



Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

6 Raymond Street, N.W.
Atlanta 14, Georgia

688-0331

October 24, 1964

Dear Friend

Enclosed is a program outline for Campus Friends of SNCC groups; I hope it will be of help to you in your fund raising and educational activities during the coming year, and that you try to augment it with ideas of your own. It is imperative that we have ongoing support from colleges and universities in the North to facilitate the expansion of our projects. If there is not already a Friends of SNCC group on your campus, I strongly suggest that you consider the possibility of forming one to help see us through the long months ahead. The programs through which we are trying to change the face of the South--Community Centers, the Freedom Democratic Party, Freedom Schools, White Community Project, and Voter Registration--cannot continue without your support.

Also enclosed is a complete listing of bombings and burnings in Mississippi from June 16th through the Fourth of October. In all, there have been 56 bombings and burnings (24 of them churches) and three attempted bombings since the beginning of the Summer. The most recent occurred in Indianola, when the Freedom School was bombed by a low flying plane. On the first pass the plane dropped a flare to light up the area and on the second dropped a bomb which did no damage when it exploded.

Again, it is necessary for us--a student founded, student based, and student oriented organization--to have your support if we are to continue to operate. The struggle in the South is by no means confined to the "front lines"; those fighting to make democracy a reality in the Black Belt cannot do it alone. We will see racism cease to be an integral part of the American scene only if Northern students are willing to show their moral, financial, and political support to the movement which Southern students have undertaken.

For Freedom,

Jen Else
SNCC Northern Campus Coordinator

"One Man, One Vote"

PROGRAM OUTLINE FOR CAMPUS FRIENDS OF SNCC GROUPS

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee is an organization which was founded by students, is staffed by students and recent graduates, and receives a tremendous amount of its support from students. In the past we have had strong, if sometimes erratic, support from colleges and universities in the North. We hope that in the course of the next school year we will not only see support efforts expand onto Northern campuses with which we have had little contact in the past, but will likewise see those which already exist become more active.

The material here is, unless otherwise noted, suggestive, and subject to any changes which particular college groups may need to make in order to fit the needs and potential of their campuses. It is our hope that Friends of SNCC groups on Northern Campuses will be as creative as possible in planning programs which will aid our efforts to implement the changes which are now occurring in the Black Belt South. For the first time in the history of the United States a social revolution is being led by students, and we hope that you, as students, will join us in trying to make democracy a reality in the South.

The link between Northern students and the Southern Movement is more than fraternal. Much of our field work in the rural South is done by Northern students, some 200 of whom have chosen to remain in Mississippi. Most of the Northerners whom we plan to recruit to work in the Black Belt during the Summer of 1965 will be students, but this recruiting will only be possible if campus Friends of SNCC groups begin laying the groundwork now. It is our hope that the next year will bring the formation of a concerned, informed, and active student public, willing to commit itself to continued support of the struggle which has been undertaken in the South.

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FUNCTION

There are four primary needs which must be fulfilled in the North and which all Northern campus groups should use as guidelines in planning their programs

1. Education--letting those on the campus know just what SNCC is, exactly what sort of programs we are engaged in at the moment, and what the current situation is in the South.
2. Fund and supply raising--the assurance that a steady stream of material and financial resources will come in from the North, enabling us to continue the work being done here on a regular rather than sporadic basis.
3. Northern Support--letters, phone calls, and telegrams to Congressmen, Senators, the President, and the Justice Department demanding that immediate action be taken to insure Justice in the South. Northern support includes demonstrationx specifically aimed at prompting action in the South by the Federal Government and arousing community support for SNCC's work here.
4. Recruiting--the gathering of volunteers to work for varying lengths of time on SNCC projects in the South, such as the Mississippi Summer Project and the Mississippi Freedom Votes of 1963 and 1964. Recruiting is particularly important on campuses, since most of our volunteers are college students.

ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS FRIENDS OF SNCC GROUP

All it takes to start a support group is a small group of concerned and committed students, a mimeograph machine, a phone, and an address. In some areas, college students have worked with Friends of SNCC groups in their communities and then formed a separate Friends group on their campus. On campuses which are too small to support more than one civil rights group, it is possible to approach the existing social action or human rights group and suggest that it form a special fund raising committee for SNCC.

