

Executive Committee Meeting

Atlanta, Ga.
Monday, August 23, 1965

Chairman - John Lewis

Members Present - Md. - John Baptiste

Ark. - Ben Grina ge
Jim Jones
Bill Hansen

Miss. - Hollis Watkins
Bob Smith
Doug Smith
Mrs. Palmer
Jesse Harris
Mrs. Blackwell
Don White

Ala. - Silas Norman

Ga. - Roy Shields
Willie Ricks
Isaac Simpkins

Cleve Sellers
John Lewis

Members Absent -

Howard Zinn
Ella Baker
Dorie Ladner
Layfayette Surney
Mrs. Hamer
Lee Bankhead
Silas McGhee
Stokely Carmichael
James Jones (Miss.)
James Formon

Non-members Present -

Muriel Tillinghast
Marion Barry
Bill Hall
Ivanhoe Donaldson
Stanley Wise
Bill Porter
Sherron Jackson
Shirley Wright
Betty Garmen

Re: Executive Committee Members not in Attendance

Letters will be sent to all Executive Committee members who did not attend this meeting. Persons will be asked to let the committee know why they were absent and if they still intend to be a part of the Executive Committee. In keeping with the Executive Committee Rules on Procedure, member who miss three consecutive meetings will be asked to submit letters of resignation. The Executive committee strongly urges all members to attend meetings.

Staff people who have ideas for new programs should feel free to talk to

- 1) Persons on their projects
- 2) Area representative to Exec. Committee
- 3) Ask to attend Exec. Meeting and
- 4) Submit proposal in writing to committee.

SNCC's Relationship to Other Organizations

It was generally agreed that as formal SNCC policy, we will not openly criticize other organizations.

One of the incidents that brought about a need for a stated organizational policy of this sort was a statement allegedly made by Willie Ricks regarding the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Americas, Ga., which was reported in the New York Wall Street Journal. Ricks explained that the statement had been made to

an SCLC staff person during a meeting which he (Ricks) presumed was closed. It so happened that a reporter was in the room at the time. Statements made in those kinds of situations fall, of course, outside the realm of the above stated policy. It was suggested that Unity Meetings, similar to those that were held with SCLC earlier this year, be set up with the National Council of Churches and the Delta Ministry, CORE and SCLC again.

Negro History Coloring Book

Ivanhoe and Cleve submitted a proposal for the distribution of the Coloring Book. The proposal included plans to distribute the book nationally (to Freedom School and projects in the south and to other groups organizing in the north). It was further suggested that the book could be sent out to teachers in the north to be used to supplement history curriculum (particularly in Washington). Ivanhoe has been gathering information about the possibility of getting money for this project through organizations and unions. He and Cleve are at present investigating printing arrangements, gathering information about a mail order house and compiling a mailing list (teachers, civic groups, other organizations, etc.). The book would be distributed to the above mentioned groups and individuals without cost (only prerequisite being that they use the book with groups - in a specific way (to be outlined later). The book would of course be available to other interested persons at a cost (not stated yet).

After some discussion on whether Ivan and Cleve could handle this job and continue to work on their respective projects, Hollis Watkins motioned that they be mandated by the Executive Committee to continue working on this program. The motion was carried.

Tuesday, August 24, 1965

Members Present - John Lewis
Unita Blackwell
Hazel Palmer
Cleve Sellers
Bill Hansen
Doug Smith

Jesse Harris
Hollis Watkins
Roy Shield
John Battiste
Jim Jones
Ben Grinage

Non-members Present

Stanley Wise
Bill Porter
Sharon Jackson
Bill Hall
M. Tillinghast

Gwen Robinson
Ruth Howard
Betty Garmen
Shirley Wright
Ivanhoe Donaldson

Members of the Medical Committee

Civil Rights Medical Committee

Dr. Chalplan and other doctors from New York and Boston were in town to set up Medical Committee in Atlanta. Their plan is to have doctors here in Atlanta (local) make their services available to civil rights workers from SNCC, SCLC, NAACP, etc. They hope to set up an office and make Atlanta the southern medical committee headquarters through which everything can be coordinated (doctors coming south for two weeks, workers going north to hospital and other aid, etc.).

