

Proposal to the SCEF Board
From Ed Hamlett and Sue Thrasher
Re: Southern Student Organizing Committee Conferences for the coming fall.

As many of you know, the Southern Student Organizing Committee was formed at a meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on April 4 and 5, 1964. The purposes of the first meeting were, perhaps, threefold: 1) to ascertain the extent of involvement in civil rights activity of students on white or predominately white campuses in the South; 2) to determine if there were involvement on these campuses in other activities, e.g., anti-poverty campaigns, projects looking toward political coalition, peace, and civil liberties; 3) and to attempt to understand the needs of southern students for service and programming along the lines of their felt needs. In a word, these goals were achieved. A Continuations Committee, composed of one representative from each campus (at present 16 or 17), was set up to carry out a program which begins on the campus and which reaches to the community.

The CC met in Atlanta on April 18 and 19, 1964. The goals of this meeting were to present to the SACO Exec. Committee the program of SAC (see appendix) and to begin to determine what relationship the two groups (SACO & SSOC) were to have to each other. The SACO Exec. Committee responded favorably to the program; furthermore, it agreed to take certain steps as requested by the SACO. One of these requests was for financial aid for the SAC meeting which was held on the weekend of Feb 9 and 10, 1964. Another was for the setting up of a "track" at Western College (where the summer training program is to be held for Mississippi) for the purpose of training people for work in the white community in the South. Both of these requests have been met.

A third request of the SSOC, coming out of the recent meeting, is presented here to the SCEF. That is that financial and other aid be given in setting up two projected meetings which have been scheduled for the fall. The first is to be held October 2-4, 1964, for the Continuations Committee. The purpose of this conference-workshop will be to discuss campus organizing techniques, movement theory, and fund-raising. There will also be discussion on conference organizing looking to state conferences and the second conference with which we are here concerned. This latter meeting is scheduled for Atlanta for a weekend in late October.

There will be three main emphases for this conference: student political activity, civil liberties, and community organizing, subjects in which the SCEF has been especially interested. Though it is hoped that attendance will approach 200-250, these subjects will be dealt with intensively at the small workshop level. The anticipated cost of the affair is several thousand dollars. We are now taking steps to secure the services of prominent resource persons and speakers who have demonstrated knowledge and experience in the areas of emphasis.

Since the SCEF has demonstrated over the years an interest in these matters, it is hoped that the Board will see fit to grant this request to the extent to which its other commitments will allow it to do so.

SIX POINT PROGRAM

1. Campus service and educational programs. The Southern campus is generally insulated from an awareness of the civil rights movement and students lack a critical perspective on any issues, including the usual social and political sterility of their own college environs. This would include:
 - a) Educational programs and action projects are needed on desegregation, Negro deprivation, on the thrust of the Freedom Movement, and also on civil liberties, poverty, unemployment, economic issues, and political change, university reform and academic freedom, disarmament, capital punishment, etc. This should include a program to coordinate speakers and entertainers for fund raising purposes.
 - b) Broad-based (moderate to radical) student groups working on other issues close to the campus as well as militant civil rights should be encouraged by campus travelers.
 - c) A special newsletter, special educational materials, such as those provided by SDS, AFSC, and NSA and including films and other mailings aimed at this campus based audience would be helpful.
 - d) Leadership training programs are needed to prepare students for work in communities on civil rights and other issues.
2. Opportunities for democratic participation in the Movement for more Southern students. Southern students need to meet to formulate policy for the most militant civil rights movement and to exchange general ideas, goals, and strategies in special conferences and workshops all across the South.
3. Education and promotion of a range of roles students can play in helping the Movement. Students need to be shown that they may perform service for the Movement in ways supplementary to militant direct action or fulltime staff work. Educational and publicity programs (bringing SNCC speakers to the campus, leafleting, etc.) fund-raising, political support, and sympathy pickets, letters and telegrams, research, and other roles need to be promoted vigorously. It is our experience that many students need to start with more moderate supportive activity and work their own way into the direct action thrust of the Movement.
4. Resources for initiating, organizing, and sustaining community projects at the coalition level not only in the Negro community but in disinherited, predominantly white communities as well--around the issues of unemployment, low wages, union organization, poverty, lack of community facilities, and the use of urban renewal as a racist or neighborhood destructive device.
5. Education and promotion of employment opportunities for summer and full-time work in community organizing are needed. This could include civil rights action and organizing projects among the unemployed, internships with good unions, "political" work, voter registration projects, and potentially progressive anti-poverty programs (independent community centers, American Friends Service Committee, etc.).
6. Information and support for new kinds of liberal-left political coalitions and integrated-issue political campaigns, in addition to Negro politics and civil rights campaigns, e.g., Louisville Congressional race and Texas Democratic coalition. It was the feeling of those students attending the Nashville meeting that the support and encouragement of SNCC is necessary to bring more Southern students into the Movement.