

EVENTS

SNCC Photo Show Open until March 17 at the Countee Cullen Library, 104 West 136th St. Open Monday through Thursday until 9 p.m.

SNCC Night at Small's 9 p.m., March 24. The host this time is Bill Cosby. Entertainment and dancing. Chairman: Mrs. Julie Belafonte. Admission by donation of \$10. The last "SNCC Night at Small's!" was a great success but very crowded, so call YU 9-1313 for reservations now. Proceeds to benefit SNCC.

I. SNCC Staff Meeting of December '66 and Follow-up.

SNCC held its second regular staff meeting of 1966 at Kerhonkson, New York from December 1-9, 1966. The staff discussed reports from the Secretariat and individual projects, as well as overall goals, program and structure.

Freedom Organizations

With a view to creating power bases geared to meet the needs of black people, SNCC decided that its main thrust would be the building of freedom organizations to serve as all-inclusive political parties. By all-inclusive, SNCC means that the freedom organization will not merely engage in electoral politics but will service and fight for day-to-day needs. A model freedom organization will include within its structure a political committee, economic committee, educational committee, welfare committee, cultural committee, housing committee and youth division. Suitable geographic areas for the building of freedom organizations will be explored by staff members. They will probably include a number of urban areas. Work to build independent parties in Lowndes County and other Alabama areas will continue.

Anti-Draft Program

SNCC voted to promote a national anti-draft program among black youth and to hold regional conferences on this issue. Afro-Americans in Detroit and in Watts have scheduled conferences against the draft for April.

Campus Program

SNCC agreed that it should rebuild its campus base, and that it would hold a national student conference. Following the staff meeting, plans for this conference were drawn up with Easter as the tentative date. The conference would be sponsored by SNCC together with existing campus SNCC chapters and black student groups from both North and South. Its main purposes are to

establish a dialogue between the students and some structure by which that dialogue can be maintained, with a view to developing common approaches and definite action programs.

Program Department

SNCC decided to create a program department consisting of six divisions: political, economic, educational, cultural, housing, personnel, and the southern campus division. Overall responsibility for the functioning of these divisions was placed in the hands of Program Coordinator (formerly Program Secretary) Cleve Sellers. During February, 1967, program workshops have been held in most of the areas represented by those divisions.

Structure

With a view to stimulating the image of black people as able to make decisions by themselves, and to building the strength and institutions of Afro-Americans as a people, SNCC agreed to restrict voting rights in decision-making to black members of SNCC. Not surprisingly, this aspect of the staff meeting was emphasized by the press rather than other programmatic developments. An article by Andrew Kopkind in THE NEW REPUBLIC of January 7, 1967 was one of the few examples of press coverage offering context and relatively factual accuracy.

FLASH

The murder of Wharlest Jackson of the NAACP in Natchez, Mississippi the night of February 27 suggests the reign of terror which has swept Alabama this year may be extending to Mississippi. We will have more information from our staff in Alabama later this week.

II. Stokely's Trip to Puerto Rico

On January 24-26, 1967, Stokely Carmichael paid a highly successful visit to Puerto Rico as the guest of the Movimiento Pro Independencia (M.P.I.) and the Federacion Universitario Pro Independencia (F.U.P.I.). He participated in demonstrations, spoke at several rallies (in Spanish as well as English), and met with student groups. Before his departure, the three organizations issued a joint statement pledging mutual support on several levels, with emphasis on opposition to the Vietnam war and the draft (Puerto Ricans, as U.S. citizens, are drafted both here and in their home country).

Those interested in following activities by Puerto Rican militants in

New York may obtain information from Casa Puerto Rico at 106 East 14th St.

III. Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam

Saturday, April 15, has been set for a mass march and rally at the United Nations in New York and at the birthplace of the U.N. in San Francisco. These demonstrations will be the high point of a national mobilization against the war which is being organized by the Spring Mobilization Committee (857 Broadway, New York City), a non-exclusive committee of individuals from many organizations and representing a wide range of views. Spearheading the committee until his death was A.J. Muste. Its present national director is Reverend James Bevel, on leave from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; among the Vice-Chairman are Cleveland Robinson (District 65 Vice-President), Dave Dellinger (Liberation editor) and Edward Keating (Ramparts publisher). SNCC has been and will continue to be actively involved in this effort to create a united, mass anti-war movement.

IV. Summer Plans

One of the results of the program workshops mentioned above was the decision to make Washington, D.C. a major focus of SNCC activity this summer. Home Rule will be the keynote for organizing around the issues of housing, jobs, schools, etc. which concern Washington's black majority population. Stokely Carmichael will direct this project. Details remain to be worked out; the project has therefore not yet been formally announced.

V. Recent Action in New York: The People's Board of Education

Last fall, efforts by parents to win community control of I.S. 201 were stymied after a prolonged struggle. In December, the effort to establish a greater community voice in ghetto education took a new direction when the Board of Education began its budget hearings. Parents and community leaders, headed by Rev. Milton Galamison, began a sit-in when the Board would not permit one of the parents to speak. The group elected their own New York City People's Board of Education, with Bill Hall (SNCC Field Secretary for Harlem) designated Chairman. The group was arrested and evicted after 48 hours.

On January 8 the Board defined its goals as:

- "1)...to alter the structure of the school system so it is responsive to individual community needs...This may require legislative or state constitutional convention action. This means...decentralization, accountability, meaningful citizen participation.

- 2) To develop a program which will get grassroots awareness...and support for the goal stated above...
- 3)...power should not rest in any central board, including our own...by every means possible we should encourage the development and initiative of local people's groups."

The Board has held a number of meetings to work out implementation of these goals, and has also held a series of hearings on school problems in different areas of New York City. On March 7, the Board of Education will hold hearings on decentralization. Various community groups working with the People's Board will present their own proposals on this question.

VI. New York Office Staff

John Wilson, who formerly served as a field secretary in Mississippi and acting director of the Philadelphia SNCC office, has been appointed to the New York Staff. Other staff members are:

Ivanhoe Donaldson, director
Shirley Wright, administrator
Robert Fullilove, field secretary for New Jersey
Phil Hutchings, field secretary for New Jersey
Roberta Jones, fund-raising
James McDonald, fund-raising
Carolyn Carter, fund-raising
Elizabeth Sutherland, communications
Charlotte Carter, bookkeeping
Lucille Perlman, mailing list
Thelma Newman)
Eve Osman) Office
Judy Ruben)

REMINDER: If you have not yet returned your copy or copies of the James Baldwin petition on behalf of the Harlem Six, please do so immediately.

DIG!

Late this summer, Random House will publish a book tentatively entitled Black Power and Black Consciousness by Stokely Carmichael and Dr. Charles Hamilton of Lincoln University.

SNCC
100 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10011