

January 18, 1968

PRESS RELEASE STATEMENT

SNCC would like to make it crystal clear that we are on record in support of black draft resistors throughout this country. And today ^{the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee} ~~we are~~ giving full support behind another SNCC person, who has received an invitation from LBJ to report, and be a black mercenary for him in this looting and rioting in Vietnam, which is slaughtering many people. Jan Bailey to my left, is the seventeenth ^{person in SNCC} that this racist government has drafted into this unjust war, to which we have said hell ^{white} no! We know that there is a conspiracy to draft all SNCC members into the armed forces. They see it as one way to destroy the organization.

We would also like to make it clear that we support Dr. Spock and the other four persons who were indicted along with them. Drafting and indicting will not silence the black community. The black people of this nation already know that America is the black man's battleground.

Lester McKinnie

Washington SNCC Director

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STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
1234 You Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C., 20009

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: Mr. Lester McKinnie (202) 387 7445 9 Jan 68

STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE feel that the recent indictments against Dr. Spock and other Americans citizens who are actively speaking out against the war in Viet Nam represent still another move by the U. S. Government to stifle all dissent. We of the Black Community, who for 400 years have known repression from this^{so-}called democratic government, are not surprised.

This latest move by the U. S. Government also represents a new approach to the Black Community. We of SNCC recognise that the real threat to the U. S. Government at home is in the Black Community, and we further recognise that KKK in order to silence the Black Community without exposing hidden racism, the U. S. Government must silence some whites for justification purposes.

We do not speak out just because the Government still menaces the Black Community. We would speak out even if the Black Community was not in danger. We speak out because we are against repression:

Dr. Spock and his fellow Americans have the right to help their fellow citizens to follow the dictates of their consciences. Therefore, we give our full support to all those who help to fight for the rights of Dr. Spock, William Coffin, Mark Raskin, and all others who organize draft resistance. And for the Black Community, we tell the U. S. Government, "You may arrest and murder as many Black Militants as you want, but be advised that you will not stop the Black Liberation Movement in this country!"

The hunkie government will never stop us, because we know that from the sweat and blood of martyrs flow the current of the Revolution!

NEWS FROM . . .

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SNCC), 3418 11th St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 387-7445

. . . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hattiesburg, Mississippi, January 21

Negroes here have named January 22nd "Freedom Day" and plan to stage massive "standins" at the county courthouse. Lawrence Guyot, head of the voter registration drive in the Forrest County seat said that Negroes will line up to register at the county courthouse on Wednesday morning. Guyot announced that the intention of the drive was to "register people to vote, with federal intervention if necessary."

Forrest County Registrar Theron Lynd has been involved in litigation with the U.S. Justice Department since 1960, because of his refusal to register qualified Negroes, and is at present under a civil contempt of court charge.

"Freedom Day" in Hattiesburg will be observed by ministers representing the Presbyterian Commission on Religion and Race, and the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity.

"Even though Lynd is under a federal injunction not to discriminate against qualified Negroes, he is doing nothing to comply. The Justice Department has made no effort to enforce this injunction. The only recourse we have is community action", said Guyot.

- 30 -

HATTIESBURG BACKGROUND MATERIAL

County seat of Forrest County. POPULATION: 34,989; Negroes: 14,752; Negroes registered: 0.2%

Theron Lynd

Efforts by the Federal Government to force Forrest County Registrar Theron Lynd to register Negroes as voters date from August 1960, when Federal officials attempted to obtain access to Forrest County voting records. They failed to get an order from District Court Judge William Cox.

In July, 1961, the Justice Department sued to enjoin Lynd from discriminating against Negro applicants. Dilatory tactics were used in the courts and a judgement was not obtained until March 1962. The Federal Government established that: 1. Lynd had NEVER registered a Negro; 2. Prior to January 1961, Negroes were not permitted to apply; 3. After July, 1961, clearly qualified Negroes were rejected.

The Justice Department asked for an injunction against this discrimination but the court refused to act. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Justice Department had made a clear showing, and an injunction barring Lynd from discrimination became effective in April, 1962.

On July 15, 1963, the District Court affirmed the injunction, Registrar Lynd was convicted of contempt and given two weeks to purge himself. The Fifth Circuit found Lynd guilty of civil contempt and gave him 10 days in which to purge himself by: A) registering 43 named Negroes; B) ceasing to give Negroes tests demonstrably more difficult than those required of whites; C) halting the rejection of Negroes for errors and omissions if certain other qualifications were met; D) allowing Federal agents to inspect his records.

Lynd appealed this order and the United States Supreme Court refused to review his conviction (January 6, 1964). None of the specifications of the injunction have been met to date.

The "Freedom Ballot"

In November, 1963, 3,560 Negroes in Hattiesburg voted in a mock gubernatorial election conducted by SNCC and COFO (Council of Federated Organizations) called the "Freedom Ballot".

"ONE MAN, ONE VOTE"

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STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SNCC), 3418 11th St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 387-7445

. . . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRADE SCHOOLERS PICKET WHITE HOUSE FOR FREEDOM

Washington, D.C., Saturday January 18th.

A group of Negro fifth grade students peacefully picketed the White House here today. Lawrence Dunbar Tryman III, ten year old spokesman for the group, explained that the purpose of the picket was "Jobs and Freedom" for colored people, and that the group felt that President Lyndon Johnson should "pass a law" to that effect. The youngsters picketed for about an hour, bearing signs the slogans on which they had selected. One picketer carried a sign saying "Before I'll be a Slave, I'll be buried in my Grave". Another sign, carried by a little girl, said "Down with rats, roaches, and rent-robbers!"

The group explained to newsmen that they had consulted the Washington office of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and asked that office to get an appointment for them to see President Johnson. Master Tryman admitted that the notice was short, but said "It seems to me that although the President is busy with many important things, he has a lot of assistants." He announced the group's intention to continue to try to see the President. Jackie Scott, ten, said "I bet you the President is not too busy to see white folks."

A spokesman for SNCC said that the kids had come into their offices at 3418 11th Street, N.W., to "Talk about freedom" and that the idea for the picket came from them. "All we did, was to help them block out their signs. They even knew freedom songs before they came, exactly what they wanted to tell the President, and what they wanted on their signs.

Before leaving the White House the group sang "We Shall Overcome" and "Ain't Going Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round", two songs which are part of the "Freedom Movement."



107 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
387 - 7445

Students of Washington:

We of the FREE D.C. MOVEMENT heartily congratulate you, the initiators of the Conference of Students for Better Schools.

There is little need for us to delve into the existing atrocities of the school system of the District of Columbia. You concerned students who are actively seeking to remedy the ills of the schools know about the rats at Shaw. You know that there are students who are a part of the recently initiated STAY program who attended classes for one year with no books. You know and you are now engaged in a very vital war against those who are YOUR enemies and the enemies of all conscientious citizens of the District of Columbia.

In many ways, the Conference of Students for Better Schools does not really mark the beginning of student protest. The 18,000 students who dropped out of high school during the past five years began a protest which the District can ignore no longer. But it is YOUR protest which is going to be the important and meaningful one.

What will your protest bring? Who will hear your irate voices and respond?

Today, unfortunately, the answers to those questions will of necessity be inadequate and negative. What can a protest bring if there is no one listening and watching who can respond?

Can a judicially appointed school board possibly know and act on these problems? Possibly they can, but more than probably (as has been evidenced) they cannot. And what can WE do if they cannot see and hear? Can we rise up in angry protest? YES! Can we actively demonstrate against them? YES! UBT -- If the protests and demonstrations fail, can we then take action to remove the deaf school board? The answer is emphatically NO! We have no representative vehicle by which we can do this. And we will not have this vehicle until we have an active voice in our local affairs. As long as we

"One Man, One Vote"

are ruled by the Presidentially appointed Three-Man Monstrosity, we have no voice of protest about our schools or anything else.

The FREE D.C. MOVEMENT is actively seeking to remedy this, our most fatal ILL. We need your help, and the help of all the citizens of the District, and we need it NOW! You are the future leaders of this "Great Society", and it is up to you to make it a truly great one.

The FREE D.C. MOVEMENT, which was launched on February 21, 1966, is engaged in attacking all the enemies and would-be enemies of the 900,000 voiceless residents of the District of Columbia. It is not a movement of a small group of people; it is a movement of ALL the citizens of Washington. It is a movement to get our Constitutionally guaranteed right to Vote NOW.

Eugene Rudder, a student at Coolidge High School who is working very hard with the FREE D.C. MOVEMENT, stated the issue far better than I could ever hope to do. He said:

"Just because one is not eighteen years old, does not mean that he should not be concerned about people being denied the right to vote; or if concerned, not working to achieve this right. Just like cancer cannot be cured in a complicated stage, but is cured in its early stages, the teenager cannot wait until he is 18 or 21, but should fight now for a country where everyone can vote for their own representatives."

We need YOU in our fight for a FREE D.C. Join us NOW!

Yours for a FREE D.C.,

Marion Barry
Marion Barry, Jr.

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Marion Barry, Jr., director of the Washington office of SNCC, tonight accused the Washington Police Department of almost starting a riot on T Street (between Rhode Island Ave., N.W., and 2nd St., N.W.). Mr. Barry and other SNCC workers described the situation this way.

The SNCC office, in conjunction with the people in the neighborhood decided that they would have a block party on T Street between Rhode Island Ave., and 2nd St., on Saturday, July 2, from 6 - 10 p.m. Neighborhood people donated the refreshments, electricity, and other items. Everyone on T Street had agreed to support the block party. Marion Barry had called Commissioner Tebriner's office and had been told that a permit would take three weeks to obtain. Mr. Barry also called the 13th precinct but the officer gave Mr. Barry the run-around, and in fact, would not even tell him who he was. The community decided to hold the party anyway.

The party was going great. The party started about 6 p.m. and continued until about 9:15. During that period there were no disturbances of any kind. At that time, a white sergeant from the 13th precinct tried to stop the record player. Several people told the officer he had no business stopping the music. The sergeant left, and in about ten minutes 12 - 15 motorcycle officers and two dozen other officers came down the street in formation. The cops demanded that the party stop immediately. SNCC and community people explained that the party was orderly and they saw no reason to stop the party. The cops insisted that the party stop and the people said that they would not leave. *The police then grabbed Lester McLean, a SNCC worker, and pushed him toward the crowd.* Several bottles were thrown, but SNCC people rallied the people and marched. *The started protesting the way a policeman drew his gun* the cops acted. During the tense 30 minute period *a gun was drawn and ran into* several police dogs were on the scene. *The crowd.* The police department acted in a way to incite a riot.

U.S. MOVES TO FRAME SNCC

The racist U.S. government has recently moved to accuse Rap Brown, SNCC chairman, Stokley Carmichael, SNCC field sec., along with a host of other concerned Black People, of starting the rebellions (riots?) across the nation.

The racist leaders totally ignor the 400 years of autrocities that we Black People have endured. Four hundred years of rape and murder and free labor. Many of us are tired - sick & tired of being sick and tired, of the senseless hardships that have been placed on us Black People in the richest nation on earth.

Riots are for KIDS who want a new bike or fools who break into liquor stores ... for those who enjoy carnival games ... now you win a bottle of gin----- now you lose your LIFE. RIOTS ARE NOT THE ANSWER.

But we respect a man's right to rebel against injustice & oppression. Rebellion is for self-respect. Rebellion is the determination to destroy oppression by any means necessary.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has taken on the responsibility of awaking the sleeping masses of people in this country, to the many evils that afflict it. It is silly to say that a couple of men can single-handedly stir up Black People across tha nation to rebel, unless they already had it on their minds to begin with. The anti-riot bill's purpose is to stop people frmm telling the nation's masses about what's happening in this sick country---- not from starting riots(?).

The white man knows what starts REBELLIONS. HE KNOWS!!!!

who rebeled against England in 1776 and why?

