

From Nov, 65 SNCC Conference at Howard U.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Fourth Annual Leadership Conference:
"JOBS and FOOD"

Report of the Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee decided to report the ideas presented in the workshops to the Conference body for acceptance, rejection, or discussion. The resolutions will then be presented to the Coordinating Committee.

The workshops' ideas are divided into 3 parts:

- Policy Statement
- Proposed Actions for SNCC
- To be Considered by SNCC

I
POLICY STATEMENT

We hoped to examine, with the assistance of people who have knowledge of, and experience with the problems of jobs and food, their causes and possible solutions.

In our efforts to help the Southern Negro secure his voting rights, even in the few areas where economic reprisals are not immediately mounted, the normal level of unemployment and poverty is frequently so entrenched and extreme that it becomes necessary to develop programs to feed, house, and clothe our nation's dispossessed, while utilizing the governmental and social machinery that exists to alleviate this situation.

In the South, machinery is replacing the Negro sharecropper and industrial worker. In some communities, up to 50% of the Negro work force is either unemployed or underemployed, and thus forced onto relief rolls which are frequently administered by racist-controlled local agencies. The masses of the jobless are unable to obtain the training that would make it possible for them to move up to the white-collar jobs which are opening up, even if these jobs were to be made available to Negroes.

With increasing automation meaning fewer jobs, the whole approach to wage/work structure may need complete rethinking. SNCC should examine the broad problems of unemployment and work toward the organization of the Negro and white unemployed. One of SNCC's functions should be to dramatize the severity of this country's economic problems. Our study, organization, and demonstrations are with the purpose of complete change of the power structure, toward a planned economy, and toward political organization.

There has been a fear expressed that if SNCC deals with the labor unions and/or the Government, we will be negatively affected. But if we all know what our program must necessarily be and what our history and culture are, we will not be affected.

We must understand the forces with which we are dealing. We must know the details of our oppression in order to fight it on every front. We must know of the programs of the Departments of Agriculture, Labor, and Commerce. We must also realize that these programs are inadequate to deal with the poverty of over 50 million Americans. We must ask the government why there are not massive redevelopment programs in the Mississippi Delta.

II
PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR SNCC

1. SNCC workers should make reports concerning plants (number of workers, type of workers, wage scales, degree organizable) to the I.U.D. and the N.A.L.C., gather facts about agricultural workers and send to N.S.F..
2. SNCC should begin a full time Washington, D.C., project with all efforts devoted to HOME RULE, and work with Women Strike for Peace on this.
3. SNCC should go on record as supporting SCEF's censure of Senator Eastland, because of his fascist attack on SCEF and because of his ruthless history.
4. SNCC should compile and constantly revise lists of government agencies, Federal programs and procedures. Lists of address should be provided for redress in cases of non-compliance with fair employment practices, etc. In addition to providing information on existing programs and "lobbying" for these in Washington, SNCC's Washington office should develop materials and provide specific direct personal assistance to local movements in developing their own economic strategies and local economic equality programs, and should seek the assistance of all qualified people to provide this counsel to specific local groups in meeting their own particular situations in the local-state-federal level.
5. "Support" should be immediately forthcoming for pressure for the passage of the Civil Rights Bill. (The delegates to this conference should organize telegram and letter campaigns during this week urging Congressmen to sign the Civil Rights Bill Discharge petition on the first day, December 9)
6. A delegation should go to Arlington Cemetery, to visit the graves of President Kennedy and Medgar Evers.
7. SNCC should resist attempts to slow down the movement on the part of partisans who want one candidate or the other elected - we must stay in the streets and we must continue to create social dislocation until we are all free. We must organize political pressure.
8. Concomitant with a civil rights program must be economic equality programs to bring full employment, economic security, a dignified and vital future for all Americans. Whites must be organized as well as Negroes.
- 9.* SNCC, perhaps jointly with SCLC, should found a Joint Literacy Research Council, to study the one or two best methods of teaching adults to read and the four or five best methods of teaching children to read. It should help the Citizenship classes where such literacy education is required, and should push for better methods where children are concerned.

* This proposal did not come from the workshops or the Resolutions Committee, but was read to and accepted by the general body of the Conference, assembled to hear the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee.

III
TO BE CONSIDERED BY SNCC

1. SNCC should make full use of the admittedly limited resources of the manpower training program.
2. SNCC should propose that the present military budget, or at least the noon project budget be spent for health, education and welfare projects.

The manpower requirements of military spending do not reach the Negro community since hiring requirements are for technical and highly skilled persons.

3. SNCC should establish a unit to examine the broad problems of employment.
4. SNCC should establish lines of communication with labor.
5. There is a need for economic, educational, and political research in project areas to determine the areas of power structure and project strategies to deal with problems.
6. Projects like the Fayette County leather goods project might be used to meet crisis employment situations.
7. Information on all existing federal programs should be made available to SNCC field workers.
8. Field staff should be informed of any new federal programs.
9. Gather information on what can be reported directly to the federal government in cases of local defiance. Any problems of this nature should be reported to the SNCC Washington Office.
10. Draw up programs for federal aid to sharecroppers.
11. SNCC should invite observers from government agencies to observe first hand situations with problems which concern the agencies.
12. SNCC should demand that the federal government train specialists to examine situations where discriminatory practices are reported, especially in the South. SNCC support groups should put pressure on the federal government to carry out this program.
13. The federal government should refuse to make contracts with discriminating industries in the South - and in the North.
14. Write a ten-page memo to the federal government on: 1) job openings and positions; 2) history of local farm committees and how they are elected; 3) locations of co-ops, maps of regions indicating where discrimination is practiced (i.e.: where federal aid is given and discrimination is practiced. The above information is available through Senators from other states.
15. We propose that the American Federation of Teachers and the civil rights movement in the South align their efforts for better salaries, benefits, etc.
16. In SNCC project areas more emphasis should be placed on cooperatives and credit union organizations.
17. This conference recommends a boycott of the McDonald's Restaurant Chain.

IV
SUMMARY

We have dealt little with specific programs, although the conference delegates have expressed a very progressive outlook.

Much positive thinking and discussion has taken place informally. Perhaps the mistake of the conference planners was that an incorrect analysis was made of who would be the participants in the conference.

It is hoped that everyone will take the background materials home with them and that these will be studied. It was carefully prepared to be a critical description of many government programs. If there are any questions, please contact the SNCC Washington office, at 3418 11th Street, N.W., Washington 10, D.C.