



was discussion of staging mass voter registration marches. It was generally ~~xx~~ agreed that no concentrated effort should be made at this time to hold such demonstrations, that if any take place ~~xxxxxx~~ they should arise ~~xx~~ out of locally planned decisions. Discussion centered on whether we are organizationally prepared at this time to ~~x~~ make any strong push involving demonstrations. The opinion was expressed that more preparatory work had to be done to develop organization strength and to arouse the national conscience. ~~xx~~ For the time being this could best be furthered by planning for sending delegates to the conventions and running candidates in congressional elections. While candidates should be "official" there should ~~xxxxx~~ be a mock election held simultaneously to point up the denial of Negro voting rights. It was agreed that ~~we had to invoke~~ federal intervention but there was some disagreement on how and when this could be successfully accomplished. ~~xx~~ It was argued that a Selma-like demonstration at this time would not be effective enough and would at the same time seriously exhaust our resources (~~xxxxxx~~ jailing of leaders and excessive bail). ~~x~~ The creation of a crisis which would accomplish our objective, it was ~~xx~~ argued, had to be seen as a long-term proposition.

*→ would be necessary to win the right to vote*

Finally, it was agreed to postpone discussion of a summer program involving Northern students to a future staff meeting. It was held that this involving the expansion of staff and at least initially was properly staff business.

~~xxxxxx~~

- h. Future Program-- (This would involving ~~xxx~~ very briefly outlining ~~xxxxxxx~~ political plans for this summer and fall: the election of delegates to national conventions and the running of congressional candidates.)

*↑ and → senatorial*

Discussion of Organizational Structure

1. There was considerable discussion of what the basis for membership in COFO should be. It was argued that COFO should develop a a as a membership organization rather than as a federation of local affiliates. Since the staff had officially voted to favor the latter, it was agreed that the whole issue should be ~~xxxxxx~~ brought up again and rehashed at a future staff meeting.

2. It was agreed that we postpone discussion of the question of whether COFO should create an independent party, whether it ought to attempt to work ~~xx~~ within the existing parties ~~xx~~ through a political action arm, or whether COFO itself should be conceived as a political party for a future staff meeting. It was held that the staff should properly develop its own position before the question should be raised at a COFO meeting. Also it was agreed that more preparatory discussion on a local level ~~xxx~~ of the question was needed.

3. It was felt that there should be two state committees. A state executive committee which would consist of five or so people

who would be the real decision-making body and a state committee which would be a larger body, made up of representatives from the districts, which would be essentially an advisory body. The executive committee would be comprised of full-time workers and would have the power to appoint standing committees to fulfill certain functions. These committees would be responsible in turn to the executive committee--and not to the state committee. Essentially, the state committee would be confined to passing resolution which, however, would not be binding on the executive committee.

Question: how would ~~xxx~~ the executive committee be chosen and to whom would it be responsible: COFO or the staff?