

SUGGESTIONS FOR DIRECTION OF SNCC
Submitted to SNCC Staff
May 11

Ivanho Donaldson listed ten changes he would like to see within SNCC:

1. We shouldn't determine our adequacy in terms of the Capitalist world.
2. The money coming from the power structure is suspect.
3. We must organize independent counties.
4. We should hook up with movements in the Caribbean.
5. SNCC must disrupt monies presented by the federal government in black communities.
6. Our own propaganda media should be started in every area.
7. Direct action is still important.
8. Change will come about in the black ghettos.
9. We must define our own values.
10. In the new colonies we will have to fine our own laws.

William Porter offered the following suggestions:

1. SNCC must organize groups on campuses who will be represented on the coordinating Committee. These Negro campus groups will have the resources of SNCC at hand and will have a vote--just as the staff.
2. A program will be developed for campuses organizing, recruiting and raising money.
3. There will be a 20 man campus program with 2 staff in each of the following places: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tenn. This will be coordinated by an assistant and 2 secretaries.
4. SNCC should approve the campus travelers budget.
~~5.~~ An education department should come under the campus travelers bureau.
5. There should be a financial review, from January's budget report to March.

6. The SNCC meetings should be organized by a committee.
7. Fundraising should be geared to the South.
8. The black white issue must be talked about.
9. Salaries should be cut.
10. The personell committee and the finance committee should be together.
11. We should find out who our staff are, where they are and what they're doing.

John Lewis called for the establishment of a Bureau of international affairs. (June 1st, 4 people will be in the Soviet Union. June 2, 2 SNCC people will be in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. June 20, 6 will be in Israel and people have been invited to Japan.) Miss Ella Baker proposed that this summer there be an intensified workshop for project heads and Atlanta staff.

She felt there should be as first order of business of Atlanta Staff, that machinery be set up for utilizing the physical plant.

There should be Discussion with people who have been a part of revolutions.

Courses of instructions should be organized in phases of economic, political action in the nation.

There should be, in any workshop conducted for the education of SNCC staff, a history of SNCC.

It was suggested ^{that} the Selma office be abolished and that the funds be relocated.

It was proposed that there be an evaluation program for students coming into SNCC. Mr. Shutes proposed a student news letter.

Charles Cob said that Black culture is illegitimate and black people's strength lies in making it legitimate to themselves. Specifically, we must do something about producing the Nitty Gritty magazine.

Campus travelers should see their work as exciting young people interested in writing.

page three--proposals

Stanley Wise

1. There should be no more Northern speaking engagements, except in the Negro community.
2. There should be no more news issued to any publications, except to Negro and foreign publications from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. There should be no more press conferences held, except for the groups mentioned above.
4. Acts of violence should only be reported to ourselves and, when these occur, we should ask our staff to come to the aid of the staff members and communities involved.
5. There should be no more insurance taken out with any large "capitalist" agency. Only Negro companies should be used.
6. We should enter into no more contracts with white agencies.
7. We should concentrate on developing contacts within the Negro and African communities.
8. All of the draftable males should agree that they are not going into the service and are willing to serve in jail if need be to reject the draft before we talk about organizing at draft evasions.
9. Each project should invite African groups, like the Folk Loric Troupe to their area for meetings, cultural programs, etc.
10. Our new Freedom Primer should be changed before it is printed so that the majority of its space be devoted to people such as Malcolm X, Patrice Lumumba, Marcus Garvey, Kwame Nkrumah and others.
11. We should invite spiritual groups, college theater groups, rock and roll groups and jazz groups to come South, recognizing that they can be an effective tool for organizing.
12. Our stated policy in regard to acts of violence in areas such as Watts and Harlem should be hands off with no comment unless the comments are to be "pro" what occurs.
13. We should seek to never again involve the church in actions of SNCC (i.e. the Catholic church--the Vatican is the third largest gold buyer in South Africa), the establishment Protestants, and the missionary accomplishments.
14. We should seek to develop ties--psychological, mental, and physical--with the community from which we came--Africa. I think this would be a start by SNCC in redefining its own history

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Stanley's proposals (cont.)

or in changing the definition of history from a study of the thoughts, aspirations, desires, feelings and wishes of Negroes and how whites act on them.

15. Let none of our future meetings be without revolutionaries, especially from Africa!

Mary Verela said SNCC should establish links with Latin America and hold a work conference in Mexico or the Dominican Republic.

