Ongoing issues

Courtland Cox, former program director of SNCC, compiled this list of strategic and tactical debates and discussions that occurred over the years:

1. Non-violence: philosophy or tactic?

2. Issues arising from the move from a student-centered organization to a field organizers centered organization.

3. Stressing direct action or voter registration.

4. Spiritual focus on organizing or a political focus on organizing.

5. Issues arising from the recruitment of Howard students and other Northern blacks for leadership roles in Mississippi.

6. The bringing of any whites into Mississippi.

7. The bringing of large numbers of whites into Mississippi for the summer project.

8. Whether SNCC should build an organization for the long term or continue its focus on helping local communities carry out their own initiatives.

9. The role of women in SNCC.

10. The Friends of SNCC wanting to move from a fundraising-only posture to one that would allow them to undertake organizing in their own communities.

11. The right of the local communities to arm themselves in their own defense and; SNCC's support for that defense.

12. The need for whites to organize in their own communities in the South to help relieve some of the violent pressure on the work of SNCC.

13. What should be the role of whites in SNCC?

14. The need for local people to provide the leadership for the Movement and SNCC.

15. The need for the black communities to take responsibility for developing their own answers to issues involving Black Power, Black Education, relationships with Africa, etc.

16. Questioning whether leadership of SNCC should transition from being based on organizational structures to be more based on charismatic individuals.

17. Issues arising from the center of the Movement shifting from the South to the Northern urban centers after the Detroit rebellions.

18. Whether the overall objective of the movement was to integrate the black community into the American society or end the economic, political and cultural barriers that constrained the black community.