It is often helpful for a college or university Friends of SNCC group to have the endorsement of key members of the student body and faculty, particularly those who have had an active interest in civil rights. This should include all returned Summer Volunteers. It is good to have as many other student organizations as possible act as sponsors or at least endorse the SNCC group by resolution.

FUND RAISING METHODS

The field is limitless, but we can give several suggestions and a few guidelines.

Since it is unlikely that individual students will be able to give large amounts of money it is important that every student on campus be reached. This can be assured by assigning at least one person to every floor of every dorm fraternity, and sorority, and making that person responsible for getting a contribution from every one on the floor, selling a ticket for a benefit concert to everyone, or whatever the particular fund drive may involve. The one overriding advantage that campus based SNCC groups have over those in the community is that they can, in fact, reach every member of the student body if their efforts are well enough organized. This is a tremendously important basis on which to start and is one which should be taken advantage of.

1. Voluntary Poll Tax -- As a protest against the poll tax regulations in the South, a campaign can be organized to have every student donate a voluntary poll tax at student body and regular elections. This can be done very effectively by stationing people with collection cans at or near the polling places.
2. Mailings to faculty -- Direct appeals for funds, office and community center supplies can be sent, preferably under the signature of a faculty member.
3. Leafletting with collection tables -- Tables can be set up in front of the student union, post office or other regularly frequented place if regulations permit. SNCC records, buttons, books, and other materials can be sold on a regular basis.

4. Picnics, Hoots, and Jazz sessions -- Functions of all kinds can be given with a donation being asked for or tickets sold. A short talk on SNCC's work should, of course, be included.

5. Fund raising for specific items -- It is sometimes a tremendous help to have concrete information on SNCC's needs as a incentive for potential supporters. More often than not it is easier to collect funds for specific items than to simply ask for contributions to our work.

The needs are many; here are a few.

Cars, jeeps, and buses -- In organizing a rural Southern town or county for voter registration it is imperative that transportation be available, both for staff to use and for carrying local people to the courthouse to register. Fast, dependable cars are needed; SNCC workers have often been chased on dirt roads at high speeds out of rural counties, and lives can be saved if cars are reliable. In addition, some of the cars are equipped with two-way radios for security. Jesse Harrison, SNCC transportation coordinator, estimates that 150 additional cars will be needed in the course of the coming year for use in the Black Belt.

Audio-visual equipment -- Equipment is needed for documenting our work and conditions in the South, and for bringing quality film programs to rural Negroes, who seldom see anything but out-dated second rate Hollywood films. Needed are 35mm cameras, 16mm projectors, darkroom equipment, and tape recorders, in addition to film and tape in large quantities.

Telephones -- SNCC maintains a national WATS line (Wide Area Telephone Service) in Atlanta and telephones in all field offices. Long distance telephone communication is essential for security and smooth operation, particularly for raising bail. SNCC's phone bill for the past nine months, including the national WATS, was \$19,000.

Adopt a SNCC worker -- SNCC field secretaries work for subsistence wages, usually \$9.64 a week. Including the cost of gas and auto expenses, office overhead, paper and supplies, the yearly cost comes to between \$1300 and \$2300. Likewise, many of those Summer Volunteers who have chosen to remain in Mississippi have to receive subsistence, and we simply do not have the funds

Construction of Community Centers--During the Mississippi Summer Project a community center program was begun with great success. Staffed by experienced social workers, nurses, librarians, and teachers, the centers bring to the Negro community many services which are normally denied in Mississippi. In many rural communities facilities cannot be found to house a community center, so one must be built. Construction costs from the ground up, including land, materials, and supplies, range from \$5000 to \$15000.

6. SNCC Weekends -- a massive fund raising and educational drive can be organized to include as many of the above as possible in one Weekend.

SUPPLY DRIVES

Every community center in the South must be equipped with an adequate supply of materials--this includes sports and recreational equipment, paper, paints, arts and crafts materials, and enough books for an adequate library. SNCC field offices must also be supplied with paper, stencils, and office machinery, particularly typewriters and mimeograph machines. A drive can be organized to collect the materials themselves or to raise enough money to buy them and ship them south.

PHOTO EXHIBITS

The SNCC Photo Department can supply a selection of photographs taken by SNCC photographers taken in the field. An exhibit can be given with either an admission fee or a collection, and photographs can be sold.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

A bureau could be composed of returned Summer Volunteers on campus who would be available to speak to any college or community organization. Try to cover all fraternities, sororities, and other organizations of campus. The The Friends of SNCC group can also give orientations on SNCC and train people to speak about our work. Several SNCC films are also available and can be used in conjunction with speaking engagements.

