

REPORT OF AN AD HOC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Topic: A Conference on Black Consciousness and Negro Higher Education

Session Two: Greensboro, North Carolina, December 3, 1967

Participants: Horace Mann Bond (Research, Atlanta University), Jane Carter (History, A & T), Vincent Harding (History, Spelman), Stephen Henderson (English, Morehouse), Arthur Jackson (Graduate Dean, A & T), Gloria Scott (Assistant to President, A & T), Will Scott (Sociology, A & T), Darwin Turner (Graduate Dean, A & T).

Unable to be present: Flournoy A. Coles, Jr. (Economics, Fisk), Gerald McWorter (Sociology, Fisk), Paul Puryear (Political Science, Fisk).

I. Preliminary Discussion at A & T:

Much of the first two hours of our meeting was understandably spent in bringing the A & T participants up to date concerning the background, purposes and general thinking related to the proposed Conference. Questions were raised by the A & T group concerning the title, definition of purpose and organizational plans for the Conference. Out of the discussion focussed on these questions came some modified agreements and some new matters for our next agenda.

II. Tentative agreements reached

- A. That the Conference should be held, but that it should include the concept "Black Consciousness" rather than Identity in its title. It was thought that something like this might be appropriate: "The Newest Awakening of Black Consciousness: Its Impact on Negro Higher Education". That, of course, is still tentative.
- B. The Conference should probably be held in Atlanta, largely for logistical purposes.
- C. The dates are now much more open to alteration than before.
- D. There should be a statement of purpose issued with the call to the conference. It was suggested and generally agreed that the statement might read:
The purpose of this conference is to explore as fully as possible the implications for Negro colleges of the contemporary expression of self-awareness commonly called Black Consciousness. In doing so, the conference will attempt to:

1. Examine the current impact of this movement on the colleges.
 2. Understand the nature of the responses from the college up to now.
 3. Explore ways in which the colleges may respond creatively to the current mood as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities to students and others in the college community, the Afro-American community and their various larger communities.
- E. There should not only be plenary sessions and small group discussions, but several intermediate size sessions--running concurrently--at which significant papers would be read with pre-arranged commentaries. (This was not finally structured.)
- F. It was generally agreed that there should be two major groupings of topics for the meetings:
1. General background and overview, such as:
 - How is Identity Established?
 - Historical Examples of the Search for Afro-American Identity
 - Shapers of Identity in the Black Community (These might be discussed in one or more papers.)
 2. Papers on the Impact on the Colleges and the Responses from the Colleges (both actual and proposed responses). These would include:
 - Black Consciousness and the Academic Curriculum
 - Black Consciousness and Faculty recruitment, development and retention
 - Black Consciousness and the personal-social development of students
 - Black Consciousness and the larger community
 - Black Consciousness and financial resources (In other words, how black can we get and still get white money?)
- G. Generally the other earlier tentative agreements were approved, subject to further discussion (see first report).

III. Partial agenda for next meeting

- A. Review of work already accomplished
- B. Final shaping of program and decision on date
- C. Discussion of who will actually call conference and do inviting
- D. Discussion of budget
- E. Exploration of possible publication of papers of the conference
- F. New business

Vincent Harding, Convener
January 4, 1966