

MINUTES

PROJECT REPORTS

9/5/64

Don Harris: We are in King's campaign. Now have 12 people working on the campaign. Election day is the 7th of Sept. There is a need for people and cars because:

1. There are 6 candidates in the race. Five whites will split the white vote.
2. 20,000 Negro votes counted to King and a couple thousand white votes for King.
3. Transportation needed to operate out of 19 cities as well as 12 people who know the cities well.
4. All areas have been explored and contacts established.
5. Now have commitments for 11 cars and 28 people, arriving Monday.

There are 20 election districts within each District. People are needed at Polls as poll watchers. Also needed when counting of votes takes place.

Financial: \$1000 spent in publicity.
Money needed for car repairs, gas, and food for people coming in. Randolph Battle is in jail in Albany. \$1000 bond money for traffic violations.

In some areas where cars will not go, local cab companies and funeral hearses have agreed to ride if their cabs' gas expenses will be paid by us.

If there is a run-off, people will be needed to stay over.

Good contacts have been made in 2nd district. They can be used for future action in community. Areas in the 3rd District would like SNCC to set up projects. (Columbus-Ft. Valley)

SOUTHWEST:

Local people in most areas are strong enough to carry on actions projects.

NEW PROGRAMS I

Area of labor organizing and employment has not been touched on and this needs to be done. Have been asked to do this in 3rd District i.e. Columbus-Ft. Valley. Also asked in Albany. Stevens Industry-Americus-500 Negroes employed. Strong need to work with labour employees in S. W. Georgia.

AMERICUS, GA.: quilting co-op formed with 18 women. It has potential. Maids Union started with 20 women. It meets every 2 weeks. \$.50 dues. Supplies unemployment compensation when maid is fired. It has great possibility in whole area.

NEW PROGRAMS II

Mass Media--Propaganda

Newspaper and Radio Station

Since May the people in Americus have been putting out their own paper.

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What is needed: Full time newspaper staff. All work to be done in the S.W. Radio Station: Educational--needs to be looked into.

III. COMMUNITY CENTER: Libraries now are set up in Americus (8000 books). Albany (6000 books). Film program now under way in Americus. Films are shown at mass meeting ,etc. Foreign films with sub-titles are used in citizenship classes and for reading.

- a. day care
- b. library
- c. dietary program
- d. citizenship classes

Now we have Day Care Centers and Community Centers in Albany which are operated by local organizations and are not competently managed.

IV. VOTER REGISTRATION

20,000 registered voters in 2nd District. More than 20,000 in 3rd. There are 2 teams of people per district. They are constantly travelling. They stop in a town for 2 or 3 days, set up machinery for local people to carry out programs.

STAFF: most staff is not competent to do the needed job. Training sessions are needed for the staff. Skilled staff people are needed for proposed program.

KING'S CAMPAIGN:

RUBY DORIS: 10 cars can be gotten from Miss., more are not available. Suggested to rent afleet of -ars (10).

COX: Suggested place an advertisment in the paper for 3 days in 5 cities, stating the platform. Lawyers if possible.

SHERROD: suggested getting Randolph Battle out of jail. He is essential to campaign since he knows the 19 cities we will be working out of.

Marion Wright is looking into Battle's case and also the lawyers.

SUGGESTED: 4 POINT PROGRAM

RUBY DORIS: Suggested Research Dept. go to S.W.-Americus to look into Stevens Industry and other labor possibilities.

F.D.P.: Possibility of organizing a party.

MOSES: suggested purchase of a building to be used for training people (political-community center, etc.) Ruby Doris is checking into the possibility of a building today. If Freedom Party concept adopted, staff would be needed for office. 4 people needed for labor and unemployment. 6 people needed for community center. 6 people needed for voter registration. Undetermined amount of people for Mass Media. 6 cars needed for full project. Project Director not decided. No suggestions from Don. Remaining staff are Perdue, Bess, McMillian, and Joyce Barrett.

ARKANSAS: BILL HANSEN

Working for election in November. 3 independents running.
Concentration mainly on voter registration.

PROJECTED PROGRAMS:

- I. Continued work on V.R. and November campaign.
 - II. dialogue with some local people about newspaper.
 - III. There is no Negro paper that circulates throughout the state. \$500 a wk. is cost of paper for 5000 copies.
 - IV. Civil Rights Bill in terms of employment.
 - V. White college students work in Ozarks. Similar program as SNCC. Staff has 4 people. Bill Hansen resigned as Project Director. Jim Jones is temporary Project Director. 30 people needed if Mississippi Summer Project concept is instituted. They now have 2 cars.
- Radio Station: can be purchased at \$30,000. It reaches 50 miles in each direction.

