

MEMO

FROM: JOHN LEWIS, CHAIRMAN, STUDENT NON-VIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The European tour that I am making is not one for fun nor folly, but, it is another attempt to win friends for the struggle. Many groups throughout Europe have expressed a great deal of interest in having me appear in their country, because of my work in the civil rights movement in this country.

A great many people in SNCC had some idea of the proposed European tour for sometime, but few, if any did anything to help make this tour what it should have been in the scheme of things.

It is true that all of my expenses on this trip are being paid by the groups in Europe, primarily the N.S. A. (Norwegian Student Association). SNCC will not be responsible for a single cent of the trip. Today, I, have just received here in N. Y., a cable from Paris, stating that they were making arrangements for fundraising affairs for SNCC, which will be held on May 3rd., and I will speak.

In light of the discussion about whether Stanley Wise, who has been more than helpful in answering my mail and keeping my busy schedule straight among other things, should make this trip with me, or even that SNCC should be financially responsible for his transportation and accommodations, makes it appear to me that SNCC, the organization, or a few people in SNCC, want something for nothing.

It is a fact that I spent more than a week, almost two weeks, speaking in Minnesota and Wisconsin, on what was not a fundraising tour per se, but one to inform people of what I consider the new direction of the whole civil rights movement.

The Minnesota coordinator of both the Minnesota and Wisconsin tours stated that their group could only be responsible for transportation expenses incurred by me, to and from Atlanta by plane. With emphasis, the group stated that what they planned in Minnesota and Wisconsin was not a fundraising tour for SNCC, but, rather a tour to attempt to familiarize more people in their areas with SNCC ideas, programs, and philosophy.

In our discussion with the Minnesota group of future SNCC endeavors, I mentioned a proposed trip to Europe for just such a purpose as was intended for the Minnesota-Wisconsin tour.

Later the Minnesota group felt that from certain individuals in their area, they could secure \$400.00 to \$500.00 over the amount needed for my round trip fare from Atlanta. The \$400.00 or \$500.00 over was to be earmarked toward my impending European tour. I wholeheartedly concurred with the Minnesota group on this point and they assured me that they will launch fundraising ventures for SNCC later in the summer just as they had done in the summer of '64 and '65.

In the absence of the Coordinating Committee, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat, I have made a decision, call it what you may, unilateral, dictatorial, or, an over use of executive powers, that SNCC should make an investment in this venture, by making funds available to provide transportation for Stanley Wise, to accompany me on the European speaking tour.

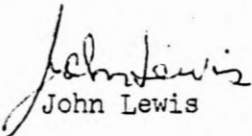
In the past SNCC has funded projects of far less importance, such as outstanding loans, paying fines and bails which were not incurred from our work in the movement; such projects of course, had no chance for any positive effect on our work.

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I am prepared to receive from you any and all challenges on my actions. I have attempted to use all available means at my disposal to resolve this matter, finding only inaction and reluctant hesitation. If, any of you desire to make this an issue during the impending staff meeting, I would welcome you to do so.

I am circulating this letter to what I feel to be a representative number of staff members, both in our project areas and in our Northern offices. I sincerely hope that you will consider this letter a MANDATE delegating to you the responsibility to see that our fellow staff members see it.

FREEDON AND PEACE,


John Lewis

CC:

Mr. Clifford Vaughn
Miss Fay D. Bellamy
Mr. Robert Mants
Mr. Issac Simpkins
Mr. Jimmy Rogers
Miss Dorothy Dewberry
Mrs. Unita Blackwell
Mr. Douglas Smith
Mr. Michael Miller
Mrs. Dottie Zellner
Rev. Benjamin Grinage
Miss Elizabeth Sutherland
Mr. James Forman
Mr. Marion Barry
Mrs. Charlotte Carter
Mr. Larry Fox
Mrs. Tina Harris

Mr. William Hansen
Mrs. Ruby Doris Robinson Smith
Mr. William Porter
Miss Gwen Robinson
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Mrs. Sheslonia Johnson
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Mr. Jack Minnis
Miss Carolyn Rivers
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Mr. Fred Meely
Miss Martha Kocel
Mr. Julian Bond
Mr. William Hall
Mr. Charles McLaurin
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