SNCC
1234 U Street, N W
Washington, DC
387-7445

The following prose poem was written by Watts resident Harry W. Dolan. Harry Dolan is a member of a writer's workshop in Watts conducted by screen writer Budd Schulberg. He read his poem in a filmed session of the workshop screened over nation-wide TV, August 16th as part of the NBC documentary "The Angry Voices of Watts", marking the first anniversary of the Watts rebellion.

"WILL THERE BE ANOTHER RIOT IN WATTS?"

NO, NOT as the riot of last summer, not as spontaneous, frustrated explosive reaction resulting in death indiscriminately. No, this will not happen again, for "the niggers and criminal elements" that fought and died learned their lessons well. They were given well. It is related at night in the quiet of dimly lit garages.

"Man it was close. I mean I was that close to death. Let's face it. Charlie can throw too much power for open warfare. We gotta do like those French were doing when we landed over there ... the underground."

UNDERGROUND has connotations of deliberately planned moves involving the risk of life, the almost ultimate assurance of death.

Private dance parties where no one dances to the continuous playing of the record that reproduces the sound of light laughter and conversation. Church prayer meetings with no one on their knees, where no one looks at the bible, held in reverent hands, but at cold blue steel in hands burning with black fury.

Maps that are covered with pencil marks indicating long-forgotten entrances and rust-covered locks that open silently and iron gates which move on well-oiled hinges, stumbling winos who drink colored water and practice runs past storage tanks that could spray flaming oil miles in all directions, locksmiths who make two keys.

Strangers in ominous garb that walk among us and talk of death as their great reward.

No, there is no shining, wildly bubbling black kettle about to explode, but there is a horrible coldness towards any attempt at compromise. There is open contempt for the peacemakers, and they are warned, you go white, black man, you go first, even before the white man, because you could have told him, you should have made him understand, but you only nodded and smiled and ate the crumbs that he could not hold.

So at this moment it goes on, the white man going on blithely secure in his armies, committing the same, the very same acts, and as he does, those acts are not forgotten or forgiven but are used as powder to load the human guns, and fill the flaming souls until the people are saturated with death and welcome it.

* * * * *

All 400 - 500 officers began firing their pistols and shot guns without warning. Both in the air and at the crowd. It was a terrifying experience. Unarmed people were assaulted by officers armed with tear gas, pistols, machine guns and shotguns.

Never seen anything like it. Little kids, 7 or 8 years old, were hit with tear gas cannisters. Black women were clubbed to the ground. Anyone who was not moving fast enough was immediately arrested and thrown head first in the paddy wagon.

Cops fired tear gas indiscriminately into the homes of Black people who were not even on the streets. Little kids came out gasping for air. Cops went onto Black people's porches to beat and arrest the. During this period several police cars were stoned, and several policemen were injured.

During all of this, the attack was directed by Mayor Ivan Allen. He ordered little kids tear gassed. He ordered white cops to beat and arrest white people.

Now as to SNCC's role:

- 1) SNCC has only one project in Atlanta and that is in an area called Vine City which is on the other side of town from the disorders.
- 2) SNCC has never worked in the neighborhood where the disorders took place.
- 3) It was the shouting of the young Negro by the white cops then subsequent arrests of SNCC people that made people angry.
- 4) The local people themselves made the signs and got their friends together.
- 5) Stokely Carmichael drove through the area only after the disorders began.

STATEMENT BY JAN BAILEY
ON HIS POSITION AGAINST THE DRAFT

I am historically, politically, psychologically, and morally unfit to serve in the armed forces. I have no anticipations nor expectations of saluting flags or officers, wearing uniforms, singing a national anthem or obeying orders from a supposedly superior beast. Frankly speaking, I see no place in Uncle Sam's army for this angry black man. Let me be plain. I will not support in any way such a brutal, oppressive, arrogant, hypocritical, beastly white imperialist and racist country. I am not for imperialism but against it; my allegiance with this country is to build it through change and self-determination for and by black people. We are related by blood, culture, and common experiences of hardship suffered by this racist system. On the international scene there are two groups of people: the haves and the have-nots; the whites and the non-whites. The whites are the haves and the non-whites are the have-nots. The same is true for this country. Blacks have been disillusioned, frustrated, humiliated, alienated and brutalized by white people and this is the issue I speak to. Following the dictates of my black consciousness, I have no other alternative but to refuse to be inducted. I think it foolish to embrace a system that destroys laws, customs, and people of color for capitalistic ends. Therefore it is inconceivable that I go out like a fool and fight my non-white brothers in China, Vietnam, Africa, Latin America and South America for white devils. Your enemies are my friends... I support everything you oppose and oppose everything you support.

At this juncture I would like to make a plea for our brothers in Vietnam to come on home...

AMERICA IS THE BLACK MAN'S BATTLEGROUND

...Our mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers are being shot down like dogs and we earnestly need their protection and their skills. The white man has built tanks that will roll in our communities... The mission of those tanks is to DESTROY BLACK HUMANITY... Those tanks must be stopped and they will be stopped... by any means necessary.

Jan Bailey

Age: 25
Occupation: SNCC Community Organizer
Address: 1234 U Street, N.W.
Phone: 387-7445

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Washington, D.C. 20009

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: Mr. Lester G. McKinnie 202 387 7445

S T A T E M E N T F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

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Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
360 Nelson St., SW
Atlanta, Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHURCH BURNED AFTER ANTI-WAR MEETING

SIDON, MISSISSIPPI, March 28 -- The Newton Chapel in this small farming community was burned down after a Prayer Meeting on Vietnam was held Saturday.

Two white men were seen in the vicinity of the church asking about the rally on the day it was burned, and civil rights workers charge that one is the son of a Klansman. However, two Negroes have been arrested and charged with "destruction of property".

-30-

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
360 Nelson St., SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1000 NEGROES IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA HEAR

JULIAN BOND IN ANNIVERSARY FETE

LOWNDES COUNTY, ALA., March 27 -- Over 1000 Negroes here - most of them sharecroppers and tenant farmers - heard Representative-elect Julian Bond urge a renewal of "peoples' politics" at a rally celebrating the first anniversary of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (the so-called Black Panther Party).

The Legislator who was expelled from the Georgia Legislature after making criticisms about the government's policy in Vietnam told the group: "I've learned something about politics. There's politicians' politics and peoples' politics. For 400 years we've had politicians' politics, but then a new kind of politics is developing here in Lowndes County."

The "Black Panther Party", so-called because of its symbol of a black panther, will run independent candidates for a variety of county offices. Other such parties are being formed in several Alabama Black Belt counties.

Also at the meeting was Mrs. Rosa Parks, whose arrest on a Montgomery bus sparked the 1956 bus boycott in Montgomery.

Lowndes County had no Negro voters a year ago, despite the fact the Negroes are 82% of the population. However, since the civil rights bill of 1965, over 3000 Negroes have been put on the rolls.

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
360 Nelson St., SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NINE SNCC WORKERS ARRESTED AT S. AFRICAN CONSULATE

NEW YORK, March 26 -- Nine SNCC workers were arrested at the South African mission here today and charged with resisting arrest and trespassing. The arrests came after several days of protest at the mission, following the arrest of James Forman, Bill Hall, Willie Ricks, Cleveland Sellers, and John Lewis, May 20th, the sixth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre.

The latest incident occurred when nine SNCC workers were waiting inside the mission to speak to the Ambassador, and then found themselves under arrest.

Bill Hall, leader of the group, said: "It appears that the South African government will not meet with or listen to black citizens of any nation... We intend to accelerate our protest against apartheid and against that government right to rule in South Africa."

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
360 Nelson St., SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STUDENTS MARCH IN CORDELE PROTESTING POOR SCHOOL CONDITIONS

CORDELE, GEORGIA, March 28 -- About 500 students demonstrated today at the Cordele Board of Education against poor school conditions.

The students charged that there was no laboratory equipment at Clark Training School, and that at Southview Jr. High School windows were broken, there were no bathrooms, no playgrounds, no laboratories or materials, and poor ventilation; and that barbed wire ran around the school.

The group first marched to the Board of Education this morning and insisted on seeing Superintendent Moultrie. He was not available. They dispersed at noon and re-grouped later in the afternoon for a second march.

The students, associated with the Crisp County Movement, organized a boycott which is estimated to be 40% effective.

SNCC NEWS SERVICE
 STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
 360 Nelson Street SW
 Atlanta, Georgia 30313
 688-0331

PURPOSE OF THE ATLANTA PROJECT

There is a war being fought in the back alleys of Atlanta. Landlords are locking tenants out of buildings and in one case they have demolished a building to discourage those who dare talk about better housing conditions. Tenants huddle around fires in front of buildings from which they've been evicted, break locks on their houses and hold rallies in the street to collect money for friends arrested by police at the scene of an eviction.

Atlanta is about to explode. Tempers of Atlanta Negro citizens are pitched high as a war between tenants and landlords and marshals accelerates.

Atlanta landlords have the same relation to their tenants as industrial bosses had to their workers before unions, Taft-Hartly and child labor laws. There is the same potential for organizing in such slum areas as Vine City, as there was in the sweat shops of the 1930's. Taking advantage of this fact, SNCC has started a Vine City Project.

The Vine City SNCC project represents an intensifying by SNCC of its involvement in the major urban centers in the South and especially in the city of Atlanta.

A SNCC statement says, "The compromising and politically expedient actions of the seven other Negro assemblymen in the Julian Bond affair suggests that unless SNCC steps up its political activity in Atlanta, the benefits of years of struggle may well fall to the politically ambitious and the ward political hack."

SNCC states further that "the controversy surrounding Julian Bond, his strong stand based on moral conviction, opens the possibility of developing an alternative political model to the conventional politician." The young politicians say, "Julian Bond suggests the symbol of humanitarian politics, a politics based on principle, a politics identified with and grounded in the hopes and needs of the very poor."

It was around the denial of representative-elect Julian Bond his seat in the state legislature that the Atlanta movement started. The main headquarters is at 142 Vine Street, on the fringe of Julian Bond's 136th District. It may have failed thus far to gain the Vine Street people representation in the legislature, but it has given the people a voice--the voice of protest and rebellion.

The purpose of the Atlanta program, then, is more than one of voter registration--the majority of Atlanta Negroes are already registered. It is a program of political organization and education.

As SNCC worker Bill Ware says, "The project has already selected a number of assembly districts and municipal wards in which it will concentrate its efforts. Through house to house canvassing, block organization, small political education workshops and the establishment of a new community newspaper (and perhaps eventually, even a small community radio station, citizen band,) the Atlanta staff will attempt to raise the issues of segregated and slum housing, inadequate medical care, overcrowded and inadequate education, low wages, job discrimination, punitive welfare relief, and even the war in Vietnam.

Although the project supports action programs--picketing, sit-ins, rent strikes, and boycotts--by community people, the primary emphasis is political and the immediate objective will be to work for the emergence of a series of political candidates of Julian Bond caliber and integrity in the many important state and county elections this fall.

The project hopes to operate with a budget of \$33,520 a year.

Organizer Bill Ware said this fall the project will be concerned with 4 or 5 districts where the Negro vote is important. For example, Mrs. Doris Reed of the 137th District will run against Grace Hamilton if she is given the proper support. Ware says, "Mrs. Hamilton is a white woman although her skin is black. She often votes with the whites. She says she is having a good time working with a legislature that is robbing the Atlanta populace of decent intelligent representation. She ignored an invitation of the Vine City Council to a housing meeting."

An interesting adjunct of the Vine City project is the Bureau of African Affairs. Organized by John Clark, the Bureau hopes to stimulate exchange of knowledge and personnel between Africa and the Atlanta movement. John hopes to establish a research department to provide up-to-date films on African affairs.

WHERE THE VINE CITY PROJECT IS LOCATED AND WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

The Vine City Atlanta project is run from a two room shotgun house at 142 Vine Street. It is maned by Heligard Berland, Bill Ware, Donald Stone and Gwen Robinson. Forty-two volunteers from Spellman wind their way down the unpaved streets of Vine City during the week to help organize the ghetto of ramshackled, rambling overcrowded wooden houses.

