

Steering Committee August 6, 1964

Duplicate

The Steering Committee of the Parents Mississippi Emergency Committee met at 8 PM on August 6th at the home of Mrs. Judy Newman.

Minutes of the August 1st meeting were read by Mrs. Siegel, Secretary. After discussion, the minutes were amended and accepted on motion by Mr. Dick Wilson, seconded and carried.

Discussion followed on getting more volunteers to work, especially to put out our Newsletter, as Mrs. Siegel cannot do this in addition to her other duties. Mrs. Newberry was suggested, and Mr. Hunn was to ask her to serve.

Some of the members reported having received copies of a Newsletter from the New York City Mississippi Project Parents Committee.

It was recommended to draft and send personal thank-you letters to those who helped with both of the recent money-raising parties, as well as a form letter of thanks to be sent to all contributors of \$25.00 and over. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wilson offered to do this from lists furnished by Mrs. Edwin Wilson and Mrs. Margie Albert.

Mr. Carstens moved that we send telegrams of sympathy from the Parents Mississippi Emergency Committee, Los Angeles, to the parents and wife of the three workers who were murdered in Mississippi. This was seconded by Mr. Dick Wilson and carried, and the Secretary, Adele Siegel, will do this.

Mr. Carstens moved that a wire be sent to the Attorney General along the following lines:- expressing our deep appreciation that the Federal authorities have got to the point of finding the bodies of the civil rights workers, and offering our support and our hope that every effort will be made to discover the murderers. This was seconded by Mr. Dick Wilson and carried unanimously, and Mr. Carstens agreed to send the wire.

Mrs. Siegel reported a call from the SNCC office in Greenwood. They asked continued Federal protection in September, after the Summer Project ends, and a 24-hour vigil in the big cities, as well as nation-wide memorial services on Sunday, August 9th, for the three victims.

Mr. Harold Johnson supplied information on a planned memorial service with Dr. Kaiser in charge. They want to plan it for next Sunday, August 16th, in order to have more time to prepare for it. On Mrs. Siegel's recommendation that our group co-chair the service with the Los Angeles Church Federation, a motion made by Mrs. Richard Wilson, seconded by Mr. Edwin Wilson, was carried unanimously. Mr. Johnson will serve as co-chairman as a representative of our group.

Mrs. Siegel reported talking to Levi Kingston of SNCC, who are asking that parents participate in a vigil at the Federal Building on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 9th. Judy Newman reported on her participation Wednesday night, and suggested a vigil on a night preceding, and replacing, Sunday. Discussion of the basic purposes and general character of the Parents Committee followed, and it was agreed not to take part in such a vigil as a group, but individual parents could take part if they wished.

The following letters were read by the Secretary, Mrs. Siegel:

- 1) Letter from Councilman Bradley stating that his resolution in behalf of the workers in the Mississippi Summer Project, was adopted by the Los Angeles City Council on July 28th.
- 2) Letter from the Los Angeles Times in response to our request that Miss Dorothy Townsend be sent to Mississippi, in which they state that the Paper had in the meantime sent someone else to cover this, calling attention to an article by David Kraslow. It was agreed that a letter should be written the Times expressing our thanks and appreciation for the very fine article by Mr. Kraslow in the August 2nd Times.

Secretary Adele Siegel read a letter from Mr. Dutton, of the Committee on Resolutions and Platform of the Democratic Committee, requesting that we send one of our group to testify at their hearings in Washington on August 17 to 19th, and after that time, in Atlantic City. Mrs. Judy Newman moved that Mr. Edwin Wilson go as our representative, in addition to Congressmen Burton and Edwards. Mr. Dick Wilson suggested that it be the recommendation of the Steering Committee to the general meeting, that funds be voluntarily solicited for this purpose. Mr. Edwin Wilson proposed that the recommendation should be to "send someone", leaving the decision as to whom, to be decided at the main meeting.

After discussion of use of funds, Mrs. Siegel asked that \$500.00 be allocated from money recently raised, toward running expenses of the Parents Committee. Mr. Dick Wilson felt that we must keep a percentage of the funds in the General Bail Fund. Mr. Carstens moved (seconded by Mr. Dick Wilson and carried), that we retain \$500 for the Bail Fund, and \$500 for necessary expenses, and the balance be sent to COFO.

Mrs. Judy Newman moved that we offer to rebate \$300 to the Californians for Liberal Representation as a "small token of our appreciation for their co-sponsorship of the August 2nd fund-raising party". Mr. Carstens, member of the board of CLR, said the cost of the party will be deducted from the total proceeds and CLR reimbursed.

Mrs. Carstens reported that Congressman James Corman had obtained a truck to take supplies and equipment to Mississippi.

The meeting adjourned at 11 PM. Dorothy Hume, Rec. Secy.