

May 22, 1965

TO: ALL SNCC PROJECTS AND OFFICES

FROM: LYN WELLS (CONFERENCE COORDINATOR)

SUBJECT: PRESENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATION-WIDE
HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE

BACKGROUND

The role of high school students across the nation in the civil rights movement has changed a great deal in the last few years. In many Southern towns high school students took the initial step to become active in the "movement" and were later followed by their parents. In the North high school students work on fund raising for the "southern efforts" and participate in local and national protest movements. Yet there is very little dialogue between Southern Students and Northern students and between Eastern students and Western Students. THIS DIALOGUE IS A VERY NECESSARY PART OF ANY U N I F I E D STUDENT MOVEMENT !!

The Washington high school group of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has proposed a Nation-wide High School Student Conference to be held here in Washington, D.C. on June 25, 26, and 27 of this year. The primary purpose of such a conference would be to UNIFY the high school students movement, through 1.) detailed discussion in which all students participate about their previous experience in the "movement" as high school students, the kind of function their particular group assumes as a part of the movement and what the most effective ways to organize high school students are, 2.) educational speakers and workshops on the US Government's role in the Civil Rights Movement: what it is doing and what it could be doing, How to attack the Northern and Southern Power Structures, and Nonviolent Techniques and Theories.

We are asking all SNCC projects and support offices to show their support for the conference immediately by doing the following things:

- 1.) Put the Washington Conference Steering Committee into direct contact with the high school students in your area. Send us their names and where they can be called and written to.
- 2.) Start actively recruiting students or people of high school age and have a list of all students who wish to attend in Washington by June 10th.
- 3.) help the high school students to initiate plans SOON for the raising of funds for their trip to Washington

We are inviting all high school students provided they have either registered with the Washington SNCC office or the Atlanta (when you have rounded up the group that you think will be coming write to Wash. or ATLANTA for an information sheet that has to be filled out soon by people planning to come) by June 10th. Food and Housing for the students while they are here will be arranged free of charge. There is no admission fee for the conference!

This conference can only be a meaningful one if your full cooperation is given from now until June 25th.

AGAIN HERE IS WHAT YOUR PROJECT OR OFFICE SHOULD DO AT ONCE!

1. Talk to the high school students about the conference
2. Put them in contact with Lyn Wells---Box 14, Garrett Park, Md.
3. Choose a conference Coordinator for your area.
4. Initiate all fund raising plans for the trip NOW
(door-to-door soliciting, churches, parties or dances)