

August 2, 1965

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas on July 12-13, 1965.

Note: This summary is based on Nancy Stoller's memory of the minutes taken on the meeting. The official minutes were lost.

Monday:

1. Cars: It was decided by the committee to round up all cars in Miss. and Ala. and bring them to a central place. This roundup would be supervised by the Sojourner Board and the District directors in Miss. All the running cars and the non-running cars would be brought in and assigned to different projects at that time. The cars would be distributed as they were fixed. In other words, some might not be redistributed for several weeks. Several persons volunteered to help bring in the cars, and to search out and bring in (or tow in) the non-running cars.

The executive comm. recommended to the Sojourner Board that it investigate a "trip ticket" system of keeping track of the condition of cars. Under this system, every car would have a set of tickets in its glove compartment. When a driver got in the car he would fill out a ticket telling about the car's condition, its mileage and so on. And when he returned the car at the end of the day he would do this again. These tickets would be turned in to one person in each project who was responsible for keeping the cars in good condition. He would in turn give them regularly to his district or state car person.

2. Mississippi: There was a lengthy discussion on problems in Mississippi. It was agreed that SNCC would join with Dave Dennis of CORE in proceeding with bankruptcy filing for COFO, in order to legally dissolve the organization. A team will begin traveling through Miss. to attempt to investigate the staff and volunteer problems, to try to reorganize the SNCC program, etc. This team has the full sanction of the exec. committee. The team was charged with reporting back to the exec. comm. as soon as it could.

3. Misuse of SNCC money: It was decided that if anyone forges a check and then is put in jail on the basis of a complaint by the person to whom the check was addressed, then if the charge is felt to be legitimate (i.e., if the person was taking the money for personal gain), then SNCC will not bond him out. The administrative personnel in the project will decide whether or not the charge was legitimate. In order to avoid mishandling of SNCC checks, the exec. comm. suggested that paychecks be sent from Atlanta to one person in each project and that that person be responsible for their distribution. The person should be someone who is relatively stationary.

4. James Peacock's program of Folk Festivals. On Aug. 6-8 there will be a folk festival in Mileston Miss. of Miss. people, performing on instruments which they have made, demonstrating traditional methods of cooking, etc., One purpose of the festival is to emphasize the African traditions found in America. The exec. comm. decided to give Peacock and the other people working on the program ~~the~~ as much support as it can in terms of equipment and contacts.

Tues.:

1. The procedure for initiating programs was discussed. It was decided that in order for a program to be considered an approved SNCC program it would have to be approved by vote of the exec. comm. at a regular meeting, by a majority vote of all exec. comm. members present and voting, OR it would have to be approved at an Coordinating Committee meeting. Other decisions made in regard to program were:

1. If a person in a project had a program he wished to begin and his program was opposed by the project director then he would have to wait to begin on the program

until there was a meeting of the exec. comm. and they could approve his program.

2. Official programs of SNCC will be those programs which are approved or adopted by the coordinating committee or by the exec. comm. in the absence of the coordinating committee.

3. The exec. comm. meetings will be open to anyone who has a program to discuss or request.

4. The exec. comm. will furnish travel expenses to any member of SNCC who wishes to come to an exec. comm. mtg. to discuss a program. The person should contact Cleve and tell him that he wishes to come. For its part, the exec. comm. will announce its meetings and this policy well ahead of time to all staff.

5. If a person refuses to abide by the decisions of the exec. comm. in regard to decisions about program, then he will be given a leave of absence to pursue his program or he will be dropped from staff.

6. Although there was no formal decision made, people seemed to agree that approval of a program did not mean that SNCC would necessarily finance it. For example, SNCC's contribution to the Folk Festival program which the exec. comm. endorsed will the time of several workers, the use of contacts and equipment.

2. The FDP Challenge program. The exec. comm. endorsed the program recommended by Mike Thelwell and Ralph Featherstone of bringing as many Mississippians as possible to Washington during August to lobby and perhaps engage in civil disobedience, in regard to the Challenge. Ralph Featherstone was assigned to work on the Washington end of the program. SNCC workers will be asked to try to recruit people to go to DC. SNCC will attempt to provide transportation and Featherstone will try to find places for people to stay and food in DC from the DC community.

3. The Washington Organizing Program. The exec. comm. endorsed a program proposed by Ivanhoe Donaldson to organize the DC community, with the objective of home rule in the hands of the people. At present the only financial commitment of SNCC will be paying Ivanhoe's salary.

4. The Washington Summer Action Project Program: The exec. comm. heard a report from Bob Farris on the Washington Summer Action Project (about which most people probably know by now) which will bring people together in DC for a series of workshops and which will involve bringing several thousand people to DC Aug. 6-8. The exec. comm. re-endorsed the program which had been originally discussed at a previous coordinating committee meeting(?).

5. Summer Workshops at Mt. Beulah. Bob Farris discussed a program now in progress in Miss. which has as its purpose bringing together summer volunteers who are returning to the North in the fall, in order for them to discuss the possibilities of working with people in the Peace Movement, the northern Civil Rights Movement, etc. The exec. comm. endorsed the program, which is being independently financed.

The next meeting of the Exec. Comm. will be held on August 23, 1965 in Atlanta.

Respectfully, etc.,
Nancy Stoller

NOTE TO CLEVE: I HAVE A COPY OF THESE MINUTES HERE IN LITTLE ROCK IN CASE THESE ARE LOST.