

Holsaert

JOB DESCRIPTION: I'm supposed to be working with small local groups and small local people, as well as students, parents and friends groups. It seems to me that my office has two functions. The first is to get ~~SNCC~~ the SNCC story into as many places in New York as possible in ways other than are accomplished by mass media; ie through tables set up on street corners, leafletting community events, holding small ~~mixers~~ meetings dispersed throughout the city, etc. The other is to build a network of active contacts who can be, and ARE (usually we don't bother), tapped to exert pressure, petition, fund-raise, etc.

THINGS DONE THIS SUMMER AND BY CAROL

Political Clubs: Carol had built contacts with some political clubs in Manhattan, particularly reform dems. The record kept was poor, and I haven't been able to pick up where she left off. This should be continued, and developed in other boroughs.

Parents: Last summer the parents were suburban and fairly affluent. This year they were a very different group. Furthermore, it became most apparent with this group that SNCC will have to mobilize people around something other than crises. Last year the group was galvanized by fear; this year the threat was not so immediate. This was partly solved for the parents by converting them into a group which is going to attempt sustained support of communications (for the moment, radios. Later, hopefully, telephones, etc.) They will also service new parents, and ~~do~~ pressure work. This group seems to reflect most clearly the effects of SNCC's reducing emphasis on the importation of white northern workers and our involvement in non-crisis, long-range programs in the south.

High Sch Group: In the past, they have raised incredible sums of money, gathered large numbers of post-card petitions, held concerts. Right now they are working in Bedford Stuyvesant. They are sufficiently energetic and bright that they will not be SNCC flunkies. Whoever works with them will have to recognize their intelligence and independence and make SNCC work relevant and rewarding for them. It is very possible that they could become restless with SNCC and break off. Aside from SNCC's loss, the tie with SNCC gives them direction, and contact with ideas and people which I think is important for the members' growth as leaders.

Informational Mailing: When I first came into the office, I felt a need to send out a purely informational mailing to 200 (at the most) people who have in some way been specially tied to SNCC. Such a list has been built, but it is growing out of control. First of all, the ~~xxxxxxx~~ mailing does two things now: it sends out information (emergency bulleting), and it also is directed at my active support file (should be action bulletin). My feeling is that I would work on an action bulleting, and stop sending to the informational people. If someone wants to take responsibility for sending information to the currently inactive, three cheers. I don't.

I think the community relations person should have complete discretion in putting people on, or taking people off an action bulletin list.

College group: Has been active in the past, but never strong as a group. I would suggest that a real attempt be made to organize a stronger group this fall.

Riverside Friends of SNCC: they believe they've had a bad experience with SNCC and that we did them wrong. This summer Linda Moses and Sue Seidman have been canvassing their buildings to get support for a southern field worker. This group could do great work if they could be given more confidence for canvassing work. Sue Seidman is interested in the possibility of working full-time for SNCC, eventually, if there were a job that involved work inside the community. RS FOSNCC, with Manhattan committee for the FDP (which has broken with ad hoc committee) wants to open a store front on the west side. Could be a very good thing, especially with prodding from NY SNCC office.

Active Support File-- Early this summer, I sent out a mailing on northern support programs, emphasizing the need for grass-roots support, to kids who were in Miss last year, the informational mailing list, kids who went to the lobby, and other potential activists. I included a form to be filled out, and I've built the support file from the returned forms. Whenever I get an inquiry about how to help or join SNCC, I send a covering letter and this "support" mailing. If I get a return, I put the name on the informational mailing list. The form makes possible a break-down of those available for political pressure, fund-raising, and a list of groups of which the person is a member. They're very useful.

THINGS HOPED FOR

Contact with community-involved groups: 1. My office should build a file of small local groups -- peace groups to tenants' councils -- for every area in which we work. Contacts should be established, if possible by neighborhood people working with SNCC. As much as possible, an active relationship should be maintained. At the least, such a list should be available for occasional projects.

2. This summer we have worked with Major Owens (high sch group) and have had occasional contact with Haryou. Since SNCC is unwilling to work in the north right now, a contact with groups like these are an important way to keep in touch with what's happening and to reach new people. I don't care as much about maintaining contact with established CR groups like CORE, since their membership is the same old crowd we've always worked with.