

bay area friends of the

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

584 Page Street  
San Francisco, Calif.  
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Dear Friend,

December 13, 1964

The issues of free speech being raised at the University of California are of urgent importance to us. Whether or not SNCC can raise funds on the campus, recruit volunteers to go the Mississippi, support the freedom movement in the South--all these questions are at stake. Of imminent danger is the possibility that the outcome of the controversy at U. C. may establish a pattern for colleges and universities across the country.

The present dispute has been confused by the notion expressed by some Regents of the University and others that the Academic Senate resolution would eliminate the non-partisan character of the University. Non-partisan means not to favor any party. Free speech, advocacy, and so forth for all points of view is non-partisan.

It might be added that participation by students in the affairs of the community should be viewed as part of a liberal education. To say that discussion can be separated from advocacy is to make discussion sterile.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED NOW. IT IS URGENT THAT YOU ACT IMMEDIATELY. TAKE THE STEPS LISTED BELOW.

- (1) Write or wire Governor Edmund G. Brown; Governor's Mansion; Sacramento, California and indicate to him that you support the faculty of the University of California in its decision for full free speech on the campus.
- (2) Urge your friends to write or wire the Governor.
- (3) Bring this issue before leaders in your community--ministers, trade union leaders, political leaders, civic leaders. Ask them to support the faculty at Cal with letters and telegrams to the Governor.
- (4) Send copies of your communications to the Board of Regents of U. C.

John Lewis, National Chairman of SNCC, issued the following statement: "...University Administration attempts to curtail the activities of the University Friends of SNCC are an attack on the civil rights movement in the Deep South...Students have the right to participate in political activity on and off the campus. We know well the attempts by administrators on the campuses of Southern Negro colleges to break the civil rights movement by not allowing students to meet and advocate ideas on the campus. Now University administrators in the North are borrowing these same tactics. Such denial of student rights--north or south--is an affront to the ideals of American democracy."

Yours in freedom,

Bay Area Friends of SNCC--Gail Brown, East Bay; Matt Zwerling Mid-Peninsula; Nellie Gillis, Marin; Fred Hirsch, Santa Clara Valley; Don Sanford, Diablo Valley; Ruth Treisman, University of California; Jeff Freed, San Francisco State; Lee Garrett, San Jose State; John Dearman, San Francisco.