As in most SNCC projects, little kids find the office a haven. They run in and out all day grabbing bumper stickers, flyers and the "Nitty Gritty", the movement newspaper, and seeing who can get rid of them fastest.

Also typical of SNCC offices, there is a problem with the landlord. Brewer-head Realty Company sent the Vine City office an unusual notice February 28th, the day before the rent was due, which read: "A warrant will be issued if rent isn't paid in time."

The 28th was an average day in the Vine City office. Three young ladies sat in their coats with their backs against a wall decorated with precinct maps. They squirmed and giggled--uncomfortable to be speaking with other Negroes about matters they thought only white folks discussed. They must have thought themselves part of an amusing play as they spoke to Bill Ware about politics. Wasn't it absurd for them to consider themselves seriously? SNCC workers Bill Ware, Frank Hollaway, Robert Moore and Donald Stone thought not.

Stone, a man of philosophical temperament, who spouts complete quotes from great works of literature at propitious moments, asked the young women their names. They replied, shyly, in turn, Jesse May, Elaine, and Pearlina.

Half to himself, Stone said, "Those girls are beautiful and don't even know it. Frank handed the girls ten copies of the "Nitty Gritty" newspaper. The girls opened it and Pearlina pointed to a picture inside, "There's Martha's house." The picture was of pickets in front of the run down houses on Markham Street.

"We are trying to organize to get all the things other people have," Bill explained. "Because we are running people for office we need help to get people registered. We have to knock on doors and talk to people. We need people to drive voters to the poles. In order to get the word out about our organization we have a newspaper to hand out. We also need help in fund-raising activities. We can't get money from the North for what we want to do and we want to get it from our own people."

"We've been listening to the white man too long," Bill continued speaking while fingering his beard pacing in front of the girls. "We must listen to one another. If we don't take ourselves seriously, nothing's going to change. Neither God nor President Johnson will change things."

"No one's going to free us unless we get on the move. Today people in the Markham Street area picketed the largest slum lord in the city."

"One thing I don't like is preaching--even when I'm the preacher. In church, class and on radio and TV everyone preaches to you. But no one has respect for enough to listen to you!" The girls were looking Bill in the eye for the first time. They were serious and Elaine's dark eyes were on fire with a deep hurt and yearning.

"We want to listen to you," Bill said. "We want people to work together and to talk to one another about problems. The newspaper should be looked upon as our newspaper."

Pearline was the most talkative. "Some of us girls could get together and give a party," she said. "The boys at the party could give money to the Atlanta project." Her hands moved gracefully, fingers fanning out when they wanted to emphasize a complicated and fingers snapping closed at the end of a sentence.

Bill kept talking. He spoke a lot about organizing technique--too much for a confident organizer. But then maybe that is part of the undefinable SNCC manner.

Bob Moore, a serious looking fellow, seemed to enjoy the conversation. Primarily concerned with research, Bob is studying poverty programs, education, housing, welfare and hospitals.

HISTORY OF PROJECT

Although the Atlanta project started as a response to the attack of Julian Bond by the state legislature and the Atlanta newspapers, it has grown to become a force with its own momentum. It is now moving on the relatively safe grounds of issues relevant to the Negro community. Within the Negro community SNCC will have some control of where and when to fight and what issues will be fought. The enemies of Julian Bond will find it hard to unleash their libelous attacks as he retreats from blows of his white critics to the Negro community, picking his own time to fight; retreating but fighting back. It will be in the crowded teaming alleys of Vine City that ideas and programs will painfully be created and grow to become black power. That's where Julian Bond will find his power to attack the Atlanta power structure.

The first community program of the Vine City movement was an attempt to help families early in February who were suffering from the cold. Hot suppers and housing was provided for people without adequately heated homes. Al Uimer, Vine City Council worker said, "We've seen 50 houses today with inadequate heating."

Out of 6,349 housing units in the 136th District, only 710 have steam heat and 208 have warm air furnaces, 678 have built-in room heaters, while most use smoky expensive and dangerous wood and coal heaters. Of those using wood stoves and fire places to keep warm, 1,627 have flues and 3,289 have no flues. 16 dwellings have no heating unit at all to guard against the rugged Atlanta winters.

Julian Bond sent a telegram to Mayor Ivan Allen which read: "Word has reached me of the suffering which many of the people in my district are facing because of the current cold wave. I believe this condition is the result of the city's failure in its responsibility to ensure that every resident of Atlanta has adequate and comfortable housing. There is no justification for houses without heat. I regret that I am presently snowbound in Washington, D. C.

However, I call upon you to mobilize all the resources of the city to provide adequate heat and blankets, emergency food and medical care to those people who are undergoing serious hardship because of the cold. Furthermore, I urge you to initiate immediate prosecution of those landlords whose houses do not meet the standards of the city's housing code."

Mayor Ivan Allen replied to the plea of Bond and other concerned citizens by saying he had communicated with the Department of Public Welfare of Fulton County, the American Red Cross, the Atlanta Housing Authority, the Building Inspector's Office of the City of Atlanta Inc., and that all of these organizations were operating on emergency basis to meet the crisis.

Bond said in a telegram sent January 31, "One of my aids has communicated with both the Red Cross and the Public Welfare Department only to learn that these organs are totally unequipped to respond to the needs of the people..."

Shortly after the exchange between Bond and Allen a man froze to death in his apartment.

The landlords reaction to the drive was quick. On the 31st Hector Black of the Vine City Council was arrested while attempting to bring blankets to people living in the Markham Hotel, a property of Joseph Shaeffer. At his trial, a month later, Mr. Black was lucky to be acquitted.

On February 4th, Julian Bond called a press conference in the front of the Markham Hotel. He said, "I stand here today in front of a hotel that has not been condemned by the city for violations of the city code. Within it are many conditions representative of poor housing in Atlanta and throughout the United States.

"Markham Street is symbolic of many streets in the black ghetto of this Nation where there exist slum houses from which greedy landlords make huge profit."

Bond called for a Freedom Village to be built in the 136th Assembly District before anyone is relocated. He said slum lords should be forced to comply with the housing code within the next six months. He asked that the local government declare Vine City a disaster area and that local, state, and federal governments take necessary steps to alleviate the housing problem in Vine City.

When rent strikes spontaneously started in Vine City, Attorney Howard Moore came to the defense of the strikers. His first cases have been fought in Judge Osgood Williams' civil court around the issue of the right of the poor to have a day in court.

The problem was that when tenants appealed landlords' eviction notices, the case might not be heard until after the eviction. The Georgia Code states "The tenant may arrest the proceedings and prevent the removal of himself and his goods from the land by declaring on oath that his lease of term of rent has not expired; and that he is not holding possession of the premises over and beyond his term or that the rent claimed is not due or that he does not hold the premises... provided, such tenant shall at the same time tender a bond with good security, payable to the landlord, for the payment of such sum, with costs, as may be recovered against him on the trial of his case." (61-303) The bond, unfortunately has been set in such cases at the equivalence of a years rent. The case was eventually lost and several tenants are now living outside their houses, huddled around a fire.

On the morning of the 9th of February, three SNCC workers were arrested as they tried to prevent the eviction of a Negro family at 444 Markham street.

Julius (Mendy) Samstein, Ruffin Harris, and Bill Ware were charged with "interfering with due process of law" and taken to the Fulton County jail. Their bail was set at \$1,000. An eviction crew had torn the lock off the back door of Mr. Teague's house although Mr. Teague had received no notice of eviction. The eviction was temporarily stopped. A woman who lives next door to the Teagues said she heard the marshals say they were going to tear the house down. The following week the house was demolished. Mr. Teague was at work February 14th, when the demolition crew started. He hurried home from work to keep his furniture from being destroyed. He received no notice that the house would be demolished.

Julian Bond immediately wired Mayor Allen. "Mr. John Teague was illegally evicted from 444 Markham Street today. This action must be stopped..." James Forman, SNCC executive secretary said, "We may have to go and live with the Mayor."

Mr. Teague said, "Somebody must take the blame for violating the privacy of my house, especially when I have paid rent on time. Right now, all my household goods are in the streets for the second time this week. Who is to take the blame? The City, the landlord, the realtor or the police department...?"

Lt. John Rhimer ordered SNCC people not to interfere with removal of the furniture.

A crowd quickly formed and Bill Ware addressed a crowd of 50 people. "There must be unity among black people," He said. "The only way we can stop evictions is for the people to come together." Local Markham Street leader, Willie Williams also spoke to the group telling of court action to be taken by Attorney Moore and of future organizing efforts. The angry crowd grumbled in agreement. Williams said, "If the people didn't act now they never would." Williams quit work with Shaffer for whom he did repair jobs when Shaeffer had Black arrested in the Markham Street Hotel.

James Forman spoke to the crowd and declared a war on slums in Atlanta. He charged Atlanta public housing discriminates and noted that in the phone book there are separate listings for Negro rental agents and white agents.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ventured into the Vine City slum area and said he "found living conditions there the worst he had even seen." The president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference accompanied by his wife, Coretta, took a walking tour of Markham Street, not too far from his modest home in Vine City and said, "This is appalling. I had no idea people were living in Atlanta in such conditions. This is a shame on the community." (From Jet, February)

Saturday--

Saturday, March 5, as the sun rose from the red Georgia soil east of the city, the wheels of Justice were turning, grinding, and slipping. At 8:30, Mr. Willie Williams, and SNCC worker Dwight Williams were arrested outside Mr. Williams home where officers were carelessly throwing his furniture in the street. Dwight was trying to take pictures and Williams had merely asked that his furniture be treated with respect. He was being evicted after losing his rent strike case in court. He had asked to be tried before he was evicted. His actual case won't be heard for weeks. Meanwhile he's in the street and may have to live in a tent.

AN INDICATOR OF THE PROBLEM

The crucial issue in Vine City is housing. Vine City covers two census tracts in the northern third of the 136th district. Most of the weather worn structures in the dark muddy lands of Vine City were built before 1939.

Everytime SNCC executive committee member Cleve Sellers passes through the area he cynically says, "They keep this section of the big city so Negroes won't forget where they came from and where they can be sent back to."

Most of the houses are raised on cinder blocks to prevent flooding of the first floor. Little gardens in front yards crowded with religious figurines offer the only relief to the drab scene.

There are 800 Negroes and no whites living in owner occupied dwellings. 2,709 blacks and 3 whites live in rented occupied dwellings and are potential victims for unprincipled owners. Because the median family income in the area is \$2,754, heads of families desperately search for low income housing. Too often there must be a choice between eating and paying the rent.

An Atlanta project report reads, "There are pockets of dilapidated rodent infested, unheated dwellings scattered throughout the predominate Negro areas of the city. Here live people who are sapped upon by parasitic slumlords, lying peddlers, cheating insurance men and election day only politicians.

"A prime example of this is a slum area in the Southwest part of the city... Here one slumlord runs a plantation-like system where he is employer, landlord, grocer, judge, and jury over the people who live in his house.

"He is seen in the area from five in the morning until well past midnight cruising around in his big green Cadillac terrorizing his serfs... He cashes their (tenants) welfare checks, controls their credit, makes them work off debts, demands where and what they should buy"... Its a story from Dickens that's unbelievable in today's world of cellophane wrapped happiness.

Few in Atlanta expect to receive a stove or ice box with their apartment. If you pay enough, you may receive heat. 1,844 households have sound plumbing. The 1960 census also reports that 50 of the households with sound plumbing lack hot water and 138 of the Vine City households lack other plumbing articles. 927 households have deteriorating plumbing and 439 contain dilapidated plumbing. While 2,306 units have one or more bathrooms, 1,668 have shared baths or none.

SNCC leaders say, "No longer will the captives of these Center City Plantations tolerate the oppression and squalor of the dismal quarters in which they have been entombed. They are past the point of questioning their so-called leaders. They are attempting to break the chains of the exploitative cycle."

