

Letter to Jim Drake, Phil Farnham from Paul Booth, Mike Miller

March 16, 1966

MEMO

TO: Jim Drake, Phil Farnham

FROM: Paul Booth, Mike Miller, Ken McEldewney

RE: Summer project

We have discussed our meeting in Delano and the prospect of a summer project with the NFWA. All of us re excited about the potential of students booking the strike to the rest of the country and to the farm working families outside the strike zone. As we understand the project, it's major work is to support the strike through the tool of the boycott. The following areas seem to follow from this:

- (1) Strengthening the existing NFWA offices in cities throughout the country;
- (2) Bring the boycott, and the strike in general, to sympathetic and potentially sympathetic groups throughout the country;
- (3) Bringing the boycott and the strike directly to farm working families in the Valley.

Each of these reflects a different strategy, none of which is incompatible with the other. The first involves organizing picketing of stores, or, as Jim put it, "cutting them off at the source". The second involves building a broad base of on-going, sympathetic support, with the possibility of neighborhood delegations to stores, to merchant groups, etc. for the boycott. The third involves extending the boycott to other farm workers, with the potential of further organizing work among them.

The enclosed draft of a "Farm Workers Freedom Summer" outlines how this might be presented to students.

As the discussion in Delano indicated, Jim feels #1` is the most important way to push the boycott ahead; we feel that number #2 is as important. Perhaps a good division of labor would be for Jim to be in charge of #1 and for Mike to be in charge of #2, with someone needed for #3. Or, Jim might be the overall coordinator with Phil in charge of #1.

We agree to the need for a general NFWA coordinator whose job it would be to service and coordinate the staff working in the three different aspects of the program. A small number of students might work in Delano assisting such a coordinator.

One further note might clarify the question of sds/sncc and students. Both SDS and SNCC have grown out of different parts of the student movement. In the North, SNCC has organized student support in campus Friends of SNCC groups. SNCC is a staff organization and places people in communities and, as in the case of Marshall Ganz, with organizations like NFWA. SDS is primarily a northern student organization with campus

chapters across the country. A number of SDS people, however, work full-time in community organization work in Newark, Boston, Cleveland, Chicago and other cities.

We look forward to the summer.

Viva!