

NEWSLETTER

N.Y. Office -- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
100 Fifth Avenue YU 9-1313

SUMMER PARTY, ANYONE?

If you are interested in holding a summer house party or other function to raise funds for SNCC, please call Mrs. Bobbi Jones at the office.

MAY STAFF MEETING

SNCC held its annual spring staff meeting from May 7-12, 1967. New officers were elected as follows:

H. Rap Brown, Chairman
Stanley Wise, Executive Secretary
Ralph Featherstone, Program Secretary

Rap Brown formerly worked in Alabama on building freedom organizations similar to the Lowndes County Freedom Organization. Stanley Wise has worked in Mississippi and Alabama, and was formerly one of SNCC's three Organizational Secretaries. Ralph Featherstone also worked in Mississippi and Alabama, then in Washington, D.C.; his interest lies particularly in economic projects and it is expected that this will guide programming in new directions. Stokely Carmichael, who announced some months ago his desire to return to work as a field organizer, did not run for office.

Programmatically, SNCC's major thrust will continue to be the building of freedom organizations, with the goal of creating a viable, independent political force on a national level. SNCC will continue its work of building a black anti-draft movement and extend that to include high school students. SNCC's work on black Southern campuses has been its most visible and notable achievement over the past six months; it expects to renew that drive in the fall. This summer, a number of black Southern students will participate in a Summer Project concentrating on Mississippi, where elections are scheduled to take place next November.

At the staff meeting, SNCC also voted to declare itself a Human Rights Organization; to encourage and support the liberation struggles against colonialism, racism and economic exploitation around the world; that its position in relation to the governments of the world is one of positive non-alignment. SNCC sees its struggle in the United States as an integral part of the worldwide movement of oppressed people, as manifested in South Africa, Vietnam, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Latin America.

At the staff meeting, it was decided that the New York office of SNCC would become headquarters for SNCC's International Program, of which James Forman is director. The office will continue to raise funds and to service affiliated groups, but will no longer be considered SNCC's major fund-raising office. This move is intended to stimulate development by SNCC staff of other fund-raising bases, particularly in the South.

BOMBS AND RAIDS

Early in the morning of May 22, 1967, the office of The Movement (SNCC-affiliated newspaper) in San Francisco was raided by unknown parties. The raiders entered by an outside window and broke the lock of a door in order to enter. They stole the subscription list, files, lists of contacts. They scattered the address stencils of The Movement's subscribers over the floor. The Movement editors believe that the raiders were from a right-wing group inspired by such statements as J. Edgar Hoover's recent accusations against SNCC or Rep. Mendel Rivers' recommendation that the First Amendment should be overlooked and dissenters (including Stokely Carmichael) be jailed. "The raid," they stated, "was clearly carried out by persons who want to know who we are, fear what we are doing, and wish to intimidate who we know."

In Newark, N.J., the office of the SNCC-affiliated Black Liberation Center was fire-bombed early in the morning of Monday, May 29. No one was hurt but there was extensive property damage; the front window was blown out, telephone lines broken, and the back room of the office destroyed. It was not clear whether someone had tossed a fire-bomb into the office or sprayed the office with kerosene and then ignited it; the effect was that of a flash-fire. The climate in Newark generally had been marked by rising tension in the days before this event. The Black Liberation Center had been active in the fight of neighborhood residents to prevent the construction of the New Jersey Medical and Dental College, which would have meant removal of blacks and Puerto Ricans in Newark's central Ward ghetto. Last week, members of the B.L.C., together with the Committee Against Negro and Puerto Rican Removal and other black groups protested the site at a City Hall hearing; the hearing was postponed because of demonstrations by angry citizens who claimed the Planning Board did not represent their needs.

The Black Liberation Center, located at 107 South Orange Avenue, intends to repair the damage and keep going.