

[N.D.]

PROSPECTUS FOR A CAMPUS ORIENTED PROGRAM

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It is, or should be, an accepted fact by this group that there is a substantial number of white students and college related persons who are sympathetic to the goals of the civil rights movement. On the other hand it is not an accepted fact that a majority of these individuals are in agreement concerning the means or methods by which these goals may be attained. Such an assumption would be absurd. There is, most probably, considerable divergence of opinion within this group catered here. Likewise, the capabilities and levels of commitment differ within this group and among the student sympathizers.

If we may accept these premises, let us proceed to consider what action may be taken which will seek to involve those who are sympathetic. (It is taken for granted that all here are involved in one way or another).

Due to our travels through virtually all of the Southern states and to many of the campuses in these states we have good reason to believe that there is a substantial number of sympathizers; in addition, the fact that many, I venture most, of us here first became involved during our college days suggest that others who are now in college, are subject, due to increased awareness and sharpened insight, to stimulation which will result in some type of commitment. For some this will mean the stimulation of such a nature that intellectual commitment will be joined with emotional commitment, or vice versa. (It is generally agreed that one without the other is insufficient to bear the resultant strain and trial of action.) For others it will mean direct action where there existed only talk. (However, it is suggested that, in some hard-core areas, talking may be construed to be direct action.) How then are we to stimulate this potential army which is believed to exist.

Specifics: 1. We are, at present, compiling a card file of contacts of students and college related persons across the South. These names of students in Birmingham, Jackson, Columbia, and Hattiesburg, etc. We have begun to contact them in person, by telephone, and by mail. From some of our initial contacts we were given the names of interested friends. We thus hope to encourage the formation of organizations of these people which will be potential activist groups on their campuses and in their communities. The groups will also be, without a doubt, varied in their structure, aims, and commitment; however, the important aspect in all should be the fact that isolated individuals have core

together to support each other in somewhat common goals.

It should not be our purpose to go in to the campus and attempt to run things as we would like to see them run. Rather it should be our purpose to encourage them to continue with ideas which interest them. We should meet them where they are and aid them in any way which they see fit. This may involve putting them in contact with other such groups in other white colleges or in Negro colleges. On the other hand it may involve conducting a non-violent workshop. These things must be accomplished with local leadership.

2. It is expected that before the end of the current school year that there will be small regional or statewide meetings of existing organizations. Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia are possible starting points. By next fall we hope to have a Southwide conference.

3. It would seem to be imperative at this point that we begin planning for a staff of the college contactors or secretaries or travellers. This represents two people for five geographic areas. Those areas are as follows:

- A. Virginia, North Carolina
- B. Georgia, South Carolina, Florida
- C. Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas
- D. Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana
- E. Texas

At present there are three people who are working in this area of the project. One is in Mississippi in school, and he works part-time. He is a native of that state. The second is a native Tennessean and may be assigned to Tennessee and Kentucky. The third is working with the Georgia Students for Human Rights in Atlanta. It is hoped that a full staff will be in the field in September. Though Sam Shirah will be devoting some of his time in this area, it is expected that he will not devote full-time to it.

4. Are we then to terminate our work when students are meeting together within the confines of their ivory towers. Most assuredly we should not. As students become more caught up and committed they will look for areas for increased involvement. Some will seek summer work in the movement.

As we are able to set up community centers in chronically depressed areas, we can provide interested students with opportunity for summer work, and work study types of programs during the school year. There are several very real possibilities for this sort of thing at the present time. (These are discussed in other papers).

5. Others will be expelled from their schools or pressured out. Others may want to drop out because of pressure to cease and desist. In many cases it may be wise for these activists to force their administrations to expel them; to force the colleges to take a stand on academic freedom. However we would be remiss in our obligation to these students if we did not help provide them with opportunities for continuing their education. Many will not be able to return to the college of their choice in the South. Therefore, one way of aiding them would be to contact colleges and universities in other areas of the country where academic freedom and civil liberties are respected, seeking scholarships or other financial aid. A board of advisers could help administer this aspect of the program. I submit that this is possible if it is handled properly. However, we must be cautious that those students who are considering such a possibility be those who are in good standing academically and not those who are using us and the movement for poor achievement.

6. There is a great deal of concern among many people for the apathy not only in the country but among the majority of college students. Perhaps one way of getting at this apathy is to encourage agitation for the disenfranchised college student. In short, universal suffrage at age 18 is needed. By 1965 over 50% of the nation's population will be under 25. It is an understatement to say that the present generation of leadership is doing a pretty messed up and inadequate job. Change is asked for from people who are too old to change. We fight at 18, but have nothing to do with the laws which force us to do so. It is a not much greater crime to disenfranchise the Negro than to disenfranchise the citizen under 21. Kentucky and Georgia have led the way. Let us help other states to follow their precedent.

7. One final suggestion is that we journey to Ft. Lauderdale and Daytona in the spring for the largest convention of students (approximately 50,000) in the country. A concert by the SNCC Freedom Singers, Bob Dylan, and other prominent "folk" groups could focus attention on civil rights and academic freedom. This mass orgy is undoubtedly the result of a lack of constructive programs through which frustrations can be alleviated back on the campus. Leaflets could be distributed and bull sessions encouraged. Voter registration booths for 18-20 year olds (this suggests the campaign in Mississippi) might be set up. Little accomplishment may be expected in terms of actual

on the spot commitments made; however, much needed publicity might be gleaned. This type of action would be in stark contrast to the usual activity of attempted Easter resurrection of the American student. (Other such activities can be planned for the Newport Folk Festival and for Mardi Gras).

In conclusion...the above is a prospectus. It represents several years of thinking supported by some experience. Needless to say, it is not a final draft. Further experience will produce modifications. Your suggestions are solicited.