

Statement, Meeting for SNCC, Boston, March 4, 1966

I cannot accept what I take to be certain implications of the statement issued by the staff of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee on January 6, 1966. But SNCC is a very fluid organization, emphasizing freedom and spontaneity, and such a statement can scarcely, as I take it, be regarded as a body of doctrine, a definition of orthodoxy, a catechism, or even a program -- certainly not as a sort of Thirty-Nine Articles to be sworn to.

Further, the very fact of my disagreement should set in bolder relief my admiration for the valorous and sacrificial history of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in recalling us, as a nation, to the fundamental principles of equality and justice on which this nation professes to be founded. But the struggle for decency in our national life which called SNCC into being is, as we all know, far from over, and the need we have for the qualities of SNCC for the future is greater than the need we have had in the past.

Robert Penn Warren

Stratton, Vermont, March 4, 1966