

P R E A M B L E

It is time SNCC took position on the draft as it affects Black people in this country. While we can oppose the draft and the war in Vietnam on moral grounds or organizations grounds, on the grounds of extreme atrocities, and/or on legal grounds, necessity dictates that we oppose it also on the grounds of the survival of the organization and the survival of us as a people. It is obvious to any person in SNCC that the best way to break up the organization would be to draft all the young men who are of draft age and send them to Vietnam and have them shot. If the country is able to get away with busing up SNCC by drafting its young members and also by drafting young Black people in general, the pattern will be clearly set for our destruction as a race in this country. We will become the mercenaries of the future. We will be the ones who will fight all foreign wars. There will be no one here to carry on effective protest and we will be slaughtered both abroad and at home consequently.

SNCC as an organization has no choice but to take the position opposing the war and opposing the draft. The only debateable point seems to me is HOW. In other words, how can you oppose the draft and at the same time remain an organization that is effective in organizing our people and leading agitation?

I would like to offer a few suggestions to a program to end the draft. The first point I would like to make is that the organization is not strong enough to make a frontal attack on the draft, that is, I don't think the organization should come out and say, "We oppose the draft" for whatever reasons that we might think of. This approach, I believe, would lead the power structure to act to destroy us before we gain momentum. So I think that we must approach this in terms of certain acceptable American concepts.

to bring down many of the barriers in Miss. was to talk about the right to vote. Well, that wasn't the issue really; it was the right to organize. Since we cannot approach the opposition to the draft on frontal level, we must work to develop a high level of consciousness about the draft in the Black community.

The draft is destroying our people and we want to get this across to the people through whatever program we have without opposing the country directly, wherein we could be charged legitimately with treason or even worse, being un-American.

The following are a few ideas that I think can be used to develop consciousness in the Black community that would lead to opposition to the draft.

The first is what I call the Freedom of choice plan. This plan would, on the surface, be a petition to allow the jail or selective service, etc.

Another idea would be to relate the draft to the Third World, Africa in particular. That is the young fellows who have been drafted could decide to sit-in on the South African Embassy or the American Embassy in Washington and demand that the U. S. break off relationships with the Union of South Africa, because it is a racist country or demand that the U. S. take its nuclear bombs out of South Africa because they are the bombs that are going to be used to kill Black people. He could also express a desire to help the guerillas in South Africa or South America. This could put the country in a spot and it would not be in direct opposition to the War in Vietnam (its not even a war legally). But it would be effective in asking the country to withdraw its support of South Africa,