

11/65 STAFF MTG.
ATLANTA
LIZ SUTHERLAND'S NOTES

Nov. 1965
staff meet
Atlanta
organization

MISSISSIPPI: RELATIONS BETWEEN SNCC AND THE MFDP

Reports on activity in Mississippi were given by Lee Bankhead, Jesse Harris and Doug Smith. Jesse indicated that MFDP was now trying to strengthen its grass-roots base. ~~In the discussion~~
He also reported that hostility toward SNCC was running high among some MFDP people. In the discussion, there was a strong feeling that the MFDP had always been independent of SNCC in principle and should become so in actuality; ~~through some formal arrangements for the~~ ways to make ~~this~~ the transition should be proposed at this meeting. People also felt ~~the MFDP was~~ ~~not~~ ~~the~~ ~~entire~~ ~~movement~~ ~~in~~ ~~Mississippi~~. ~~It was~~ ~~felt~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~MFDP~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~the~~ ~~entire~~ ~~movement~~ ~~in~~ ~~Mississippi~~.

more
light

The MFDP-SNCC problem was not unique: it related to the basic nature of SNCC as a band of organizers and it would come up again in other states (such as Alabama) when other political parties initiated by SNCC developed. The problem was compared to that of a child becoming independent of its parents. It was a weaning process. At what point should SNCC withdraw? And if SNCC organized something which developed in a way that SNCC didn't like, what should SNCC do?

Lawrence Guyot, who had been ill and arrived late, stated that the MFDP's goal was to build a state machine; he then outlined its present program (ASCS elections, running candidates in the 1966 state elections, organizing county executive committees, getting more federal registers, and having them become mobile, the reapportionment suit). The MFDP, he confirmed, wanted its independence and intended to do its own fund-raising both in the North and in Mississippi. He indicated that if SNCC fund-raisers in the North objected to this, the MFDP would go ahead and do it anyway.

take over
immediately

A proposal was made by Elizabeth Sutherland and adopted by the Coordinating Committee with certain changes, as follows:

Note: when no count of votes is given in this report, the motion or proposal was adopted by a show of hands which indicated more than majority support)

~~changes, as follows:~~

1. ALL SNCC STAFF WORKERS IN MISSISSIPPI ARE TO BE GIVEN THE OPTION OF TRANSFERRING TO FDP STAFF TO WORK ON FDP PROGRAMS AND BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE FDP, UNLESS THE FDP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OBJECTED TO ANY INDIVIDUAL. THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE SNCC WORKERS FROM REMAINING IN OR ENTERING THE STATE TO WORK ON OTHER SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.

2. SNCC WILL CONTINUE TO PAY THE SALARIES OF THOSE WORKERS WHO TRANSFER TO FDP STAFF AS WELL AS THOSE WHO DO NOT TRANSFER.

3. SNCC WILL GUARANTEE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THESE ITEMS IN THE FDP BUDGET:

<u>Jackson Office</u>	
Rent	\$60 per month
Utilities	15 " "
Telephones (incl. WATS)	670 " "
Subsistence pay to 6 workers	240 " "
	<u>\$985</u>

THIS FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL HAVE PRIORITY OVER ALL OTHER SNCC PROJECT EXPENSES. IN ADDITION, SNCC WILL PAY THE FOLLOWING EXPENSES WHEN POSSIBLE:

Jackson office supplies	352 per month
FDP newsletter expense	150 " "
Gas & oil for 10 cars	800 " "
Petty cash (Jackson)	200 " "
rent on mimeo machine	28 " "
	<u>\$1530</u>

Total: \$2,515 per month

The above budget was submitted by Jesse Harris, based on figures obtained from the MFDP in Jackson, as the amount of support which MFDP would like to have from SNCC. Guyot pointed out that the MFDP was now ~~expended~~ \$8,000 in debt; that it had spent \$85,000 on the Challenge

Cleve Sellers gave a report on the amount spent by SNCC in Mississippi in 1965: \$17,9000, or \$4817 per month. This included the staff payroll, plus expenses for non-FDP ~~projects~~ programs such as the MFLU, etc.

the Poor People's Corporation, Communications, photo work, ~~assessments~~. He said there were 22 SNCC cars in the state. ~~Needless to say,~~ there was ~~no~~ debate on SNCC's financial commitment
much

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to the MFDP having TOP PRIORITY, but it was felt that SNCC should approach the problem programmatically rather than administratively; it should support the MFDP and all present programs in Mississippi. There was much discussion of the Communications office in Holly Springs, which Cleve Sellers planned to open, ^{that} but no change in/plan.

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~~In terms of SNCC's general way of operating, in Mississippi~~
 # During the discussion on SNCC's role in Miss. as an organization.
 # Courtland Cox stated that our main contributions were time and
 energy. SNCC's building organization. In the past, SNCC's method had been to develop
 individual organizers within SNCC; we have reached a plateau
 with this method because those organizers have developed their
 own interests. What SNCC should now do in Mississippi ^{is this:} ~~was:~~ get
 young people to do the building and put them on staff as soon as
 possible.