

WESTERN REGIONAL SNCC CONFERENCE

November 13-15

1964

C. W. C. A.
Box 8 (B)
Folder 2
Sunday Workshop

TRADE UNIONIST

What can be done by trade unions?

- I. How to move the labor movement into support of civil rights (not necessarily just SNCC):
 - A. Personnel of unions should be exposed to the civil rights question.
 - B. Mutual goals of labor and civil rights should be emphasized.
 1. Need for job creation
 - a. whites displaced by automation
 - b. Negroes a vast army of unemployed
 2. Mutual goals such as Medicare and other social programs to expand not only job field but also area of civil rights in general.
 3. Job retraining programs instituted in minority neighborhoods to eliminate youthful and chronic unemployment.
- II. Problems in Labor Unions-
 - A. Historical separation of whites and blacks in unions both north and south.
 - B. Economic exploitation perpetuated by reinforcement of race question to keep Negro and white antagonisms alive (mainly in South).
 - C. Trade Union leadership has become sedentary and bureaucratic..interested in maintaining the status quo.
- III. Unions on the local level-
 - A. Instructing local representatives to take issues to national convention.
 - B. Insisting on the point that local representatives take stand and practice fair hiring hall procedure.
 - C. Using resources of industry:
 1. contact for less expensive shipping costs.
 2. materials which are outmoded but could be used by SNCC field operatives, e.g., pipe, paper, nails, etc.
- IV. Labor programs for SNCC-
 - A. Potential of migratory workers as field workers as they travel from state to state.
 - B. Films and speakers could be presented as available to local unions.
 - C. Direct approach should be executed when contacting unions.