SOME NOTES ON HOW SNCC MIGHT ORGANIZE ITSELF

THE project is the basic unit of SNCC. At the project level
is decided the success or failure of the movement. Any organizing
structure in SNCC should allow for the project to have as much
say as possible. Yet a very real problem is how to keep the
structure of SNCC manageable enough to make decisions and
carry them out.

In order for the projects to have the most say; they should
be organized on a Congressional District level--such as is
already done in Mississippi. On a Cong. Dist. level problems
could be brought up and discussed pretty thoroughly--certainly
more thoroughly than can be done on a state-wide level or
at an all-staff meeting of SNCC. If the project's needs are
not being met--they can voice this at Congressional District
meetings and ask that action be taken. They can do this
through two Congressional District Delegates to the executive
committee of SNCC which would be elected from the Congressional
District staff. A congressional district meeting should
have the power to mandate their delegates to bring up
problems at executive committee meetings.

The Exedutive Committee of SNCC should be made up--as
mentioned previously--of two delegates (or 1) elected from
each Congressional district. State directors should automatically
be on the executive committee.

TThis brings up two issues: Who chooses Congressional district
directors. Should congressional district directors be elected.
Should congressional district directors--if they are elected--
or are not--be automatically on the executive committee, and
then have one more delegate elected at large.)

Friends of SNCC should not be allowed to vote but given a voice
mainly because of our policy about money--which is a good one.
Sources of money should not be permitted to influence the
direction of the organization.

There should be a yearly conference which is legislative and
which will decide on programming directions for the year. At
this conference all staff people will have a vote and will MORE

be able to intoduce legislation. The executive committee will then be mandated from this yeaïly--or if necessary--twice a year conference(s) to carry out programming directives.

This kind of conference or conferences seems necessary to allow for the most amount of decision making from the field for the national organization. Field people would have the additional reSource--besides the congressional district delegate--to pose problems and ask for needs.

The executive committee can decide to form sub-committees which assist it in making decisions. For instance, there might be a subcommittee on education to work out ways to implement programs the staff might want xa set up. People who are not necessarily on staff could be part of that sub-committee and have a vote in that subcommittee, but not on theexecutive committee. In this way the executive committee could make use of the many experienced people around SNCC who are not necessarily on staff. The executive committee should vote, however on subcommittee members.

****

Aword about campus units.

If isolation seems the problem--then something should be organized where they can share their problems and come to solutions--with other campus groups. For them to become linked up with SNCC is not necessarily to help them solve their own campus problems. Campus groups should probably be invited to a staff conference once or twich a year--so as to become exposed to SNCC in a more intensive way. If they need to make decisions about the direction of their own programming--the solution is not to link up to SNCC-- but to form their own group enabling them to make their own decisions about their own programming needs.

SNCC as an affiliating group of campus groups is the SNCC of the past--the facts are that as people became very active, they were forced out of school and came on staff--and thus SNCC became and is a staff of organizers. Our structure, therefore, should be geared to meet needs of a staff of organizers.