

The following letter was sent in to the Atlanta office this week, addressed to "SNCC folk." If you have similar thoughts, or disagreements with this letter (or other things) let us know.

Batesville, Miss
March 19, 1965

To Sncc folk -

There are several things which have been bothering me the last week or so.

First of all - the WATS line reports are kind of frightening - They have all the earmarks of being propaganda sheets, and I am at the point where I feel compelled to try and read between the lines to find out what is happening in Selma, Montgomery, etc. Is this necessary, already? Would it not be possible to send us information on what is happening without making everything sncc propaganda.

p.s. This tendency is also seen in the report sent of the latest staff meeting in Atlanta. (It was nothing but horseshit), and other reports, on Selma, etc. ["latest staff meeting" probably refers to the Executive Committee meeting, since this is the only staff report that has gone out.]

It makes me sick.

Second of all -- Some of us would like an explanation of SNCC's seemingly contradictory positions on demonstrations in Alabama. First I hear that SNCC is opposed to the demonstrations because we are all tired and local people are tired of getting their heads beat in for nothing, and we object to people like MLK coming in and conning people into demonstrations in which he won't get hurt, (if he even goes). I AGREE.

Was this the real reason behind our opposition to demonstrations and the March on Montgomery? Or was it that we were just opposing SCLC's position? I want to know ...

It sounds to me like you all are fucked up!

However, now SNCC - with Forman in the lead - seems to be leading demonstrations day and night, and fighting with SCLC ostensible because they are opposing demonstrations. What the hell is going on?

(My previous statement about you all being fucked up should come here.)

Third of all - how many staff people are in Selma and Montgomery, and what are they doing? (I would like more of an explanation please than the one which is usually given: i.e., "We are here because SCLC has deserted the people after building up their hopes, and we feel we have a responsibility to stay on with them.")

We would like to hear from any number of people on these issues -- would some of you please reply....

Thanks. (Penny Patch, Chris Williams, Elayne DeLatt,
Louis Grant, Ed Brown)