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FRAUD CHARGED IN ALABAMA ASCS ELECTIONS

SNCC intends to file charges of fraud in connection with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) elections which took place on November 15th. (County ASC Boards decide how much land a farmer may put into cotton or other staple crop).

The greatest evidence of fraud occurred in Wilcox County (where Negroes are 78% of the population). Here, in three communities, ballots show that the 120 voters voted only for the same three white men out of five white and two Negro nominees. Since many Negroes active in the Movement in Wilcox are known to have voted in the election, it is clear that irregularities did occur. A total of ten Negroes were elected to community boards in the other two communities; four delegates to the county convention and six alternates.

In Lowndes County, a total of three Negro delegates and eight alternates were elected, while fifteen white delegates and a score of white alternates were elected (therefore, Negroes, who represent 82% of the population in that county, won only 20% of the positions for ASCS county convention delegates).

In Greene County (which is 82% Negro) returns weren't in as of this writing, however workers in that county feel that the general ASCS election pattern will follow there, too. During the counting of ballots in that county, only one person was originally allowed to watch the procedure: SNCC staffer, John Liutkas, tried to lodge a complaint about the situation with federal representatives Ray Fitzgerald, Deputy Administrator of State and County Affairs; and Victor Phillips, ASCS Civil Rights Assistant, but was told by their secretaries that it would be impossible to reach either of them. Finally, in desperation, John called D.L. Collins, state director of ASCS and eventually the county committee allowed four Negro farmers to witness the counting. The county chairman tried to block John's entrance at the door but was pressured into allowing him in. All Negro witnesses were made to sit against the wall apart from the counting and were therefore unable to see the actual proceedings.

The atmosphere in all three counties was generally tense and hostile. The county committees quite clearly did not appreciate the presence of local Negro observers; however, the person most hostile in each of the counties was the state ASCS representative. The representative in Wilcox county told the county committeemen, in the presence of a SNCC worker, that he had been sent down to give the committee moral support, making it clear that complaints of irregularities in the election would not be acted upon by him.

The Alabama Movement is working on County-by-County organizing of an independent political party, similar to the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, but independent of any affiliations with traditional political parties. Alabama state law provides that an organization of qualified electors will be declared a legal political party within a county if the candidate nominated by that organization gets 20% of the vote in a general election within that county. This means that Alabama Negroes can organize county by county and receive the legal recognition that was never given the MFDP. SNCC workers have already begun intensive organizing campaigns in four Alabama counties: Lowndes, Greene, Wilcox and Hale.

Alabama SNCC workers will concentrate in 16 to 22 counties in the state to organize people on a county-by-county basis in an independent political movement; Freedom Schools and adult classes will be conducted to provide for political education for Negroes newly registered under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM LABOR UNION

The Marshall County MFLU was organized in September of 1965. They have approximately 300 signed members and 75 paid members. The union began when several school bus drivers decided to do something about raising their present wages of \$75.00 a month to a minimum wage of \$1.35 an hour. The following is part of a report from the Marshall County MFLU:

"At our first meeting we had three speakers from the West Tennessee Freedom Labor Union, who helped us get started. Officers were elected and membership cards printed up. The people decided to pay a membership fee of \$1.50 and a monthly dues of 50¢ in order to build a treasury.

"Around the end of October, 1965, a strike was planned with the school bus drivers who refused to sign their yearly contracts, agreeing to work for \$75.00 per month. In retaliation, the school principal held up their pay checks for work done the previous month. A lawyer was contacted for legal advice. Some of the drivers held out for a week--with no money--and simply refused to sign their contracts. The county school superintendent threatened to fire the drivers; however, he quickly reneged when our lawyer informed him that he would be taken to court as soon as any of our drivers were fired. The end result was that the drivers did sign the contracts, waiving no rights.

"Concentrated efforts are now being made to strengthen union membership and support. We hope to stage a major strike with the maids before Christmas.

"We need subsistence for several individual families who are involved not only with organizing the union but with other civil rights programs, to such an extent that they're unable to get a job or even welfare assistance. These people are in dire need of support, and the importance of finding them subsistence cannot be overemphasized.

"If you have any specific questions about the union, write to us and we will try to answer them.

Freedom,
Holly Springs Project
200 Rust Avenue
Holly Springs, Miss.

SCHOOL DESEGREGATION

After a series of incidents of violence and harassment apparently aimed at Negro parents who recently sent their children to two previously all-white schools, MFLU Chairman Guyot sent a telegram to several government figures, asking for an investigation by the Departments of Justice and HEW "of events following school integration in Issaquena and Sharkey Counties."

The telegram points out that since August 8, when Negro children were registered for the first time at previously all-white Fielding-Wright School in Rolling Fork and the Anguilla Consolidated School in Anguilla, there have been numerous incidents of harassment and violence. For example, since August 8, ten families, FDP members whose children were registered at the two schools, were evicted from their homes on white-owned plantations. The wife of an FDP member in Rolling Fork reported that her husband and several other parents whose children had attended the formerly all-white schools were fired from their jobs shortly thereafter. Also, since August 8, there have been three Klan rallies and at least twenty crosses burned in the two counties.

The MFLU is also asking for an investigation of the report that the Issaquena-Sharkey Joint School Board broke an agreement with a Greenville School District Board for the purpose of reducing the number of Negro students who wanted to enroll at the Rolling Fork School.



ARE YOU POOR ? ARE YOU OUT of a JOB ?

The federal government promised FOOD and JOBS to POOR PEOPLE in Mississippi through Operation HELP.

That is not a good program anyway because it is only for 6 months. We have to eat every day.

So 700 people met at Mt. Beulah Center at Edwards, Mississippi, from Thursday until Sunday (January 27-30).

We decided we will DEMAND food because we need to eat. No government or person has the right to keep food away from Hungry People.

Some of us went to Greenville Air Force Base on Monday morning to:

1. Demand Operation HELP be stopped and demand good food NOW. We poor people will give it out to those who need it.
2. Demand money so we can buy what we need.
3. Demand jobs so we can build good lives for ourselves.
4. Demand that the Air Force base and other federal land be places where poor people can get trained for good jobs.
5. Demand that people who get thrown out of their houses be able to live at the Air Force base and other federal land so they will not have to leave Mississippi.

POOR PEOPLE will go to the Air Base EVERY DAY until we get what we need to live and work.

POOR PEOPLE : COME to the Delta Ministry office at 721 Nelson Street, Greenville, Mississippi, as soon as you can. (335-1213) Organize demonstrations in your area to get many Poor People to say how they feel. Bring Warm Clothes and Blankets to Greenville.

LET'S STAND UP AND GET
OUR FOOD, JOBS, MONEY NOW

STATEMENT ON GEORGIA ATTACK ON SNCC

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee reserves its First Amendment right to dissent from United States foreign policy on any issue--the government's racial policy or its war policy. Since SNCC issued a statement condemning the illegal involvement of the U. S. in Vietnam segments of the press and Georgia leaders have distorted SNCC's viewpoint in an attempt to destroy the organization. In an attack unprecedented in either its size or viciousness, Georgia Governor Sanders, Lt. Gov. Geer, State Rep. Jones W. Lane, U. S. Congressmen Charles Weltner and Bo Calloway and others are using SNCC's dissent from U. S. war policies to eliminate an organization that has long fought to make Georgia conform with the U.S. Constitution.

The war saps energy and funds that could be used to build democratic forms within this country. We believe that work in the civil rights movement and with other human relations organizations is a valid alternative to the draft. Civil rights workers, who are working in the national interest should be exempt from military service. If workers at the Peace Corps, the Space Center and Vista are exempt because they work in the national interest, so should civil rights workers be exempt.

We believe if the nation knows SNCC's position and the reason for that position, we will receive a large amount of support.

STATEMENT OF SNCC SUPPORTING JULIAN BOND

The thrust of Georgia's attack of SNCC has been an attack on SNCC member and Georgia House member, Julian Bond. In an attack unprecedented in either its size or its viciousness, Georgia Governor Sanders, Lt. Gov. Geer, State Rep. Jones W. Lane, U. S. Congressmen Charles Weltner and Bo Calloway and others are moving to stop Julian Bond from taking his lawfully elected seat in the legislature. This is part of a campaign to eliminate a member of an organization that has long fought to make Georgia conform with the U. S. Constitution. SNCC calls for all supporters of constitutional rights to call or telegram Gov. Sanders and express support of Julian Bond's right to dissent and rights to sit in the legislature. No doubt, Julian Bond will say many things in years to come that will displease Georgia politicians. His election, which was the only issue oriented election in the state and which proved him to be the most popular candidate in the state, no doubt displeased many. But Julian Bond's right to dissent must be honored. The question is, will Julian Bond, who two years ago was denied a seat in the segregated gallery of the House, now be denied a seat on the floor of the House?

The first issue will also contain: The first part of a two part article, *Profile of Vietnamese History*, by John McDermott, an analysis of the fall of the Quat government, by Martin Nicolaus; a report on opinions in the French press; books reviewed by Staughton Lynd; Communications.

We think you will agree that VIET-REPORT can play a major role in providing the information necessary to intelligent discussion, debate, or protest action concerning American foreign policy. It can be a useful supplement to meetings of church groups or community organizations concerned with Vietnam.

We ask you to **subscribe**, to **contribute** to our publication fund, and to contact us if you are able to **distribute** VIET-REPORT in your area.

THE EDITORS

"I think your project [VIET-REPORT] is extremely worthwhile since one of the great deficiencies in our present situation is the lack of factual knowledge, or rather the creation of pseudo-facts which cannot be systematically checked against the real ones."—Hans Morgenthau

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Dear Friend,

As the war in Vietnam escalates, as more and more lives are lost, as American involvement deepens, the need for objective, comprehensive reporting and analysis becomes ever more urgent: the American people must be able to arrive at a reasoned judgment of our government's policies.

VIET-REPORT, an independent monthly news bulletin, will meet this challenge.

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Facts and figures showing, for the first time, that the Vietnamese war is as big and costly—especially for civilians—as was the Korean War. By the respected author of *The Two Viet-Nams*.

Inside Vietcong Territory, by GEORGES CHAFFARD

A series of four articles originally published in the French weekly *L'Express*, April-May 1965, giving an account of travels among the Vietcong and interviews with their leaders.

Under Diem: Two Views

by STANLEY MILLET and THAI NAM VAN

A first-hand profile of Vietnamese-American diplomatic life and a personal account of imprisonment and torture in Diem's prisons.

The complete text of the *Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Indochina, 1954*

(over)

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET, NW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA, 30314

7
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 1965

THREE INDICTED FOR BEATING SNCC WORKER

OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI - The first three persons arrested under the 1964 Civil Rights Act were indicted January 7 in the beating of a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) staff member.

The three - white, Greenwood, Mississippi plumbers - were charged with threatening and beating SNCC worker Silas McGhee, 21, on July 16 because he entered a white Greenwood movie theatre.

The indictment charged the three men "did unlawfully injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate Silas McGhee by striking and beating him because of his having exercised his rights and privileges."

All three are free on \$11,000 bonds.

McGhee told a preliminary hearing for the three he was forced into their car at gun-point and driven to an auto repair shop where he was beaten with a board and an iron pipe.

A month after the beating, McGhee was shot in the forehead by a sniper as he sat in his car in front of a Negro cafe in Greenwood.

Maximum penalty for the three - if they are convicted - would be ten years in jail or a \$5,000 fine or both.

-30-

CHARGES DROPPED IN TORSO SLAYING, CIVIL RIGHTS BEATING

MEADVILLE, MISSISSIPPI - A District Attorney here has dropped charges against two white men in the torso slaying of two Negro college students and in Natchez charges were dropped against four other whites in the 1963 beating of two civil rights workers.

Charges were dropped here January 11 against Charles Edwards, 31, described by the FBI as "an admitted Klansman" and James Seale, 29, both of Meadville. They were charged with the murder of Charles Moore and Henry Dee, whose headless half-bodies were found in the Mississippi River last July.

