

873 Broadway
2nd floor south
New York, N.Y. 10003
August 11, 1966

TO ALL BRANCH ORGANIZERS:

Dear Comrades,

It has been brought to our attention that certain members of SNCC have been trying to raise a behind-the-scenes scandal involving our support of the Black Panther Party. We have heard that these people most often refer to the pamphlet on the BPP.

It should be clear that the source of the "criticism" lies in the political differences between ourselves and many SNCC leaders over what constitutes "independent" political action and what constitutes "coalitionism." We do not intend to get caught in the trap of public protests as long as the slanders are only rumors and on the level of gossip. And we can safely predict that there will always be a new "criticism" to replace the old when it has been answered. The resourcefulness of types that resort to gossip and slander mongering is almost unlimited in that field.

However, the comrades should be clear on some facts which relate to specific charges being circulated: (1) SNCC was not asked for approval on the pamphlet, nor was their approval required; but their New York office was informed of the pamphlet and Hulett gave permission to print his speech. His organization is very pleased with the pamphlet. (2) Merit Publishers who brought out the 32-page pamphlet for 25 cents is not getting rich, as alleged; they will be lucky to break even. (3) The youth are not making money at the expense of Lowndes County by selling Black Panther buttons; an honorable and mutually arrived at agreement exists, whereby the BPP benefits more than anyone else from the button.

Comradely,



Ed Shaw
Organizational Secretary