

SNCC Structure: How to "open up" the organization

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

WERE ELECTED.

The holding of

These elections were one of three proposals made the frustration of to deal with field staff who felt they did not get what they (especially money) that they had no voice in finance and personnel decisions needed from Atlanta; that there was a "conspiracy" to frustrate them; that staff members could get things quickly while little shots couldn't get anything.

Some of the staff felt that it was the responsibility of field staff to keep themselves informed; to go to meetings of committees (such as the finance committee) to which they were elected; to assert themselves. In an attempt to meet the strong feelings of others, Betty Garman made three proposals which were all adopted by vote:

between Atlanta and other

1) All communications with staff on personnel questions would be made available at this meeting. After this was voted, the files were brought over from the Atlanta office. However, only a few letters were examined and only one was discussed: Fred Meely's letter concerning the cutting-off of his paycheck and the pulling of his car.

2) The staff would be given a report on:

each day

- a) Daily income at the Atlanta office for funds
- b) Requests received each day in Atlanta from the field (to be prepared by Fay Bellamy)
- c) Money spent each day
- d) Bills unpaid as of each day

whether the present Atlanta staff

There were doubts about whether the present Atlanta staff could prepare such a detailed report for every day, but the motion passed.

3. Election of new committees.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The following persons were nominated and elected as a new Executive Committee:

- Lee Bankhead (Miss.)
- Marion Barry (Washington office)
- Betty Garman (Washington -- Federal Programs)
- Fay Bellamy (Atlanta)
- Ben Grinape (Arkansas)
- Jesse Harris (Miss.)
- Bob Mants (Alabama)
- Gwen Robinson (N.Y. office)
- Doug Smith (Miss.)
- Bob Zellner (Alabama) ????

The following proposals concerning the Executive Committee were also adopted in the past

- 1) Because of the failure to get Executive Committee minutes out to the staff, Marion Barry was assigned to be responsible for getting minutes out within 2 weeks after a meeting.
- 2) The Executive Committee would meet once a month in Atlanta, on a regular date (such as the first Saturday of each month) to be set by the committee. Notice of this would be sent out to all staff. Meetings will be taped and also have minutes taken.
- 2) Anyone on the staff can attend a meeting of the Executive Committee, and the Finance Committee is mandated to provide him with money for transportation if requested. *(There was much debate on this proposal as opening the door to great expenditure, but it was felt that staff would exercise self-discipline, find a ride, or scrounge the money.)*
- ~~4) A petition with 5 staff signatures be submitted~~
- 4) Any decision of the Executive Committee not yet carried out can be challenged by a petition with 5 staff signatures. The decision is then submitted to a staff-wide referendum. When a referendum takes place, the full debate on that decision ^{(transcribed} ~~taken~~ from the tape) will be sent to the staff. Such a petition can be submitted up through the next Executive Committee meeting; this time limit does not apply if the minutes are not sent out in time.

~~and a decision~~

A proposal was made that anyone attending a staff meeting has a vote but this was defeated by a vote of 22 to 12. ~~that~~

INTERN PROGRAM IN CALIFORNIA: M

Mike Miller of the San Francisco SNCC office reported on this program, in which he had gotten to ~~XXXX~~ (\$25 a week) 3 churches/financed 4 organizers working on local issues. He proposed that they be considered staff (be put on mailing list). *They were also involved in the strikes, such as school conditions, jobs, etc. * (be California Delta including the strike of the grape-pickers in Delano. There was no decision on this at the time.