to their treatment in Miss, as well as people like Mrs. Hamer of Mississippi who had testified at June 9th meeting in Washington so effectively.

Coverage by press, tv, etc. will be asked - follow-up of Washington meeting came through report to President which recommended federal support of Miss. rights workers. Dr. Taylor and Mr. Heller were at June 9th meetings among others. Mr. Heller said he realized for first time what has actually been happening in Miss.

RESOLUTION MADE ~~AND VOTED UNANIMOUSLY~~ - that we cooperate with SNCC in the meeting of August 20th.

Mrs. Raphael described June 9th hearing - panel of distinguished people sat on one side of room - 20 witnesses on other. A very competent young law student from Wash. College interviewed witnesses one by one. Then panel members questioned the witnesses as in regular hearing procedure. Dr. Taylor was Chairman of panel.

Steve - The press was very good after the June 9th meeting

A series of meeting (one of ours and a separate one for SNCC) might not be as effective, as the one large one SNCC will hold.

RESOLUTION called - and voted unanimously.

X VI. Carol Rogoff - Freedom Schools crowded - need 100 more people to teach - urged volunteers.

VII. CHALLENGE - Motion was proposed by steering committee regarding the challenge to the Democratic Convention.

Steve Schwerner - stated that parents are in a unique position because of their uninvolvedness in organized civil rights groups - COFO has been trying to organize Miss. Freedom Democratic Party to unseat the Miss. Democratic Party. If they are unseated we might be able to hurt the people in Miss. who are in congress in relation to their stand in Washington - on the grounds that the Miss. Demo. Party by denial of right to register and vote is guilty of segregation. This makes it an organization which segregates and therefore not entitled to the respect of the democratic delegations.

Also, the party in Miss. constitution does not support the party of the National Democratic Party - Stennis and Eastland voted against Civil Rights and the Anti-Poverty bills.

Several state democratic parties have committed themselves to vote against the Miss. Democratic Party -
New York, California, Michigan, Colorado, Oregon, Wisconsin, Minnesota

If parents on national level could visit delegations in person who are going to National Convention - to talk to them as to why it is vitally important that they support the unseating of the regular Miss. Dem. Party and why they want Freedom Democratic Party seated - this would be very effective.

Civil rights groups have been doing this for a long time, but can be "sloughed off" - but parents, professional, older, more articulate would be more effective at this point.

Connecticut and New Jersey delegates are not committed - parents should get in to see these delegates.

COFO feels this is the most important issue: to get the Mississippi delegation out - this might help unseat the party and make Mrs. Hamer's contest stronger. Pres. Johnson may do nothing in connection with federal intervention if it will not help him politically - if Miss. Dem. Party is thrown out there might be more impetus to send in federal intervention. Patronage would not be going into Miss. through the dem. party if it is unseated; the position of Eastland a chairman of committee distributing money to Judiciary would be lost to him, as he would lose his seniority if party is unseated.

Marcia Rabinowitz - suggested that we sit with Ella Baker and find out how we as parents can help.

There has been pressure by civil rights groups and by National Council of Churches regarding the unseating of the Miss. Dem. Party

Key men to see: chairmen of local democratic party groups, delegates to credential committee - 2 people from each state, and Executive director in each state.

Jim Forman (quoted by Steve) said there would be no demonstrations unless the Miss. Freedom Democratic Party is not seated. He asked if parents could take some part in this possible demonstration.

Motion made and unanimously passed that all members of Parents Committee be active in seeing delegates to get them to unseat the Miss. Democratic Party and to seat Miss. ~~Democratic~~ Freedom Democratic Party, and give some commitment to participate in some appropriate activity at the convention.

MR. BLUM recommended that ¹ notice be given to parents on a national scale, that they and everyone they know contact all the people in their area and in their state.

2. that a letter go from our parents committee to every delegate and a special letter to members of credentials committee.

3. That we visit local democratic groups.

VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMITTEE to act on Mr. Blum's suggestion, given ~~names~~ to chairman.

Mrs. Gilman, guest from Greater N.Y. Committee for Federal Intervention - many groups working on this who could be helpful to us. Suggested at rallies throughout the city that parents can bring these ideas to other groups who want to know what they can do to help.

Mr. Gelfant will present this at rally in White Plains and suggested others do the same.

VIII.

Recommendation by steering committee -

Motion made and unanimously passed that public statement be made on Mississippi, and endorsed by leading educators legislators, etc. to be released to the press, T.V. and radio.

MRS. RAPHAEL will chair committee to prepare statement and get endorsement.

IX.

Publicity - Mrs. Bernard

Asked if we should have another Newsletter - 100% response.

Proposal to print shopping bags rejected in favor of other needs for our funds.

Mrs. Eisenberg needs volunteers to answer letters to the editors in various newspapers, and to clip articles on Miss.

Mrs. Eisenberg recommended we send more letters on the meaning of the Miss. project to newspapers - very little coming out in the papers in the metropolitan areas - although they are appearing in local papers.

Marcia Rabinowitz stated some publishers are interested in letters from our children - please copy letters and send them to Mrs. Orris, 243 W. 12th Street, marked "letter file" on envelope - SNCC office has new machine and for 10¢ per page will reproduce letters.

Mr. Blum supported Mrs. Eisenberg's request that we send letters to newspapers, and said that the press conference in Wash. was very well attended, and suggested we do the same in New York. Mrs. Raphael said we will do this when we release the public statement.

Mrs. Orris called for people to man the phone for one day at her apt. Also said young people need citrus fruit in Miss. and if anyone knows people in fruit business, let her know.

meeting adjourned.

Miriam Tanzman
Secy.