Cleve Sellars said we must:

1. Define our terms.
2. Set up work shops
3. Set up machinery to establish discipline.
4. Start new campus programs.
5. Examine the concept of independent organizing.

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It was suggested that the name nonviolent be dropped from the organization. Fund raising should be started at colleges.

Mathew Jones said SNCC bills should be defined, that SNCC should make it possible for violent personell to set up a liberation front.

John Baptiste proposed fund raising in Africa.

Mike Miller suggested additions be made to the staff and that the Farm Workers Association be helped by SNCC.

Fred Melly said that Instead of committees , bureaus should be established.

It was proposed that Texas be included in the SNCC program.

Charles McLarin wants people added to the staff.

SNCC should support a central office in a five county area in Mississippi.

James Forman suggested:

1. That SNCC hold a writers conference in October geared to English, History and Political majors.

ge five -- SNCC direction

2. That SNCC create 3 organizational secretaries, appointed by the chairman of the organization who will travel to projects.
3. That the executive committee be reduced to 10 members.
4. That there be no state proportional representation on the executive committee.
5. That the executive committee become the central planning body.
4. That resource people be found in housing, medicine, etc.
5. That the projection of SNCC not be as a civil rights organization and that there be a revision of the statement of purpose.
6. We must be required to give the executive committee powers to make programmatic suggestions.
William Porter said the program director doesn't exist and the office should be abolished.
Mike Miller said the executive body should establish a recruitment procedure and an organizing department.

Offices

1. That we abandon all northern offices (Porter)
2. That SNCC support a central office for project (McLaurin)
3. That the Selma office be closed, and the Alabama office re-located for a more equal distribution of funds and resources among Alabama projects (John Tircuit)
4. That the function of northern offices be revised to accommodate new direction in SNCC (Lyn Wells)

Miscellaneous proposals

1. Drop "non-violent" from name of organization (Ike)
2. That we appoint a Committee on Meetings and Conferences (Porter)
3. Create mechanism to interpret to sympathetic whites what SNCC is doing (Ed Hamlett)

Finance - Personnel

1. That the staff review the budget of Jan thru March (porter)
2. That we focus our fund raisin efforts on Southern communities (porter)
3. Cut in salaries (porter)
4. That the African program be broadened to include the exploring of fund raising or financial support from those countries we select (Battiste)
5. Increase in staff
Allocation of funds for additional staff to work with farm laborers (Mike Miller)
6. That we approve budget for campus travelers (according to new plan suggested by Porter) (Porter)
7. That we put some of our economic experts to working on SNCC expenditures so as to cut down the waste of funds (Monroe)
8. That we cut this year's bidget in half (Monroe)
9. That we establish an Economic Program Bureau with personnel who would work out programs that might be presented to communities to meet their needs (as we have done with political programs.) (Jean)
10. That Finance and Persinnel Com ittes be combined (Porter)
11. That we have a re-evaluation of staff sometime during this staff meeting (porter)
12. 5 additional persons from Miss. be put on staff (McLauren)
13. Recruiting efforts be spent in black communities in North to pull in "black cats" off the block (Carol)
14. That we set priorities for expenditures so that office staff would not be left that responsibility (Hamlett)

Organizational changes

1. That the role and power of the Coordinating Committee be defined and by laws mandating the implementation of this power be drawn up (Matthew)
2. That the the Coordinating Committee's constituency be ~~affiliates~~ Southern Negro students and be in ^{the} complete control of Negro students, and other affiliates of SNCC. (Monroe)
3. That the staff should service the wants and needs of the Coordinating Committee (Monroe)
4. That the staff act only in the capacity of advisor to the actions of the Coordinating Committee. (Monroe)
5. That ³/3 organizational secretaries be appointed by Chairman whose function would include traveling to projects, coordinating, etc. (Forman)
6. That the Executive Committee be reduced to 10 members and that it become the central planning body of the organization (Forman)
7. That we abandon the Program Department and the Program Chairman (Porter)
8. That the Exec. Committee be delegated the responsibility of developing procedures for training people in organizing (Mike Miller)
9. That people talk about the possibility of taking commitments to projects for certain length of time so that work can be planned realistically (Tex)

