

Proposed Action for Friday-Saturday (May 28-29)
Bruce Hartford

Analysis of the Situation-Saturday is the day after the Dallas County schools are over for the summer. It is also "Selma Friendship Day". This is where white persons from Mississippi and Alabama come to Selma to do their shopping in Selma's Stores. The reason for them coming here is to aid the stores that have been hurt by the boycott. I believe that the reason that they are calling for this tactic is that the stores are on the verge of going out of business. I think that many stores have been holding out in the hope that they will be helped by this "Selma Friendship Day". My prediction is that there will be a great number of White folks who will come to Selma for this day, they will, however, be mostly crackers or W.C.C. or K.K.K. types. I feel that they will spend the majority of their money in 1.-bars 2-cafes 3-variety stores 4-grocery stores 5-clothing stores (in order). There will also probably be a number of State troopers present. There will probably be very very few Negro shoppers downtown Saturday as they will stay away out of fear of trouble. As I see it our job is two fold. 1.-Keep the white ~~store~~ peoples from spending enough money to help any of the stores downtown and 2-(and most important) to help build the movement here. It probable that there will be only three groups of people downtown Saturday; 1-Southern racists (local and from other areas) 2-police and troopers 3-demonstrators (if any). There will be very few middle class white people except those who come down specifically for to participate in "Selma Friendship Day".

Friday-I think that it is important to have something going on Friday evening from 3:30-5:00. However I don't think we should use up much of our strength on Friday. What would probably be best would be to have a team of about 6 leaflet passers from 3:00-5:00.

Saturday-All those who are going to demonstrate should meet at 1st Baptist Church at 9:00. Due to the strong possibility of violence it might be a good idea to have a short non-violent workshop before any of the demonstrators leave.

The main strength of our demonstrators should be used in picketing in groups through out the day and on different streets. The picket teams will leave 1st Baptist and be driven in one of the busses to the spot where they will begin picketing. It might be a good idea if we had one bus in reserve in case they stopped or spotted the first. The groups would be let out at various points around the center of town such as Broad & Dallas; Selma & Washington Franklin & Alabama; Franklin & Water; Selma & Lauderdale; Alabama & Lauderdale Water & Lauderdale). Those groups that are to picket on streets to the East of Broad should consist of from 6-8 pickets. Those that picket on Broad and West of Broad should consist of from 8-12 Pickets. These pickets should be spaced out through the day from 10:00-2:00 At least one group every half hour. (if there are enough demonstrators more groups so that the cops will be kept running) Also during the day there should be about 6 persons handing out leaflets all day, 6 other persons should be held in reserve for this duty if the first are arrested.

It is my opinion that there is a need for some other kind of action in addition to picketing. one reason for this is that mere picketing will not be that effective in keeping white money from being spent. But more important is that I think that we need some new types of actions to rekindle interest in some of the students. I believe that students who would not participate in a march will participate in some other kind of action. I have three other kinds of actions that we might try.

1. two groups of singers, one on the corner of Alabama and Franklin and the other on the corner of Alabama and Washington. These groups will stand on the corner and sing freedom songs. They will endeavor to gather as large a crowd as possible around them. This will have two effects. 1 it will hinder the passage of the white folks to such stores as Star Outlet Boston Bargain, Cohens etc. It will also help to involve any of the bench lefers that hang out in those areas.

2. a sip in at Thirsty Boy, Selma Dell, and Tims (?). A sip-in is where the demonstrators go into the restaurant and order a small amount of food and then take hours to consume it. (I.E. 5 hours to drink a coke). They sit in as many booths as possible and at every 3rd or 4th

seat at the counter. Due to the fact that very few of the white folk who come to Selma on Friendship Day will want to sit next to a Negro this will severely cut down on the money that these cafes make. It will also make a good case under the civil rights act if they are arrested or thrown out. The problem with this demonstration is that it is VERY Dangerous. However it will also appeal to the imagination of the community (I think)I have not yet checked out as to how many demonstrators it will take to cover each of the three places It may be that if one place is two ~~large~~ large that we forget it.

3.- a type B shop-in at Chance & Sons Grocery. A type B shop-in is wher the demonstrators go into the store and each take a shopping cart (Chance & Sons have ~~xxx~~ from 6-12) and they put a few things in the cart and then keep weeling the cart around ~~for~~ for hours pretending to be shopping. When they leave they be sure to buy something like a candy bar so as to prove that they were in the store legally.

Contingencies. It is possible that the pickets and other demonstrators will be prevented from reaching the downtown area by bus. If this happens we will have the demonstrators walk to places like Millers Funeral Home, Walkers Cafe etc. where will will have already hidden signs. If they are prevented from walking downtown in small groups a march will be organised with the remaining demonstrators down Sylvan and up Alabama, leading to a confrontation.

If the Church is surrounded and we can not get out the rear we will have to have a confrontation at the church. As there is a very good possibility of violence Dr. Miller of the M.C.H.R. has told me that she will be present in Selma with a medical aid outfit. In case of very serious outbreak of violence the demonstrating teams will be instructed to attempt to retreat to the church and form a larger march. (note Millers Funeral Home and Walkers have already been used for the purpose mentioned above)

Assignments.

2 or 3 persons are needed to be in charge of the church end of things and to be responsible for deciding when and where to send the groups, when to call a march etc.

There should be one person downtown in charge of operation at that end and in charge of informing the church of conditions.(there should be an anonomous person folling this leader to inform the church when he is arrested). There should also be about 4 to 5 persons stationed near strategic phone booths to report to the church of developments.

I fell that it is very important that there be some kind of major action in response to the challenge of "Selma Friendship Day", if this community is to be re-involved in the movement to the degree that it was before the march. It would be very bad for this community if we let this challenge go unanswered.