

Letter to Mike Miller from Phil Farnham

February 1, 1966

Dear Mike Miller,

Chris Hartmire had laid it on me to contact you about plans for this summer. The issue is what if anything is to be done about training and supervising the students and others who will be coming into this area this summer. Chris feels strongly enough about this to put some staff time into it, probably part of my time if he manages to establish a position which will finance me to help Jim on the boycott indefinitely.

Cesar would like the students trained and supervised but don't think they can do too much damage if they run without it. He will give whoever is doing his prestige and support. Chris and I feel that if it is done at all it has to be the works: like the Oxford training deal, perhaps asking for National Council support and endorsement and even the person who directed at Oxford. This also means legal aids, chaplains, etc. for the summer in addition to supervisors. All of this amounts to a lot of work when there will be much else to do. And we are not just sure what there is for the students to do. The following ideas have been kicked around with Cesar, Jim, Chris and myself:

After an indoctrination session send out as many as possible all over the country to help on the boycott. (Jim suggested this could be a Schenley summer for all colleges)

Voter registration

Freedom School type

There must be other ideas but we didn't come up with them. We could turn Delano into an example for other valley towns but that might not gain anything.

Two strong arguments for doing something:

1. They will clutter up Delano operation if not structured
2. They may work chaos by inspiring strikes at will, and the workers would be left holding the bag.

The legal responsibility for these students with or without the training and supervision is going to be a problem for FWA but that is inevitable.

Alex Hoffman has said that his fellow lawyers are already working on this possibility, that is, that legal aid may be needed for students this summer.

A lot of groups are involved but the same was true in the south. If there is to be something set up. it needs done now. I'll know this weekend if Chris can support me here to help Jim and work on other things. Put down what your thoughts are at this stage.

Hope to see you soon.

Phil Farnham