A Negro may run for Mayor.

(Marion Wright will give to each project the voting laws and interpretations. Also C.R. Bill and Poverty Bill)

MISSISSIPPI: BOB MOSES

Projection Eastland Campaign

Person to run against him has to be put on ballot in the fall of '65. Need to search for people to run campaigns. People who do this should run in for offices in '67. Training sessions need to be set up.

Exec. Comm. of F.D.P. has to be continued. For its functioning, staff is needed/

COFO: Structure of coalition of C.R. organizations should be changed. Should work for coalition of local groups.

EX: Community Center being built in Holmes County can serve as central base for Holmes Co. organization.

Key problem in building organizations is for people to operate them and be able to identify with them.

Plans of Nat'l Council of Churches is not exactly known.

Work shops can be held in Community Center being built in Holmes Co.

Legal--- Temporary Legal Comm. set up summer.

Consider what channels there are for funneling money from Fed. programs into the South.

Key Question: SNCC's role within COFO as major staffing. How it views that role. Fund Raising.

Bernard: Difference between and relationshi- of SNCC/COFO?
MFDP.

Bob: SNCC has no program in Miss. apart from development from COFO. MFDP is political unit.

Bill: What about decision making structure?

Bob: MFDP has an Exec Comm. Decisions are made there. As for COFO, decisions made by staff---SNCC + CORE. Exec. Comm. of COFO is mostly staff too. Whole question of what kind of

decision making apparatus of COFO will have to be worked out' in coming year. In Holmes Co. there is a meeting to work it out there. Conception is county groups amalgamating into COFO. Whole question of decisions---- now feeling is to lodge it in the staff. Summer discussions indicated bringing in local people on Exec. Comm. of COFO.

Bernard: What kind of form is there in the counties for selecting people for MFDP?

Bob: Precinct meetings. There are now essentially the same people)local[in leadership positions of COFO & MFDP, but eventually there will be overlap, making somewhat separate groups--- some people on C C's etc. and some on political organizing.

Bernard: How does CORE relate?

Bob: Good CORE people in Miss. They are trying to work out system of some autonomy with nat'l office. Problem arises from nat'l office:---- trying to get Southern section of something.

Bill: What if what exists in Miss i.e. COFO were organized in all 4 states? What then happens to SNCC organizationally--- how would it work?

Bob: SNCC is staff of organizers. What happens is retaining identify among people who are SNCC staff.

Bill: If you have 2 organizations with identical programs, I can see time in future where decision making body of SNCC will differ from COFO. I think eventually SNCC will wither away.

Ruby: Not so concerned with SNCC withering away. It wasn't until late summer that SNCC's role was publicized.

Cox: Can we proceed with specific questions on Miss. and then take up BLack Belt project.

Marion: Will position paper be written on Atlantic City? What happened? Recommend it be done.

BLACK BELT PROJECT

Consist of 4 areas, 6 programs

- a V.R.
- b FDP
- c Comm. Centers
- d Freedom Schools
- e Fed. Programs
- f Unionization Programs

Training program for staff---- development of staff to put program into effect.

If we want to form concept of FDP-COFO in other states? Also other 5 programs?

Marion: Should deal with specifics.

D. Harris: Do we want to extend COFO or COFO concept.

Cox: Want to extend concept.

F. Sith: Will Miss. staff, who have knowledge of these programs move into other areas?

Moses: Training in programs. Organizers can go into areas where needed.

Staff looked at Church that is for sale. Price \$150,000

Possible uses of building:

1. educational programs
2. office space
3. student voice
4. dormitory
5. others--Forman has list

Question: can we financially undertake purchase of building?

Forman: Outline of inancial status:

approximately \$165,000 in N.Y.

" \$ 26,000 in Atlanta.

\$8,000 marked for State Conferences.

\$10,000 for Africa trip.

Most fund raising recently has been geared around Miss. Summer Project.

\$18,000 from ad in N.Y. Times.

\$124,000 roughly from direct mailing.

From this hould be creative in ways of raising money. Ther is a need for people to engage in Fund Raising only. This type of creativity has to be continued. Reserve Fund should be stablished.

still to be done X
Ruby: 1963 auditing report should be published and distributed.

Motion: that we put aside 50 thousand dollars in reserve fund and direct treasurer to place 10% of all incoming funds into the Reserve in Atlanta. ACCEPTED

Question: Procedure for drawing money. Who administers?

Should be used for emergencies. If needed Exec. Comm. should authorize withdrawal.

Ruby: suggested monthly statements mailed to Exec. Comm. in funds in Reserve Fund and othhr accounts.

Moses: suggested meeting and work shops on how to best manage funds.

