

Introduction:

Stokely Carmichael said that he was reluctant to hold the meeting; it was called on Jesso's insistence, so minor points and gripes, some clarifying of thinking done at District meeting's, and not get in the way in the Hattiesburg mtg. be/

Agenda

1. FHA: Recently there was a mtg. in Washington between our people and Secretary of Agriculture Freeman, where Freeman said that if we would get a Negro in each county he would be put on the county board; which pretty much controls the loaning of federal money to farmer's; also Freeman promised representation on the Congressional Advisory Board's of the FHA.

Project's are to bring the of the farmer from their county to Hattiesburg; it was strongly stressed that the people chosen strong movement as great pressure will be brought on them. Also that if it could be helped that the farmer's chosen not be the same one's who are always the people who are called on to do things, such as not using the same ~~same~~ person for the FHA who is running in the ASC elections.

Names were then suggested, discussed, and voted on for the two places promised on 2nd Cong. Advisory FHA; one the North of the District and one from the South.
North: Mr. Williams of Panola County
South: Mr. Cornwell of Bolivar "

Stokely has been contacted by somebody having an M.A. in agriculture, it was asked whether would be productive for him to come to the district; and can he best be used. Concensus seemed to be in favor of such a move, and it was urged that he make it one of his prime concerns boning-up on Federal Programs available to the farmer, and helping farmer's take advantage of them.

2. Civil Rights Commission: Investigation of teachers, why they don't register and vote. was made around G'ville one problem with the CRC is that they want local people to show them around; G'ville project couldn't find anyone willing go out of Wash. County.

3. The Serving of Jammie Whitten of the challenge: Three residents of the District are required to present the challenge to Whitten; it was decided to send more than three. Chosen: Mrs. Kegler, Mrs. Blackwell, Mary Lane, Pam Hite.

4. Exchange student Program: Summer volunteers have been sending for Miss. kids to come North for either high school or college; also there is a program run by Gerry Wilso which seems to be of her own creation. There seemed to be almost unanimous disapproval for sending local kids to Northern schools; the psychological effects of being in an all-white school, all-white environment, the crippling of the movement by the loss of some of the natural leaders of that age (the point was raised that most of the kids would never return to Miss.), and the role of COFO whether it is a social welfare organization or an organization that gets at the root of the problem. On the question of Northern there was probably less unanimity, with most still against exchange program. It seems that there was a clear concensus that COFO should adopt some statement on the program.

5. The lawyer situation: Presently Henry Aronson is legal co-ordinator replacing Hunter. A primary hang-up seems to be that LCDC lawyers refuse to work with Guild lawyers, and indulge in red-baiting. It seems that Aronson has been out of the state fund-raising and it is just about impossible to find him, also as an LCDC man he refuses to work with Guild lawyers, forcing Mary Ann Glen out COFO legal work when he found she was a Guild lawyer. As a consequence of this Guild lawyers can't or won't function in the state. S.C. said that in his opinion the Guild lawyers were better lawyers, willing to take on offensive cases. Also there was little criticism of Hunter's job this summer. It was recommended that the lawyers who were here last summer contacted and asked about what they think.

6. People leaving during Christmas time; a list has to be made by the Hattiesburg mtg. so new people can be allotted to projects. Under this topic the suggestion of an 2nd Cong. Newsletter was brought-up, to be centered in Holly Springs, and that one person go to H. Springs and be responsible for the Newsletter, there were no volunteers.

Under this topic Stokely brought-up the concept of a booklet of the 2nd District with photographs; the works..

7. Congressional Challenge was discussed. Besides for discussing the mechanics of the challenge, and the challenge's implication; a demonstration in D.C. Jan. 4, 1964 was discussed, with the possibility of bus loads from Miss. urged, and the belief that the spotlight during the whole six months of the challenge should or rather has to be on President Johnson.

8. Freedom Registration: S.C. doesn't know why people stopped working on Freedom Registration, and said it was even more important now that challenge is here.

9. Jesse Harrison's accident and arrest was announced, many people not knowing about the accident. Jesse's address was given and a phone where he can receive calls. Several brought-up the fact that there are too many sick people who won't take a rest to get well. At a Mattiesburga list of such is to be delivered, and Stokely will try get them out of the state so they can well and rest.

10. Project Director's: There have been complaints about several P.D. in the 2nd, people from most of the complaining projects didn't show. The complaints were, arbitrary decisions, lack of communication from P.D. to rest of staff, irresponsibility, too much travelling around, and chickenness.

There was a discuss of the role of the P.D., that the P.D. is coordinator of a project; P.D. have a hang-up that people seem to expect them to do all their thinking, that they aren't creative. It was suggested by Cleve Sellers that people don't specialize in a project, that they know how to do everything.

11. Food and clothing: Problems of breaking into places where F&C are stored, shipments that are announced never arrive. Great dissatisfaction with present method of distribution; if Jackson can not handle, the 2nd will set-up its own scheme.

12. The Jackson Office: Purpose of Office: Communications, information, materials, coordination. Functions of Office: Treasurer, Freedom School, Federal Programs, Community Center, Personnel Com., Medical Com. not at Lynch St., FDP, Wats line, Print shop is outside of the Jackson Office.

It was generally agreed that Jackson could not handle and Food situation. The biggest problem is communications, there are no specific Wats Line Operators, part of the problem is that the operators are constantly being interfered with, need specific place to leave messages. Recommendation is Wats Line be put in the Cubby-hole, about two calls a day enough, suggestion for a Greenwood Wats Line, that there be 3 specific operators and one secretary for them to keep track of messages and send information to areas. Federal Programs, no one knows who's in charge. Freedom Schools, Liz Fusco in charge. Question was raised as to F.S. coordinator function, as F.S. varies from project to project, and the situation in each project is different. S.C. in particular and others in general were dissatisfied at Liz and her job. Some objection was raised about that has an inability to listen, is over dominant, never in Jackson office can't be reached, and her analysis of SNCC's and COFO reason for being in Miss. and it's role in the state. Also there was an objection to Liz's choice of books, particularly Negro History. Is Liz in charge of the MSU, who is? Administration, definitely need an office administrator, Jesse Morris was recommended and that he be given some clear-cut authority.