An attorney for the two men said "these boys have been treated pretty badly."

In Natchez, charges were dismissed January 5 against four white men charged with the October, 1963 beating of George Greene, 21, and Bruce Payne, 22. Greene, a Negro, is a field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Payne who is white, is a student at Yale University. The four men had been charged with "assault and battery with intent to kill." A fifth man implicated in the beating had been released after a preliminary hearing some weeks ago.

-30-

January 15, 1965

SNCC ASKS MCNAMARA TO INVESTIGATE
GOV. WALLACE'S AIR BASE SPEECH

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has been asked to investigate the commander of an Alabama Air Force base where Alabama Governor George Wallace is scheduled to appear February 2.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) asked McNamara to investigate Colonel Richard Ault, Commander of Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Alabama, scene of a two-year SNCC voter registration drive.

SNCC Chairman John Lewis asked McNamara in a letter "what sort of leadership is Colonel Ault showing to Negro and white troops when he moves ahead to bring segregation back on the base."

Lewis said Wallace, who last appeared in Selma before the local White Citizens Council, was "a man who advocates defiance of the federal judiciary, the President and the United States Constitution."

SNCC has twice before requested action from McNamara and Colonel Ault concerning the base's policies toward segregation in Selma.

Most recently, SNCC Alabama Project Director John Love asked McNamara in December, 1964 to place segregated establishments in Selma "off limits" to Craig personnel after Negro airmen testified in federal court they were denied service in Selma restaurants and movie theatres.

Lewis, who will be in Selma for a January 18 mass registration attempt by local Negroes, quoted a June 21, 1963 directive from President Kennedy directing McNamara to instruct base commanders to "take leadership in the drive to desegregate off-base facilities."

Governor Wallace's February 2 appearance at the Craig Air Force Base Officer's Club is sponsored by the Selma and Dallas County Chamber of Commerce. Leon Jones, newly elected Treasurer of the Chamber, was Chairman of the Dallas County White Citizens Council, Lewis said. Selma was the Alabama birthplace of the racist Citizens Councils. The Dallas County Citizens Council is the largest in the state.

Lewis said the racial situation in Selma "had worsened" since the two SNCC appeals to McNamara for "positive action against segregation in Selma."

Wallace's appearance January 7 before the Tennessee School Board Association also drew fire from civil rights leaders in that state.

Accompanying Wallace to the February 2 meeting at Craig Air Force Base will be Cecil Jackson, Jr., the governor's legal adviser, who was his strategist for his "school house door" stand in Tuscaloosa.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET NW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314
(404) 688-0331

SNCC PUBLISHES
ARKANSAS REPORT

ATLANTA, GA. - Negroes in Arkansas receive only enough education to make them barely literate, have family incomes far below the U. S. Government's adequate level standard and are leaving the state at a high rate, states a special report published by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. (SNCC)

The report, a statistical survey called "The General Condition of the Arkansas Negro", covers population, death rates, population characteristics, employment, income, education and voter registration of whites and Negroes in the State.

The report shows that the median income for Negro families in the state is \$1,636, whereas the U. S. government's standard for adequate family income is \$3,000.

The population of Arkansas has decreased 6.5% between 1950 and 1960 and 35% of the Negroes in the age range 20-44 have left during this period.

"Arkansas is a society of the very young and very old; those too young to migrate and those too old," states the survey.

The report is made up of twenty-six pages of comparative statistics, charts and graphs, accompanied by explanations and interpretive material.

This is the third report of this kind published by the SNCC research department. The two earlier publications are "The General Condition of the Mississippi Negro" and "The General Condition of the Alabama Negro."

The report is designed to serve as a reference source for SNCC staff, as a counterpart for the earlier publications, to indicate guidelines for future, more detailed studies, and to show how a large number of American citizens live in Arkansas.

Reports are available from SNCC: 360 Nelson Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30313.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET NW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314
688-0331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNCC SAYS DON'T
BUY HAMMERMILL

ERIE, PENNA. - Over 20 people picketed the main plant of the Hammermill Paper Co. here protesting the company's plan to build a 35 million dollar plant near racially torn Selma, Ala.

At the same time over a hundred protesters picketed Hammermill plants and offices in four other cities in the North in demonstrations called by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

The marchers asked the paper and envelope company to change its plan to build in Alabama.

SNCC Chairman Wohn Lewis called the Hammermill move "a direct support to the racist policies of the state and its peoples."

Lewis called for "all freedom lovers not to buy Hammermill products and to send letters to Hammermill's president protesting the move to Alabama and stating their intention not to buy Hammermill products." The SNCC leader added, "It is most important to encourage your local stationary stores, college, union, school board, and city not to buy Hammermill products."

In Springfield, Mass. over thirty people picketed the Strathmore Paper and the Old Colony Envelope plants of Hammermill.

In Hamilton, Ohio, 15 students picketed the Beckett Co. a Hammermill subsidiary.

Picketers demonstrated in front of Hammermill offices in New York City and Philadelphia.

Donald S. Leslie, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hammermill said his company decided to locate in Selma because of the "character of community and people."

Rev. Robert Spike of the National Council of Churches called the statement "either the height of naivete or the depth of racism."

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET NW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314
688-0331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARKANSAS SCENE OF
SNCC SUMMER PROJECT

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. - A summer project with over 50 volunteers has been set for the state by the Arkansas Project of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

The project will concentrate on voter registration and community organization. Freedom Schools and Community Centers are also planned.

"The summer volunteers will allow the Arkansas Project to expand into the 31 counties in the state's delta area," State Project Director James Jones explained. "We will concentrate volunteers in the 13 counties we are already working. This will allow our experienced staff to move into the rest of the rural hard core areas," he stated.

The project will center its activities around Freedom Centers in four cities- Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Helena and Forrest City. "The centers will be a combination community center and freedom school," said Nancy Stoller coordinator for the Freedom Center Program.

Registration will be facilitated by new procedures which makes age and residency the only requirements. The constitutional amendment also outlaws the poll tax, sets up permanent registration (people had to re-register every year), makes the county clerk the registrar instead of the sheriff, and provides for safeguards against election fraud which has rampant in the past.

SNCC director Jones stated that interested persons should contact him at: Arkansas SNCC, 700 West Ninth Street, Little Rock, Ark.

Now, according to the lawyers, they are allowed to stand.

Negro women are being held in one compound; both Negro and white men are being placed in another. White women are at the City Jail, and at least sixteen of them have been on a hunger strike since Monday.

About 100 persons were arrested today as they demonstrated before places such as the New Capitol, The Old Capitol, the Governor's Mansion, and the Robert E. Lee Hotel, where some of the sessions of the legislature are being held. This brings the total arrests in Jackson to 890.

Concerned about the horrible conditions in the compounds, the brutality committed against the jailed demonstrators, MFDP spokesmen have said there is a "desperate" need for money to bail out the ill, the aged, minors, those who have children, and those who have been beaten.

The MFDP has also repeated its appeal to "all concerned persons across the nation to join the demonstrations in Jackson to protest not only the convening of the Legislature, but also police brutality."

-30-

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET NW
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(404) 688-0331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNCC WORKERS MOVE TO
~~THE~~ BAMA COUNTIES

SELMA, ALA. - The civil rights glamor and publicity, the actors and the reporters are gone from Selma, but the day-to-day, door-to-door work continues.

Even while the historic Selma to Montgomery March was in progress civil rights workers here spread their organizational efforts to the nine counties surrounding Dallas County.

Workers for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) moved into the hard core areas where the percentage of Negroes is high as is the terror and intimidation.

"It seems that the number of Negroes has a direct effect on the amount of violence," one rights worker explained.

SNCC workers have set up offices in the towns of York, Marion, Hayneville, Greenboro and Montgomery. In Lowndes County workers aided local people in setting up the Lowndes County Improvement Association. In Hayneville, its county seat, 40 people attempted to register at the courthouse.

In Hale County, SNCC worker Anne Pearl Avery brought members of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to talk to local Negroes.

Workers have moved into Perry, Wilcox, Lowndes, Sumpter, Greene, Hale, Pickens, Calhoun and Montgomery Counties. All except Montgomery and Pickens have over 50% Negro population. Greene and Wilcox have over 80%.

A SNCC field secretary explained, "Most of the work is trying to overcome fear. We are trying to organize the people so they can solve their own problems," he added.

- 30 -

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(404) 688-0331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MISS. NEGROES RUN
IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

GREENWOOD, MISS.- Negroes in four Mississippi towns have attempted to run in local elections for the first time since Reconstruction.

One of six Negroes has been put on the ballot.

Two women here were rejected as candidates for Greenwood city elections for failure to pay the poll tax. A third, Mrs. Pinkie Pilcher has qualified as candidate for Street Commissioner.

Mrs. Pilcher is running with the assistance of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The two disqualified women, SNCC worker Mary Lane and Mrs. Alice Blackwell, attempted to run for police commissioner and mayor, respectively.

In other cities in the state Negroes attempted to get on the ballot.

In Meridian, Mrs. Catherine Crowell is attempting to qualify for city councilwoman.

In Moss Point and Shaw, Negroes were disqualified because of registration restrictions on candidates. Dr. Sol Johnson was rejected in Moss Point because he had not signed the registration book. Andrew Hawkins of Shaw could not run because he was not a registered voter.

Earlier this month in McComb a Negro received 67 votes in a special election for city selectman. L.J. Martin, the candidate, also ran in a Freedom Election and received over 500 votes. The Freedom Vote was held by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party which is currently challenging the seating of the regular party's delegation in the U.S. Congress.

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6 RAYMOND STREET, NW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICE FIRE OVER
PROTESTING STUDENTS

MONTGOMERY, ALA. - Police fired over the heads of a crowd of 400 demonstrating students here on the campus of Alabama State College for Teachers.

The students were protesting the arrest of civil rights worker Willie Ricks of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Over 20 students have been jailed since demonstrations began April 21, 1965.

The arrests grew out of student protests over the school administration's attempt to punish students who participated in rights demonstrations here. Some 9 students were suspended for taking part in direct action here.

Students faced police, throwing rocks and bottles. The all white police retaliated by firing over the students' heads.

One girl was reported injured when she fainted after being burned from the blast of a firing pistol.

On the previous night, 400-500 students sat in front of the president's house, where student leaders called for a boycott of classes.

The protests flared up after a faculty-administration committee hearing charged 17 students with insubordination, willful defiance of authority, and conduct prejudicial to the college and unbecoming a student and future teacher.

Thirteen students were arrested here earlier after a 13 hour sit-in at the office of the president.

Workers for SNCC helped organize demonstrations here protesting the lack of the right of free assembly, and police brutality in Selma.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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688-0331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARKANSAS SCENE OF
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SNCC director Jones stated that interested persons should contact him at: Arkansas SNCC, 700 West Ninth Street, Little Rock, Ark.

ALABAMA

Alana
3709 Willow St
New Orleans, Louisiana

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET NW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COTTON WORKERS
FORM LABOR UNION

GREENVILLE, MISS.- Over 60 members of the newly formed Mississippi Freedom Labor Union (MFLU) picketed a U.S. Department of Labor sponsored meeting here.

The union organized less than a week ago has over 500 members in six counties.

The meeting, also sponsored by a number of state agencies and the Mississippi Delta Council, an owners group, dealt with farm labor in the Delta.

The picketers protested the fact that no Negroes were invited to speak or participate in the conference. An organizer for the MFLU explained, "The conference dealt with the fate of thousands of Negroes and none of us were invited to participate."

Members of the Freedom Labor Union, formed April 9, 1965, have signed pledge forms calling for- a \$1.25 minimum wage; an eight hour day with time and a half for overtime; children under 16 and people over 60 not having to work; sick leave and free medical care; full compensation from the government for those who can not get jobs; health and accident insurance; and equal employment practices in wages, hiring and working conditions.

Union members have pledged to use all forms of direct action including "strikes, picketing and boycotts," to win their demands.