Marion: funds now in N.Y. are in checking account. Should be moved to savings account.(165,000)

M. Wright:

M. Wright: suggested operating Expense budget be drawn up. Allowing for flexibility. Will also get someone (stock expert) to discuss possibility of investments.

Cox: Decide if building meets our needs. If we desire the building, appoint a committee.

Forman: \$3,200 now paying for rent. \$6,500 could be paid in recent rent this year.

Educational Program looking for place to rent. Bring rent up to \$10,000 a year.

Building used for:

1. educational prggram
2. state conferences-\$8,000 now set aside for
3. Exec. Comm. meetings, staff meetings, public meetings, mid-summer orientations.
4. FDP workshops
5. programs for students in Atlanta

Ways of Raising Funds:

1. educational program
2. founddtions (contribute)
3. unions (contribute) may want to set up some programs
4. freedom bonds--sold mostly in Southern states

Question: Is church auditorium large enough for conferences?

Evaluation of conferences:

Who comes?

Need to bring together staff, and southern students.

How much is accomplished

Decided that there is need for building

Q: do we need this particular building?

M. Barry: Would be hasty to accept this building. Should look around for others.

F. Smith: Suggested appoint a committee to investigate possibilities also zoning laws, tax exemptions, insurance costs, second mortgages, fire insurance, et c.

J. Minnis: Again suggested appointing a committee. Expressed willingness to feed information to Comm. and to answer questions raised.

B. Hansen: Suggested that Exec. Comm. meet again in 30 days to discuss buying of building.

Prathia: Suggested taht Comm. investigate. Give findings' to Exec. Comm. in N.Y. (special meeting called in N.Y. for Tues.)

M. Wright: Suggested that Ja ck Minnis call real estate agent tonight.

Committee formed:

1. Jack Minnis
2. Ruby Dorris Smith
3. Howard Moore
4. Betty Garman
5. Jim Forman

Personnel---- Courtland Cox

Miss. people definitely staying

8 people questionable--as to returning to school.

Ala. John Love and Terry Shaw (2)

S.W. Ga. 4 definite and 3 possibilities.

Atlanta 24

Cambridge 1

outside in SNCC offices 20 people.

109 Volunteers expressed desire to stay on but need subsistence. Approximately 200 volunteers who want to stay.

Questions raised at last night's meeting
subsistence and status.

Concept of Freedom Core:

For those who need subsistence it would try to meet their needs. They would be responsible to SNCC. Volunteers who came in the summer would come into Freedom Core.

Work-Study people (50)

Ala. 12 in Ala. from work-study

8 from Lincoln University, also Ed Brown

Over-all staff 144

Qualifications for being on staff needs definition. Should work-study people be regular staff?

Ruby: Dorris has about 18 applications from persons who wish to become staff.

Ruby: Q's: what kind of staff we want to have? Racial composition, local people and outsiders? Staff should be evaluated. Need for Southern campus recruitment. Criteria for hiring staff should be established and all possible efforts should be made to meet these.

M. Barry: Suggested that most of staff be Negro.

Bernard: Recommendations by project director.

Ruby: Policy should be set up to force Southern recruitment. Limitations should be put on northern volunteers.

F. Smith: Decisions should be made about Black Belt Proj. Can we supply staff for this Proj., white or black?

Bob: When we make commitments to projects, we need people who are committed for 2 or 3 years.

Chair: We should recruit Negroes from north and south for long term commitments.

ED Brown: We have got to have people to see that those who are recruited carry out their commitments.

Jim: It's relevant to raise the question of a northern recruiter.

Bob: We have key jobs that have to be filled--make the knowledge of these specifics available. People who have been involved in the movement and have ability to do the specific job should be gotten.

B. Staford: The problem of shifting people around becomes quite a job. SNCC to define the jobs in the B.B. I don't understand what we mean about Negro leadership. Do we understand the Southern student mentality?

E. Brown: Southern students mentality may not be any different from others. We have got to train students for leadership roles.

Frank: We can recruit from Northern Negro young people. WE may not have the money to go to schools.

B. Staford: (campus recruiter) I am going back to school.

Bob: We have people from South who can go to Negro campuses to speak for purposes of recruitment.

Jim: Since Ruby has a passion for recruiting Negro southern students, she should be campus coordinator. WE have other positions that need to be filled.

Prathia: Must make this(job (s) priority and find people.

Marion: Inept once we have people to leave the person in that Job--- don't pull them out to another task.

Black Belt Project tomorrow

Jim report on building:

Beckers \$150,000

60 day option--- for \$1,000

negotiate on price and cash U.S. mortgage

Muslims not involved in that building

Jack Minnis to go to church to see minister.