

SNCC West Coast Regional Conference....Sunday Workshop....Nov. 13th-15th

Political Groups Workshop

Basic question the workshop considered was: What can we do to aid Southern organizations to take an effective stand - what grass-roots organizational form will do the job best?

In answer it was suggested that:

1. We organize political action and study groups, especially among people in lower socio-economic brackets, to build up political orientation now lacking.
2. SNCC develop a strong lobby -- civil rights groups are the only group that have no lobby in Sacramento -- many state legislators need educating as well as pressure.
3. Civil rights groups can exert political pressure on local political leaders, who can pass it on to state leaders up to the Governor, who can work on the President to act in Mississippi and the South.
4. Precinct organization, with door-bell ringing campaigns, would be a difficult job, but one to consider.
5. SNCC infiltrate other community organizations, providing information and persuasion on civil rights and in areas where there is no organization or political activity, organize it.
6. Since outside the middle class, Negro and white, there is little social action, SNCC needs to work with churches and unions in those areas.
7. SNCC organize church members who have relatives in the South.

One of the resource persons questioned the efficacy of civil rights groups participating in political organizations, but he left shortly after making this point so that his position did not get a full airing.