SNCC --- Campuses

1. That SNCC organize groups on Negro college campuses and that these groups have representation on the Coordinating Committee and all the privileges and resources of regular staff (Porter)
2. That such campus groups be means to organizing communities, recruiting staff, and fund raising (porter)
3. That we appoint a 22-member committee to do campus work: 2 persons in Virginia, N.C., S.C., Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Miss., Tenn., Arkansas; plus a Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator and two secretaries (Porter)
4. Establish fund which would provide college fees for students who want to go back to school after working on SNCC projects during summer (Ike)
5. Discussion of Work-Study Program (Porter)
6. That the Education Program come under the Campus Traveler Program (Porter)
7. That Campus travelers assigned to a state be based in that state (McRae)
8. That campus travelers see part of their work as finding students who can be encouraged to use their writing skills in developing communication media for black communities (C. Cobb)
9. Negro colleges receive all SNCC press releases (Pertilla)
10. That SNCC provide for newspaper, to be controlled and operated by students, which would relay information concerning Academic freedom to Negro colleges

Proposal ---- Fred Meely

Committees be formed within SMCC responsible to Chairman and to Executive Secretary and Executive Committee

I. National Propaganda Committee
(Chairman to be member of Ex. Com.)

- A. Publications
- B. Written speeches

II. National Action Committee

- A. Area Coordinators
- B. Sub Committees
- C.

III. National Economics and Political Committee

- A. Study Area (History, Economics, etc.)
- Sub committee

IV. National Organizing Committee

- A. Project Heads
- Training sub Committee

V. International Affairs Committee

VI. Cultural Affairs Committee

VII. Welfare Committee

- A. Medical Aid
- B. Insurance
- C.

VIII. Skills Committee

- A. College opportunities (sub committees)
- B. Basic skills Committee
- C. Conferences

Programs

1. Intensive seminar in direction of revolutionary ethics this summer to which we would invite revolutionaries from Africa, Latin America. History of SNCC to be included in seminar (Mrs. Baker)
2. That our programs move in direction of independent black political organizing (Ike)
3. That we develop ways to speak to black communities about "black culture" specifically through a magazine or newspaper (Cobb)
4. That we set up educational workshops for students being placed on staff (Bob Smith)
5. Interstaff education workshops (Cleve)
6. Develop new Campus-oriented program (Cleve)
7. Examine concept of "independent political organizing" (Cleve)
8. Hold writers' conference in Oct. geared to Negro students who work on college newspapers (Forman)
9. Set up project in Texas (Tex)
10. Consider setting up affiliated but independent black student organizations with separate budget (Hamlett)
11. In-group training in how certain skills are carried out efficiently, eg. typing, mimeo-ing, etc. (Monroe)
12. That SNCC initiate a program of protest against the selective service system (Shutz)
13. That we open projects in areas where the black populations represent less than 50% (Shutz)
14. That we set up a self-evaluation program (Shutz)
15. That we set up some alternate source of research information so that we're not dependent upon Minnis (Shutz)
16. That SNCC make it possible for all its violent personnel to set up a violent Liberation Front (Matthew)

Programs continued

17. That we
 1. Have workshops in the Audit Room on tape recording
 2. " " on use of radios in states where they are needed
 3. Make a list of counties or staff where better communication system other than telephone is needed.
 4. Have a one-week workshop on communication equipment, its importance and how to operate it
- (mr. Sellers)
18. That SNCC accept no more speaking engagements unless they are within the Negro community (Wise)
19. We should send no news to any publications except the Negro community, i.e. Africa, Latin America and Caribbean
20. We should have no news conferences except for the above mentioned groups.
21. We should not report any act of violence ever again to any official governmental agency, such reports and mechanisms for combatting violence must come from communities and from ourselves.
22. We must cancel all contracts that we have with "capitalist" agencies, i.e. insurance, tele-type, etc.
23. We should enter no more contracts with the capitalist agencies and concentrate on making contracts with Negroes or just forget it.
24. Before we consider organizing Negro males to evade the draft, I believe that black males in SNCC must take such a position.
25. Projects should invite African groups into their areas.
26. Printing of the Freedom Primers be stopped and that the majority of space in such publications be developed to the revolutionary thought and people before us such as Pres. Nkrumah, Malcolm X, Patrice Lumumba, Marcus Garvey, Frederick Douglas, and perhaps a few others
27. We should invite college theatrical groups, spiritual groups, rock and roll groups and jazz into our areas for mass rallies, etc.

Programs continued

28. Our policy on insurrections such as Watts, Harlen, etc. be "pro" whatever occurs.
29. We must seek never again to involve the "Church" in our activities outside the Black community, i.e. the Catholic church
30. Psychologically, mentally, physically, we must seek to develop ties and friends among the countries of our heritage--Africa
31. None of our forthcoming meetings should be without revolutionaries who have engaged physically in revolution, especially those from African countries.

end of Stanley's proposals