NORTHERN SUPPORT

A Northern SNCC group should be ready to move at any time, as there are many events in the South which call for immediate Northern Support. When James Travis was machine-gunned after a voter registration meeting in Greenwood in the Winter of 1963, demands for Federal Protection should have come at once from all parts of the country. When local Whites and police in McComb launched a massive effort to "roll back the tide" in September of 1964, it is likely that the pressure put on the Government by concerned people in

the North did in part lead to action by the F.B.I. and Justice Department. The Federal Government is too often reluctant to challenge "local authority" unless it is sure that the country is behind it. Each Campus Friends of SNCC should have a ready system for spreading news to every member of the student body, as well as throughout the college community if it is not already covered by a Friends of SNCC group. The groundwork for mobilizing people must be laid through a good deal of educational work so that students have a prior knowledge of general conditions in the South and exactly how SNCC is trying to change them. In addition to a biweekly incident summary which we hope to mail to Northern groups every other Friday, the Atlanta SNCC office will notify as many groups as possible by telephone when particularly bad situations arise.

COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

Good relations with the campus paper are crucial to each of the four phases of Northern activity. Good coverage and editorial policy can in part be assured by having someone from the staff of the paper active in Friends of SNCC. In addition, a weekly newsletter should be mimeographed and distributed on campus.

RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL OFFICE IN ATLANTA

There are a number of services which we here in Atlanta can provide and a few demands which we must make.

1. It should be remembered that NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN SNCC'S NAME UNLESS IT IS CLEARED WITH THE ATLANTA OFFICE, as this is where the responsibility ultimately lies. This holds equally true for COFO and the Freedom Democratic Party, who can be contacted at 1017 Lynch St., Jackson Miss., and 852 1/2 Short St., Jackson, Miss., respectively.
2. BY ALL MEANS KEEP US IN TOUCH WITH WHAT YOU ARE DOING, both before you do it and after. It will usually turn out that we have material which can be useful to you and you in turn will have ideas which we can pass on to other groups. We ask that each group send a report of its activities each month either to the Atlanta office or to a Friends of SNCC group if there is one in the area. The report should include accounts of activities carried out for that month (fund raising, education, northern support, recruiting), a statement of funds collected, funds sent to Atlanta, funds sent to the SNCC office in your area, funds kept for running expenses, activities planned, and any new contacts who will probably be active. Also send us the names of any interested people which you may run across at other colleges, particularly those which are not yet in contact with SNCC.

3. The Atlanta office will supply a list of Friends of SNCC offices around the country so that students can become active in their home communities during the summer.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM THE ATLANTA OFFICE

1. Literature describing SNCC and it's work. We can supply in bulk reprints from national magazines, as well as several brochures which we have prepared.

2. Books

SNCC, The New Abolitionists by Howard Zinn. A history and analysis of SNCC's work. Sells for \$4.95.
The Movement, with text by Lorraine Hansberry and photos by Danny Lyon and others. Sells for \$1.95.

3. Buttons

Small SNCC handclasp buttons. Sell for 50¢
One Man - One Vote buttons. Sell for 50¢

Records

The Freedom Singers Sing of Freedom Now--Songs of the Southern Freedom Movement. Sells for \$4.00.
We Shall Overcome--The Freedom Singers. Sells for \$4.00.

Posters

Large posters from photos by Danny Lyon--"Now", "One Man - One Vote", "Food For Freedom", "Is he Protecting You?", and "Come Let Us Build A New World Together"
Sell for \$1.00 each or \$4.00 a set (5).

Films

A Dream deferred and We'll Never Turn Back--Two documentaries on SNCC's voter registration work in the Mississippi Delta. The films run for 30 minutes and 28 minutes respectively.

Streets of Greenwood--a documentary on SNCC's work in Greenwood, Miss., during the Summer of 1963. Runs for 20 minutes. Available after Dec. 1, 1964.

Ivanhoe--a full length film about SNCC Field Secretary Ivanhoe Donaldson, following him and his work from Virginia to Alabama and on to Mississippi.

Runs one hour. Available after Dec. 1, 1964.

When making requests for films, please give us alternate dates at least one month in advance.