

ELECTION DAY ACTION

Tuesday Nov. 8-1960

NORTH and SOUTH

Delegates attending the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia, October 14-16, unanimously voted to rally student action in the North and South on Election Day. This action will call attention to the denial of voting rights in the South, and to the need for meaningful civil rights action.

The project will serve notice to both the victorious presidential candidate and the new Congress that effective civil rights action must be first on their agendas.

TWO THEMES should be emphasized in the demonstrations:

- (1) We who can register and vote, enjoy freedom of speech, and the right of protest know that these are precious democratic rights that must be preserved and extended to all Americans.
- (2) We are voting ourselves and are urging everyone else who can vote to do so to help win these same rights for the millions of disfranchised citizens of the South.

THREE POLITICAL POINTS must be highlighted by the Election Day Project:

- (1) We demand immediate action on civil rights from the victorious candidates. This action should embrace the recommendations of Section III of the 1957 Civil Rights Act.
- (2) We demand that the right to vote be assured and protected by the Federal Government, through appropriate legislation with teeth in it.
- (3) We demand that Rule 22 of the Senate be changed so that Civil Rights legislation will not be blocked by filibustering.

These points can be made in publicity and press releases, in your meetings and discussions before and during the demonstrations and in your placards for the poster walk.

THE MECHANICS OF THE ELECTION DAY PROJECT

The Demonstrations should occur on the Election Day afternoon (4:00 PM your time) and should continue through the after-work rush or until the polls close. They should involve a march to some central polling place, or places such as the State Capitol, the Court House or City Hall area. Effort should be made to get as many well-known adults (civil rights leaders, trade unionists, writers, entertainers, educators, etc.) as can be contacted to march in the line. There should be a brief picket or poster walk, and if at all possible, a street meeting.

Before the Demonstrations contact student governments of colleges and high schools, active student organizations, NAACP Youth Councils, CORE student chapters. Call a meeting to analyze the civil rights situation and make concrete plans for covering your community.

THE NECESSITY

Since the sit-ins began there have been many significant break-throughs in securing equal rights for all Americans. These would not have come if protests had remained isolated. The fact that not one or two, but hundreds of areas staged lunch counter sit-ins is the fact behind the progress in desegregation thus far. Mass action, moving with the concept of strategic non-violence, has been proven beyond any doubt.

No one, local, isolated demonstration for the right to vote and for immediate civil rights action will move the legislators and the executive department. We must move on a bigger scale than ever, move for the same thing, at the same time. This is why we propose the ELECTION DAY PROJECT.

While recognizing the fact that the great strength of the movement will always remain on the local level where immediate local problems can be analyzed and attacked, we are convinced of the necessity of all local areas joining in the campaign to secure civil rights. No rights are more significant to the American citizen, none more basic to a democracy. We hope that all students throughout the nation will recognize this and join, on November 8th, the march for freedom and human dignity for all Americans.

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POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS FOR POSTERS (choose ones applicable to your area)

- (1) "Your Vote Can Help Win Freedom in the South"
- (2) "Don't Let the Student Sit-ins Down--Vote Today"

THE NECESSITY

- (3) "Campaign Promises Must Become Realities"

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- (4) "In the Name of America's Future, Give us the Right to our Future--Give us the Ballot"