The union was formed in Shaw, Miss. when 45 workers signed the pledge forms. "The idea for the union came out of a Freedom School Meeting," said George Shelton a resident of Shaw and organizer for the MFLU. "We felt that we should be getting a fair price for what we were working for," he added.

Shelton explained that, people down here get \$1.75 a day for chopping cotton for a ten hour day."

"Ten members of our union have gone on strike," Shelton said. "They will only work for \$1.25 an hour."

The Mississippi union has organized workers in Bolivar, Sunflower, Washington, Issaquena, Sharkey and Holmes Counties. "We have been contacted by interested parties in a number of counties in the Delta," said Robert Weil a worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING
COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314



WILLIAM
HANSEN

ARKANSAS
PROJECT
DIRECTOR

From 1939 when he was born until 1960, William Hansen had never been in jail. From 1960 to the present, he has been arrested 23 times in twelve different cities, and spent one third of 1961 in prison.

Severely beaten a number of times, Hansen once had his jaw broken on officials' orders while incarcerated in Albany, Georgia in 1962.

Hansen left Xavier University in Cincinnati, his home town, at the end of his junior year to work for SNCC full time. Since then he has participated in direct action and voter registration projects in areas as widely separated as Cambridge, Maryland and the Arkansas Delta.

His initial experience in civil rights organizing was in Cambridge when SNCC was first invited into that city by local rights leaders. Working with SNCC field secretary Reginald Robinson and Mrs. Gloria Richardson, who sits on SNCC's executive committee, Hansen helped mobilize the Eastern Shore of Maryland for attacks on unemployment and discriminatory public accommodations which culminated in demonstrations the summer of 1963 and spring of 1964.

When human relations groups in Arkansas appealed to SNCC for assist- in 1962, SNCC selected Hansen to head that project.

Since that time virtually all desegregation of public accommodations in Arkansas vote drives and attacks on school segregation in Little Rock, have fallen under Hansen's leadership.

Hansen is the only SNCC project director who is not Negro.

In October 1963, he married Ruth Buffington, a Negro SNCC worker in the Arkansas project.

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STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

CHAIRMAN JOHN LEWIS

John Robert Lewis is the only head of a civil rights organization elected by civil rights activists.

Lewis is 24 years old. He was born in Troy, Alabama. His mother is a laundress, and his father is a farmer and school bus driver.



He attended the public schools of Troy and Pike County, and was graduated from the American Baptist Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee with an A.B. degree in religion in 1961. He has done further study toward an A.B. degree in philosophy at Fisk University.

Lewis has been arrested 32 times. He was an organizer of the Nashville Student Movement and an original Freedom Rider. He was instrumental in continuing the rides after other civil rights groups withdrew their support contending the rides were "too dangerous." He suffered a beating from a mob when his bus arrived at Montgomery, Alabama on Mother's Day, 1961.

Since assuming SNCC's chairmanship, Lewis has visited and participated in SNCC projects in Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia and Alabama.

He was a leader at the August 1963 March on Washington. His speech at that time kicked off SNCC's widespread use of the African slogan, "One Man - One Vote," which describes SNCC's Southwide program aimed at removing all barriers to the vote except age and residence.

Lewis is a board member of the Nashville Christian Leadership Conference, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

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STUDENT NONVIOLENT
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 Raymond Street, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

REGINALD ROBINSON
FIELD SECRETARY

Reginald Robinson was the second field secretary of the SNCC. He joined the staff in August, 1961 on SNCC's first voter registration project in McComb, Mississippi.

Since then, he has directed SNCC projects in Alabama, North and South Carolina, and was instrumental in the formation of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee of Cambridge, Maryland.

Robinson was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1939. He became active in the civil rights movement through the Civic Interest Group (CIG) of Baltimore while he was a student at Cortez Peters Business School, and was CIG's representative to SNCC in 1961.

After working on SNCC's pilot Mississippi project, Robinson worked in Birmingham, and toured Southern states helping student groups to organize protests. He returned to Maryland to coordinate Northern protest against discriminatory public accommodations on Route 40, and entered Cambridge, Maryland in December, 1961.

There he and SNCC worker Bill Hansen, now director of SNCC's Arkansas Project, helped develop the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee and coordinated Freedom Rides into Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Leaving Cambridge in March, Robinson helped student groups in Louisville and Frankfort, Kentucky to organize protests.

He joined SNCC's growing Southwest Georgia staff in the late summer of 1963, and worked on voter registration in Terrell, Lee, Sumter and Dougherty Counties.

He then traveled with SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman to Cairo, Illinois, Charleston Missouri, Fayette County, Tennessee (Tent City), and throughout the Delta of Mississippi.

He did preliminary survey work in September, 1962 for a SNCC project in Selma, Alabama, that has developed into a major project for SNCC.

He rejoined the Cambridge, Maryland movement in November, 1962, and went from there to South Carolina where he spearheaded a voter registration project from December, 1962 through April, 1963.

Robinson also headed a SNCC voter registration project in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Reginald Robinson

STUDENT NONVIOLENT
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 Raymond Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia



PRATHIA HALL

Miss Prathia Hall has worked for SNCC since August, 1962 and was one of three voter registration workers wounded by nightrider's shots in Dawson, Georgia that summer.

Miss Hall is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Churches Commission on Religion and Race.

She is currently on leave from the Conwell School of Theology of Temple University in Philadelphia. In 1962, she was awarded the B. A. degree from Temple University where she majored in political science and religion, after being graduated from the Philadelphia High School for Girls in 1958.

Miss Hall has worked in voter registration projects and direct action campaigns for SNCC in Selma, Alabama; Albany, Georgia and surrounding counties; Cambridge, Maryland; and Greenwood, Mississippi.

In early 1964, she helped direct a SNCC assault on segregated public accommodations in Atlanta, and was involved in a unique federal-state confrontation over Georgia's anti-trespass law after Superior Court Judge Durwood T. Pye ordered her retained in jail despite an order from a federal court for her release into federal custody.

Prior to becoming a SNCC staff member, Miss Hall was active with the Philadelphia House ^{Fellowship} and has done union organizing in the Philadelphia area. In the spring of 1964, she was elected to the 21-man SNCC Executive Committee. She has been arrested 10 times.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA



JAMES FORMAN,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman was raised in rural Marshall County, Mississippi. He will spend the summer of 1964 in that state working on the Mississippi Summer Project.

Forman was born in Chicago in 1928 and moved back there from Mississippi. He attended public and private schools there and spent one semester at Wilson Junior College before joining the United States Air Force. He was honorably discharged in September 1951.

He then entered Roosevelt University in Chicago, and was graduated with a degree in public administration in 1957. He attended Boston University on a grant from that school's African Studies Program. He studied there one year while also serving as an assistant in the Government Department. He has done postgraduate study in French and education at Middlebury College in Vermont.

In the fall of 1960, Forman took leave from his school teaching job in Chicago to organize the Fayette County (Tennessee) Relief Program and helped set up Tent City, a stop gap effort to house sharecroppers evicted because they tried to register to vote.

At that time, Forman says, he became concerned that young Negroes must return to the South.

In the fall of 1961 he joined the small staff of the infant SNCC operation, agreeing to serve as executive secretary. He has served in that post since, and has directed SNCC's growth from a 16 man, one room organization to a Southwide group with over 150 staff in seven states.

"Those of us in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee have made our choice," Forman says. "We prefer to work not for money but for the emancipation of our society. We prefer quick death from positive action rather than the slow death that one begins to feel when he learns that he is a Negro in America."

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STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING
COMMITTEE (SNCC)
6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314



DONALD HARRIS

Donald Harris, the director of SNCC's Southwest Georgia project, got his first taste of jail in the summer of 1961 in Northern Rhodesia, where he was charged with being a spy for the United Federal Party in opposition to Prime Minister Kenneth Kaunda's United National Independence Party.

Two years later he was to be charged with insurrection in Americus, Ga.

Since joining SNCC in the summer of 1962, Harris has been jailed seven additional times: in Albany and Leesburg, Georgia; Greenwood, Mississippi and Aberdeen, Maryland.

Harris was held in jail for 68 days under the insurrection charge, growing from his participation in an anti-segregation demonstration in Americus in 1963, and was only freed when a federal court overturned the 1887 law.

Harris grew up in the Bronx, New York, and was graduated from the Fieldston School in 1958.

He attended Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, and received the A.B. degree in 1962, after majoring in Modern British Literature and physical education.

At Fieldston, he starred on the school's football, basketball, baseball and track teams, and played football and lacrosse at Rutgers.

He travelled throughout Africa and Europe during the summer of 1961, and worked with Operation Crossroads Africa in Northern Rhodesia. It was then he was arrested for being a spy, and was detained in an outdoor stockade before being released.

Harris helped set up the Harlem Educational Project for the Northern Student Movement (NSM) in the spring of 1962 - the first tutorial project undertaken by college students in the Northeast.

Since assuming the head of the Southwest Georgia project, Harris has expanded SNCC's work into 22 counties, comprising all of Georgia's 2nd congressional district.

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NEWS FROM:
Student Nonviolent Coordinating
Committee
107 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Further Information call 3877445

Washington, D.C.. "When we began the food and clothing drive for Mississippi sharecroppers almost two months ago, we had no idea the response would be so great," Max Deal, coordinator of the Mississippi Survival Project, said today, in announcing the shipment of a second box-car to Mississippi. "We have now sent off almost 60,000 pounds, and contributions are still coming in."

The Washington office of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee began the Mississippi Survival Project at the beginning of November in anticipation of the emergency needs this winter of the extremely poor Negro farmers and sharecroppers in the state. These persons work on plantations and small farms during the summer months, but when winter comes are dependent upon relief to keep them over the winter. In the past few winters the local authorities in Mississippi have tried to keep these people from trying to register to vote and participation in the civil rights movement by dropping them from the relief rolls. The drive in Washington and in other northern cities has been organized to fill the gap when this happens, Mr. Deal added.

The drive in Washington was carried out with little fanfare, and the collection was done by volunteers primarily through churches and organizations in the area. The Mississippi Survival Project, which officially ended at the beginning of December, had as its honorary chairmen Rev. David Colwell, head of the Washington Council of Churches; Isaac Frank, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington; DR. C.J. Nuesse, President of the Catholic Interracial Council; and William Hammond Thomas, Chairman of the Federation of Civic Organizations.

"Although the drive has officially ended, contributions are still coming in, and we are now trying to find ways to ship them," Mr. Deal said. He explained that the two railroad cars, each of which holds seven or eight large truck loads, were donated by the Southern Railway, but that SNCC will have to find someone to donate a truck or cover its cost before they will be able to ship any more contributions. Volunteers to pack the food and clothing and prepare it for shipment are still needed.

SNCC, working through the Council of Federated Organizations, which will distribute the goods in Mississippi, has been working in Mississippi since 1961 in a program of voter registration and community organization.

-30-

Student Nonviolent Coordinating
Committee
107 Rhode Island Ave, NW
Washington, D.C.
387-7445
for further information contact
Marion Barry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Statement of John Lewis on SNCC and Viet Nam

Recently, there has been a great deal of confusion and distortion about the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's role in the Assembly of Unrepresented People.

While SNCC's commitment to principles of nonviolence in human relationships makes us opposed to organized war wherever it occurs, the major commitment of SNCC is the establishment, by nonviolent methods, of an interracial democracy in the South. Our programs of voter registration, community centers, Freedom Schools, and other community organizing are designed hopefully to bring this about. Moreover, all of our organizational and financial resources are committed to this effort.

We have not been asked, nor have we volunteered any organizational resources to the protests against the war in Viet Nam now taking place. While the Coordinating Committee, (the final decision making body of SNCC) has taken no formal position on the issue, our philosophical commitment to principles of non-violence is a matter of public record.

The moral and spiritual health of any democracy rests on the right and freedom of all its citizens to express their convictions on any and all issues. For this reason, we have done nothing to inhibit the expression of this right by members of our staff. Members of the SNCC staff, as individuals, can take positions on any issues of conscience that arise.



Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

National Headquarters: 6 Raymond Street, N.W. • Atlanta 14, Georgia • Area Code 404 - 688-0331

Tel. 387-7445

3418 Eleventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20010

TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA

SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE re "Operation Free Mississippi"

James Forman, Executive Secretary of SNCC will be present at a Press Conference at the headquarters of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 25 Louisiana Avenue, N.W., at 4 P.M. Monday, March 16th.

Also present will be Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville, Mississippi, Mrs. Hamer has announced her candidacy for United States Congresswoman in the forthcoming elections in Mississippi. Mr. Charles Evers, Mississippi NAACP director is also expected to attend the conference.

The Civil Rights workers will announce details of plans for a massive summer operation in Mississippi. This will include discussion of:

- 1) A slate of "freedom" candidates for all Federal and state offices.
- 2) An intensive voter registration drive involving 2,500 workers during the summer.
- 3) Details of a Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) plan to challenge the credentials of the Mississippi Democratic Party machine delegates to the Democratic convention, and to have a "freedom" delegation seated.

The leaders will also announce decisions taken in a state-wide meeting at which all civil rights organizations in the state were represented, held Sunday, March 15th, regarding strategy for "Operation Free Mississippi."

COFO represents the combination of CORE, SNCC and NAACP organizations in Mississippi.

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"One Man, One Vote"

NEWS RELEASE # 29
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
6 RAYMOND STREET, N. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

THREE NEGROES RUN FOR CONGRESS FROM MISS.

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI - For the first time this century, three Negroes are candidates for the House of Representatives from Mississippi.

They are: Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville, who will seek the seat held by Representative Jamie Whitten of Charleston; James Houston, a 74-year-old Vicksburg man who will run against Representative John Bell Williams of Raymond; and Reverend J. Erle Cameron, a 31-year-old Hattiesburg minister who will oppose Representative William Colmer of Pascagoula.

Mrs. Hamer, who qualified here March 20, is 47. Her husband, Perry Hamer, is employed at a Ruleville cotton gin.

Until 1962, the Hamers lived for eighteen years on a plantation outside Ruleville, but were evicted when she tried to register to vote.

Mrs. Hamer opened her campaign the evening she qualified with a speech at a Ruleville mass meeting. She spoke at a Freedom Day mass meeting in Greenwood on Saturday, March 21, and appeared at an Itta Bena mass meeting on Sunday night, March 22. Her schedule for the first week of her campaign includes speeches in Charleston, Clarksdale and Marks, Mississippi.

The 2nd District, where Mrs. Hamer is campaigning, includes most of Mississippi's Delta, an area of high Negro population and low Negro voter registration.

Mrs. Hamer has announced she will challenge Representative Whitten's right to a seat in the United States House of Representatives if she is defeated.

Two campaign workers were arrested the day she qualified. A Freedom Vote campaign last November, which included Negro and white candidates for the state's top offices, resulted in over 60 arrests in 25 Mississippi towns. That campaign, like Mrs. Hamer's, was supported by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a coalition of civil rights groups working in the state. COFO workers expect additional arrests and harrassments during Mrs. Hamer's campaign, and have included a \$10,000 "harrassment" item in her campaign budget.

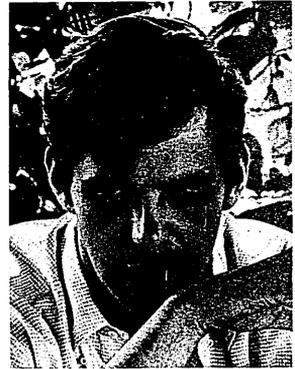
The arrest of the two campaign workers was protested to Rep. Whitten and to the United States Department of Justice.



Don Harris



John Perdeu



Ralph Allen

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 Raymond Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

For Immediate Release
November 7, 1963

6 FREED IN AMERICUS
VOW TO CONTINUE WORK

AMERICUS, GEORGIA - Three field workers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) - who escaped a possible death sentence when a three-judge Federal panel freed them on Friday, November 1 - still face other charges here.

The three - Donald Harris of New York, Ralph Allen of Melrose, Massachusetts and John Perdeu of Denver, Colorado - were jailed here August 8 and charged with attempting to incite insurrection, unlawful assembly, rioting, obstruction of a lawful arrest. Harris and Allen are charged further with assault and battery. All were denied bail.

Two others, 14-year-old Sallie Mae Durham and 19-year-old Thomas McDaniel were charged with rioting, unlawful assembly, assault and obstruction of a lawful arrest. McDaniel was held on \$12,000 bail, and Miss Durham, a minor, was held without bail.

A sixth youth, Zev, Aelony, a CORE field secretary, was also charged with insurrection. Aelony was jailed August 17.

All were freed when the three-judge panel outlawed Georgia's insurrection and unlawful assembly statutes. The court also prohibited further prosecution of the youths on the outlawed charges and ordered them set free on bail.

The ruling Friday marked the first time a Federal court has halted prosecution in a civil rights case at the request of private parties.

Testimony at the two-day hearing centered around beatings received by some of the jailed youths and other demonstrators, and voter registration activities here. A Justice Department lawyer testified that Negro vote tries - which had increased after SNCC began a drive here in January - decreased after the workers were arrested.

The three SNCC workers will continue their work in Americus. Miss Durham, who would have been a ninth grade student, will return to school. She testified at the hearing that she and Donald Harris were knocked down by policemen and Harris was beaten by a policeman when he tried to get some water in the jail.

Harris testified that officers beat him several times the night he was arrested.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 Raymond Street
Atlanta, Georgia, 30314
Tel: 688-0331 (404)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PINE BLUFF MOVEMENT CALLS FOR
PROTESTS AGAINST McDONALD'S

PINE BLUFF, Arkansas - The Pine Bluff Movement - an anti-segregation group here - has called for nationwide protests against the McDonald's Restuarant Chain.

Members of the group have tried unsuccessfully since July to integrate a McDorald's here. The Reverend Benjamin Grinnage, Chairman of the Movement, said more than 45 demonstrators were jailed at McDonald's during July and August.

Members of the Movement and two field secretaries from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) must go to court November 29 to testify on whether a temporary injunction obtained by McDonald's against them should be made permanent.

The injunction, obtained by the restuarant's manager, Robert Knight on August 13, enjoins the two SNCC workers, William Hansen and James Jones, the Pine Bluff Movement, the Arkansas State NAACP, and the Black Muslims from "engaging in, sponsoring, inciting and encouraging stand-ins, sit-ins, or from picketing" the segregated diner.

The order also asked that they be prohibited from "interfering with the business of McDonalds.

Most lunch counters are integrated here. Sit-in demonstrations began in Pine Bluff on February 1st.

The Pine Bluff Movement, composed of local citizens, has moved against segregation here in public and private facilities, employment, and in schools.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

197 $\frac{1}{2}$ Auburn Avenue Atlanta 3, Georgia

For Information: Phone 688-0331

CORE *Y. Mr. Norman Hill*

38 Park Row

N.Y. 38, N.Y.

ATLANTA, Ga., February 24 - The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee charged this week that police officials in Albany, Georgia, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, are systematically using their police powers to intimidate and harrass SNCC workers."

SNCC referred to recent arrests of three SNCC staff members in Baton Rouge on charges of "criminal anarchy", and to continued arrests of SNCC staff members in Albany, Georgia.

On February 1, SNCC Field Secretary Dion Diamond was arrested in Baton Rouge for "trespassing, vagrancy, and two counts of disturbing the peace." Later he was charged with "criminal anarchy." When SNCC Chairman Charles McDew and SNCC Field Secretary Robert Zellner tried to visit Diamond in the Baton Rouge Jail, they were also arrested for "vagrancy" and "criminal anarchy." The three SNCC workers face ten years in jail apiece if convicted. Their bonds total \$26000.

SNCC Field Secretaries in Albany, Georgia, have also been intimidated by local law enforcement officials, SNCC charges. Charles Jones, an SNCC Field Secretary in Albany, was arrested on February 13 "for letting an unlicensed driver drive his car." Charges against Jones were later dropped. When SNCC Field Secretary Charles Sherrod went to Dawson, Georgia, on February 9 to visit another SNCC worker in jail there, he was arrested for "disorderly conduct."

Cordell Reagan, an SNCC Field Secretary in Albany, reports that Albany policemen are using harrassing tactics on local citizens who help in Albany's car pool, designed to transport Negroes who are boycotting the city's busses. The SNCC Field Secretary said that many car pool drivers have been arrested and heavily fined for minor traffic violations.

Reagan also reported that Albany merchants are trying to break the boycott which at one time forced the city bus line to halt operations. The SNCC staffer said that free bus tickets are being given away in Albany by local merchants. A prospective bus rider must pick up his free bus ride pass in a downtown store, and Albany Negroes are boycotting Albany's downtown area.

Washington office
BLIND COPY

February 19, 1964

Mr. George Clifford
Mr. Tom Kelly
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
1013 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in regard to some mis-statements of fact that appeared in your "Ear to the Ground: Washington" column in the Washington Daily News, January 30, 1964.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee began sustained demonstrations here at the invitation and request of the Atlanta Summit Leadership Conference -- a coalition of local and national civil rights groups that includes the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (headed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) as well as local community-wide groups. The Summit Leadership Conference was formed in October 1963 in an attempt to solidify the demands of the Negro community.

mean
Such an endorsement does not/that SNCC is engaged in a "power struggle" with Negro leaders here, but rather that the entire Negro community has joined together to remove segregation from Atlanta.

The Summit had made repeated requests of city, county and state officials and private businessmen in an attempt to negotiate further integration here. When these conferences appeared to fail, the Summit asked SNCC and its local affiliate, the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, to conduct demonstrations.

This past weekend 150 doctors and dentists demonstrated before a segregated hospital here. 50 college teachers from the Atlanta University Centre also staged a march. For the past several Sundays, 30 white college students from the white colleges here have staged their own picket lines in front of segregated businesses.

The out-of-town Negroes you refer to were all staff members for SNCC, now residents of Georgia, most of whom have been on the staff for over a year, and several of whom were white. Further, it was on the invitation of SNCC that Mrs. Dick Gregory came to Atlanta. The students of Atlanta could not therefore have been the least "disconcerted," particularly since 18 had gone to jail three days before she arrived. It was Mrs. Gregory's desire to join with these 18 that led her to accept our invitation.

The United Nations group that came to Atlanta was the U.N. Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, not the U.N. "Commission on Racial Equality." At no time was the U.N. group picketed. Demonstrations occurred that weekend, some of which they observed, but the U.N. group was not picketed. In one demonstration a sign was carried which read, "Welcome to the Segregated City of Atlanta," but demonstrations were not aimed at the U.N. Demonstrations preceded their arrival, and continued after they left.

Rather than Negro demonstrations responding to the appearance of the Ku Klux Klan, it was the other way around. On the first day that the Klan picketed in downtown Atlanta, Negro demonstrators were at the particular restaurant - Krystal's - first.

Allegations of violent behavior on the part of demonstrators were widespread in the press. Yet affidavits and photographs bear testimony to numerous instances of people being dragged with unnecessary roughness by police, arms being twisted, limp bodies being mashed into police wagons in a clear attempt to harm them.

Other statements referring to "the ultimate aim to replace the leadership of Martin Luther King," the "grave suspicion" with which Mr. James Foran is "regarded" and the series of "coincidences," are without factual basis and clearly come from uninformed sources.

Surely this is not a picture of a power struggle, but of the total Negro community, with the active aid and assistance of some whites, moving to act progressively to end racial discrimination here.

Sincerely,

Mary E. King,
Communications, SNCC

cc: John T. O'Rourke, Editor
Washington Daily News
1013 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Walker Stone, Editor in Chief
Scripps-Howard Newspapers

Mr. Frank R. Ford, Chief Editorial Writer
Scripps-Howard Newspapers

"ONE MAN - ONE VOTE"

June 18, 1964

Mr. Ray Boone
WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN
1800 11th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Boone:

This summer a massive education, community improvement, and voter registration drive will be launched in Mississippi by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), in which SNCC is participating. The project will involve up to a thousand students, lawyers, teachers, and clergymen. Although these volunteers are pledged to peaceful and nonviolent action, the state of Mississippi plans to meet them with armed and massive resistance.