Dr. Chalplau recommended that SNCC investigate (with the help of the medical committee) the possibility of getting medical insurance for the staff. He also mentioned giving emergency medical (first aid) treatment instructions to the staff. Necessary medical kits would be supplied by the medical committee. It was also suggested that Medical Committee look into setting up clinic in the south with northern doctors serving on a volunteer basis (rotating) under the direction of a local doctor.

It was suggested that We (SNCC) meet with other groups and with medical committee again to properly assess the needs (medical) of the movement.

Legal Counsel for SNCC

Howard Moore said that he will be leaving in September. We will need to find another lawyer. It was suggested that we form a committee of staff persons to find a replacement for Howard Moore, investigate SNCC's legal needs generally and that this committee make a report to the Executive Committee on its findings (with recommendations).

It was generally agreed that we need a house lawyer and a lawyers committee to file aggressive suits in our behalf and serve as legal advisers. It was also agreed that we need a good system of recruiting lawyers and orientating them to assure ourselves of having militant lawyers who will carry cases all the way and will not yield to southern courts.

The legal committee (appointed by Chairman): Betty Garmen, Roy Shields, Jim Jones, Doug Smith, Silas Norman and Ruby Doris.

The committee will meet with Howard Moore and determine (or make recommendations as to) who will be the house lawyer and serve as a review board for lawyers coming to work in the south. The committee will seek the advice of Kunstler, Kinoy and Mike Standard.

Mississippi and MFDP Challenge

MFDP wants to send delegations to Washington to lobby for the Challenge. This would include approximately 1,000 people from Mississippi, groups from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, as well as northern supporters.

No one knows exactly when the House will adjourn, but MFDP is pushing to get a vote on the Challenge during this session. People will leave Mississippi (tentatively) on September 16th. Delegations from other states are asked to arrive in Washington on the 16th of September.

The major problem (in terms of the lobby) is money for transportation to Washington. FDP is raising money in the state, but it will be impossible to raise enough to cover the full cost (which may be as much as \$30,000). Therefore FDP is asking SNCC to set up some kind of machinery to raise the money.

Because of SNCC's present financial situation, we can't make an out and out grant to the FDP. The following recommendations for fund-raising were made:

- 1) Ruth Howard will send out a memo to all staff asking if they will contribute a portion of their check. Each individual can determine whether he will give half of his check, \$5.00, \$10.00 or any amount next pay period.
- 2) SNCC will of course make available any other contacts and resource in the north.

Staff Meeting

States will hold statewide staff meetings in September and October to discuss their areas. These meetings should be attended by Muriel, Ruby, Cleve and Shessie so that they will be available to answer questions about Personnel, Finance, etc. The program s'ecy will make sure these meetings take place and will gather information from said meetings and with this make recommendations for the agenda of the general staff meeting.

If we can get the necessary facilities, the staff meeting will be held some time between October 25th and November 5th. The meeting will be for the purpose of discussing programs.

People will receive half checks during the staff meeting since they will be eating free. This will help to cover some of the cost - we've not as yet finished paying for the last meeting).

Program s'ecy can and will designate other persons to work with him on this if he finds it necessary.

Personnel Committee

As of now the composition of the Personnel Committee is as follows:

Muriel Tillinghast
Ruby Doris Smith Robinson
Wilson Brown
Cleveland Sellers
Amanda Perdue

State Project Directors:
Silas Norman
Jim Jones (Arkansas)
Roy Shields

The Personnel Committee was mandated to submit a monthly report to the Executive Committee.

Re; Staff Vacations -

Person should have been working in project area for 6 to 9 months before asking for a vacation. The request for vacation should be approved by 1) Project director, 2) State project director, 3) Dept. head (Atlanta office staff) 4) Personnel Committee)

Finance Committee

As of now the composition of the finance committee is as follows:

Ruby Doris Smith Robinson
Cynthia Washington
Cleveland Sellers
James Formon
John Lewis
Jack Minnis
Stanley Wise
Mildred Formon

They will submit a monthly report to the Executive Committee