

Philadelphia SNCC Newsletter

406 South 16th Street

KI5-8518, 8519

JULY 1965

PHILADELPHIA SNCC HAS NEW STAFF AND MOVES TO CENTER CITY

Two changes occurred with Phila. SNCC. Mr. Reginald Robinson, National Special Fund Coordinator, from New York SNCC, was assigned to head our office at the end of May. Mrs. Hilda Wilson has taken a position with the tutorial project.

In June, we moved to a center city location in the building housing the law offices of Mr. Lewis T. Moore, attorney at 406 South 16th Street. New telephone numbers are KI5-8515, KI5-8519.

Office Needs Volunteers and Equipment

We are very understaffed with only Miss Marjorie Henderson in the office, in addition to Mr. Robinson. If you type, file, can answer the phones of help in repainting, please call.

As needed are the following items: standard typewriter, duplicating machine, adding machine and addressograph. Where can we obtain these as donations, used or at discount?

PHILADELPHIANS VISIT WASHINGTON TO LOBBY FOR CHALLENGE

July 14- A bus load of Philadelphians journeyed to Washington to see their Congressmen and press for immediate action by the House and appropriate committees to vote on challenge before recess. Also, our senators were encouraged to vote against the appointment of former Gov. Coleman as Federal judge.

Reps. Watkins, Byrne, Nix and the administrative assistants to Reps. Schweiker, Curtin, Sens. Scott, Clark, Speaker McCormack and House Clerk, Ralph Roberts were seen.

Represented on this trip were SNCC, (cont., p.2, col. 1)

HARRASSMENTS, BEATINGS, JAILINGS, CONTINUE IN SOUTH

July 27-Baker Co., Newton, Ga.-Mobs of up to 200 whites with guns and clubs, in full view of police, severely beat SNCC workers and people attempting to register. One of the veteran SNCC workers, Charles Sherrod, was savagely beaten. Because of the police indifference, harrassment, and unjust voting registration procedures, local people have requested Northern support in getting protection. Write or wire Congressmen and Justice Department to investigate the brutalities and give federal protection.

July 27-Greensboro, Ala.-Police threw acid and gas at marchers here. The home of the minister from whose church the march began was also gassed.

July 27-Americus, Ga.-1100 persons led by SNCC, SCLC workers and two local ministers marched from Allen Chapel Church to Sumter Co. Court house in protest of voting irregularities, segregation of churches and the jailing of four Negro women.

On July 20, four women were arrested, including Mrs. Mary Bell, first Negro candidate for justice of the peace. They were charged with blocking the entrance to the polls as they attempted to use the voting machines for (cont., p.2, col 2)

FINANCIAL CRISIS THREATENS SNCC PROGRAMS.

Despite frequent appeals, sufficient funds have not been given to meet expenses for SNCC nationally or to pay staff for several weeks. Bail, car maintenance, field subsidies, school supplies are in jeopardy. ATLANTA IS DESPARATE!!! CAN YOU HELP?

Please send your contributions NOW and complete the coupon below.

I WANT SNCC PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE IN THE SOUTH

- () Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ (make checks payable to Phila. SNCC)
- () I pledge \$ _____ weekly, monthly, yearly (circle one)

Name _____

Address _____

Number Street

City

State

Zip Code

Mail to: Mr. Reginald Robinson, Phila. SNCC, 406 S. 16th St., Phila., Pa. 19146

Four SNCC workers were arrested by Dorchester County police as they went to a migrant workers' camp to organize a strike. Police had known of the meeting from leaflets distributed announcing it and arrested the four as they set foot on camp ground. Other workers stood in the road while 150 migrant workers stood on the other side of the property line and the meeting continued. Most of the migrants are Negroes from Florida.

This strike may be small, but it has tremendous implications for the system of migrant workers on the East Coast. There has never been a successful strike even though conditions are the same as those in the Mississippi Delta.

After the migrants are gone, SNCC plans to work with the permanent workers on the Eastern Shore. The same farmers who underpay migrants also control the Shore economically and politically and keep down the wages of both white and Negro.

In Denton, interracial meetings have been held with the very poor workers, mostly factory workers.

SNCC FREEDOM SINGERS AND PRIEST-PLAYWRIGHT TOUR SOUTH

Malcolm Boyd, a white Episcopal priest, author, playwright and actor and the Freedom Singers are touring urban and rural southern towns. They are playing to SNCC staff, MFDP members and the local community. The shows consist of freedom songs with readings from the works of Negro writers and performances of Rev. Boyd's plays.

Lately, Rev. Boyd and Cordell began acting out the plays "Boy" and "Study in Color," reversing the color roles by using masks. With this technique, the plays explore the relationship of black and white from new angles. The characters are always in a state on tension while together on the stage, always conscious of their color differences.

The tour which began on July 6 in Jackson, Mississippi will stop in Montgomery, Ala. on July 21 after having presented the programs in 13 communities in Mississippi, Arkansas and Alabama.

PHILADELPHIANS LOBBY (from p.1)

Buxmont Unitarian Fellowship, Main-line Committee on Civil Rights, ADA, NAACP, CORE, Catholic Intergroup Relations Council, Citizen's for Progress, Women's International League, North Philadelphia United and Friends of Freedom in Mississippi.

Much more pressure is needed!!!

It is reported that Speaker McCormack has admitted the challenge would be successful if it got to the floor. Visits, letters, wires should go to your representatives and:

- to Gov. Scranton to encourage the state and national Republican Party to give support

- to Mr. Frank Smith, Phila. Democratic Chairman, to encourage the Democratic Party to do likewise.

THE NEXT MONTH IS CRUCIAL, ACT NOW!!!

Call the SNCC office for details

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR CONTRIBUTION?????
(see coupon, page 1)

SOUTHERN HARRASSMENTS (from p.1)

white women. Polls are segregated men, women and colored. Bail was set at \$1000.00.

The City Council, the Mayor, and the Merchants Association of Americus met on July 22 and decided to get the "colored people" out of jail. The bail was not accepted, however, because the local Negroes felt that the charges should be dropped altogether.

July 28-Last night 350 persons began a vigil at the court house. They intend to stay there until the four ladies are released.

Violence broke out tonight when whites began throwing rocks and bottles at the demonstrators. A Negro youth then shot a white boy.

July 29-Macon, Miss.-Maids here went on strike at the Holiday Inn. They strike for higher wages. They were receiving 39¢ an hour. Letters should be sent to local Holiday Inns protesting this condition.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Philadelphia SNCC is planning an art show for the Fall. Much help will be needed in obtaining paintings, sculpture and planning for the event. If you have leads, please indicate below and mail this coupon to Philadelphia SNCC Office, 406 S. 16th Street.

I can obtain paintings () Indicate kinds and artists

I can obtain sculpture () Indicate kinds and sculptor

I am interested in helping in the planning of the show and reception ()

Name and Address _____