In order to alert the Nation to the physical dangers faced by the volunteers and to the violence which may erupt in Mississippi, COFO held public hearings before a panel of prominent Americans on June 8th. Mississippi citizens, civil rights workers, and constitutional lawyers gave testimony which clearly established the need for and the legality of Federal preventative action to avert violence and maintain order in Mississippi this summer.

The members of the panel, chaired by Dr. Harold Taylor, summarized their reactions to the testimony in the enclosed letter to President Johnson. They urge him to take immediate action "to prevent the deaths and brutality which are sure to come to Mississippi this summer unless steps are taken to prevent them."

On June 16th Members of Congress included the transcript of the hearings in the Congressional Record and urged that immediate Federal action be taken to protect the lives and Constitutional rights of United States citizens in Mississippi this summer.

Along with these leading Americans and Members of Congress, we feel that the Press shares a major responsibility to focus public attention upon the crisis which is developing in Mississippi, and holds a moral obligation to initiate its own demands that Federal action be taken to avert such a crisis. We hope that the enclosed material will be helpful to you in carrying out this obligation.

If you feel that further information will be valuable, please contact us.

Yours for Freedom,

Mike Thelwell, Washington Office

June 18, 1964

Editor
WASHINGTON STAR
225 Virginia Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Editor:

This summer a massive education, community improvement, and voter registration drive will be launched in Mississippi by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), in which SNCC is participating. The project will involve up to a thousand students, lawyers, teachers, and clergymen. Although these volunteers are pledged to peaceful and nonviolent action, the state of Mississippi plans to meet them with armed and massive resistance.

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Mike Thelwell, Director
Washington, Office

Editor
WASHINGTON POST
1515 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

June 18, 1964

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Yours for Freedom,

Mike Thelwell, Director
Washington Office

June 24, 1964

Mr. Alan Barth
Washington Post
1515 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Barth,

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you this morning, though I am sorry we were not able to come to agreement on the need and possibility for Federal intervention this summer.

I am not sure that we disagreed that there is a need, actually. The official supported brutality of Mississippi is no longer a debatable matter; so much evidence has reached the public despite the lack of any serious investigation that there can no longer be any reasonable doubt. Civil rights workers can expect harrassment, arbitrary arrest, and brutality from local police all over the state, and at the present there is no authority to which they can turn for protection.

When I returned to the office today I found in the mail the enclosed collection of affidavits, almost as if to illustrate the above point. Since this is my only copy, I would like it back if possible, but I thought you might be interested in it.

I am not sure whether we disagree that there is authority for the Federal government to act in the present situation. I have no legal training, but the memos which I left with you seem to make the point satisfactorily, and it is significant that in our conversations with the Justice Department that simply is not an issue.

Where we did disagree, it seemed, is in the utility of a Federal presence in Mississippi this summer. You seemed to feel that nothing short of a full scale occupation would be helpful, in fact anything less would be detrimental. We could not disagree more with this.

The one thing the local authorities seem to respect is actual or potential Federal power. When we first came into the state, it was

clear that one of the most inhibiting actions we could do was to let the local authorities know the Justice Department in Washington would accept collect telephone calls. (Since the local lines are always tapped, this is a simple process). When it became clear, however, that complaints would not receive Federal action, this inhibitory effect wore off; harrassment clearly became more intense.

That was two years ago, but there seems to be no indication that respect for Federal power is still there. The problem is that the power simply will not be used, even in a token way. Every time a local FBI agent stands by, watches a Negro being beaten by the police, and takes notes, the state is encouraged to continue—safe in the knowledge that nothing will be done. Every time we file an affidavit on some particular incident of violence with the Justice Department or the FBI, we forget it—because we know that nothing will come of it. We have not even been able to get a hearing of the Civil Rights Commission in the state, since the federal government has determined that its only activity in the state will be in the form of suits on voting. It has done a good job of filing these, with some qualifications (e.g., they have not filed any of their 19 or more suits in counties where Negroes constitute a majority, despite the quantity of evidence in these counties). Even where a suit is successful, however, as in Forrest County, the registrar has defied the suit for almost two years now and still there has been no attempt to force compliance.

We feel that some commitment on the part of the Federal government to enforce the Constitution would represent such a dramatic change from their past policy in Mississippi that it could only have positive results. For the state to know that the Federal government will act, will make arrests, will try to prevent police-organized violence—this could cause a basic change in the policies of law-enforcement in the state. It is this which is part of the basis for the request for Federal Marshalls.

The other reason for Federal Marshalls is much simpler. If there had been a Federal Marshall within telephone distance when those three men were released on Sunday night, they might have been able to call him. How many similar situations would Federal Marshalls be able to prevent?

I won't belabor this point; we have already discussed this yesterday. Certainly we speak from different points of involvement with the issue, which colors our conclusions.

In any case, it was good to know of your concern with the situation in Mississippi. From time to time as the summer progresses I shall try to drop in and give you first hand reports on what is happening.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Monsonis

July 1, 1964

Mr. Robert Kintner, President
National Broadcasting Company
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Kintner:

I commend your News Special on Mississippi shown on Saturday evening, 7:30 PM, June 27, 1964. However, as the Washington Director of the Council of Federated Organizations which is in charge of the Mississippi Summer Project, I call your attention to the fact that you presented only two sides of the issue of the federal government's constitutional and legal powers to take preventive action in Mississippi.

Governor Paul Johnson said that the use of federal authority would be unconstitutional. Burke Marshall said that (1) the best policy would be to let Mississippi handle the problem, (2) federal marshalls could only be sent in to search and that a different legal question is raised if they were to be used for other purposes and (3) the United States' six hundred deputy marshalls are not a police force, i.e., federal agencies have economic and regulatory powers but state law should be used to handle normal crimes.

The Council of Federated Organizations -- almost all civil rights organizations -- and numerous prominent law professors, among others, have a third conflicting viewpoint, specifically that the President has the legal authority under existing statutes and the manpower capability to station marshalls and to take other general police action to prevent violence in Mississippi this summer. Such groups and persons believe that it is bad policy not to utilize this authority.

This letter is a request under the Federal Communication Commission's "fairness doctrine" enunciated in decisions of the Commission and its report adopted June 1, 1949 entitled "Editorializing by Broadcast Licensees" and under the last sentence of Section 315 (a) (4) of the Communications Act, as amended by the 1959 Amendment. The doctrine creates an obligation to afford the general public the opportunity to consider, accept or reject varying and conflicting views held by responsible elements of the community. Thus, I ask that you provide a few minutes of broadcast time, either during a newscast or a five minute Special to permit Mark DeWolfe Howe of the Harvard Law School or William Higgs, Civil Rights consultant in Washington, D.C. to present this omitted viewpoint -- a viewpoint so vital to the safety of those citizens trying to exercise and people helping them to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

We would appreciate hearing from you immediately. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Monsonis, Director
Washington COFO Office

cc: Federal Communications Commission

Nⁱ misc

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.

30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y. 10020

CIRCLE 7-8300

ROBERT D. KASMIRE
VICE PRESIDENT
CORPORATE INFORMATION

July 17, 1964

Mr. Jim Monsonis
Director
Washington COFO Office
Council Of Federated Organizations
3418 11th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Monsonis:

Mr. Kintner has discussed with me your letter of July 1 and asked that, in responding in his behalf, I express his appreciation for the spirit and interest that prompted you to write.

All of us are gratified by your commendation of the NBC News special on Mississippi that was broadcast June 27. I must, however, point out that in the interviews with Governor Johnson and Assistant Attorney General Marshall, the question discussed was the use of Federal authority to conduct a search for missing civil rights volunteers. That is, it was not, as your letter suggests, based on the question of the federal government's possession of power to take preventive action in Mississippi.

In addition to this, however, NBC News has, in various of its programs relating to recent events in Mississippi, presented the point of view that the Council Of Federated Organizations advances. In view of this, we find that we are complying totally with the FCC's fairness doctrine, but even more important, that we are performing in a manner consistent with the best journalistic tradition.

Thank you again for writing to us.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Kasmire
Robert D. Kasmire

Misc

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

20554

July 20, 1964

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE SECRETARY

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8424
7000219

Mr. Jim Monsonis, Director
Washington COFO Office
3418 11th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Monsonis:

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of your letter of July 1, 1964, to Mr. Robert Kintner, President of the National Broadcasting Company, a copy of which you sent to the Commission. In your letter you request NBC to permit Mr. Mark DeWolfe or Mr. William Higgs time to present the viewpoints of your organization with respect to the issue of the federal government's constitutional and legal powers to take preventive actions in Mississippi.

Your interest in sending a copy of your letter to the Commission is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Ben F. Waple

Ben F. Waple
Secretary

September 3, 1964
September 3, 1964

The Editor
The Washington Post
Washington Street, NW
Washington, DC

Dear Sir:

The "Inside Report" by Messrs. Evans and Novak in today's Post leaves one both angry and saddened. The anger comes first, but far more important are the reasons behind the sadness.

Anger is a natural response to the distortions and slurs of the column. The reporters at least owe a responsibility to the public to get the facts straight. The facts are, simply, that the delegation from Mississippi made its own decisions. It listened quietly and respectfully to the counsel of friends, ranging from Martin Luther King to the National Council of Churches to Bob Moses (the only counsel from Miss Ella Baker, one of the unquestioned leaders, was that the delegation from Mississippi should make its own decisions, independent of the "leaders"), and then ~~unhesitatingly~~ made its own decision not to accept the compromise offered. Terms such as "shouted down" and "heckled" and "pushed aside" have no basis in reality. At all times, the delegation conducted itself in an organized and dignified manner. More important than the distortions, however, is the complete failure to understand what the Freedom Party regarded as the issue at stake. We have often regarded Messrs. Evans and Novak as sensitive observers of the American political scene, and if they really did not understand the issue, then we have fears for the future, for the gap between white and Negro perspectives is larger than we had imagined.

The Freedom Party delegation represented thousands of Mississippi Negroes and whites who have no voice in the life of the state. They put themselves in an extremely exposed position in this representation, for under the laws of the state they were each liable to arrest when they returned. They came to present a question--perhaps the basic question--before the Democratic Party: how long will the most liberal of our parties permit an almost-facist racism to use its name to oppress Negroes? They came not to gain something for themselves personally; still less because of any belief that

Mississippi's delegate votes, per se, had any significance in the convention (all convention "votes" were by acclamation). They came to serve notice on the Democratic Party that the "Negro vote" no longer exists, in the sense of a special pressure group that must be accommodated by some favor so that the "work of the government" can continue. What is to exist must be a liberal party of which Negroes play a significant role in making all those decisions which ~~concern~~ their lives, ranging from civil rights, pure and simple, to questions of foreign policy and war and peace. The delegation essentially asked the convention and the Johnson Administration whether the politics of the Democratic Party was to remain a politics of accommodation or an inclusive politics in which all the people share in determining policy.

Viewed in this light, the compromise was not a compromise at all. Special privilege, the elevation of the delegation's formal leaders to positions of prominence, including the vote, was, first of all, irrelevant in a vote-less convention; second, failed to make note of the equalitarian and representative nature of the delegation (there were no leaders); and finally, was cowardice in that it completely avoided the question: what will the Democratic Party do about racists state parties using the Democratic Party name?

From the President's point of view, the compromise was acceptable; although he obviously had the power to smash the delegation, public sympathy was so much with them that some recognition had to be given. That offered was emotionally satisfying to many people, but politically meaningless and, most important of all allowed the President to appear liberal without in any way affecting the role of the southern racists in the Party.

To the Freedom Party this was no compromise. To allow the President to avoid the question of racism, thereby keeping the status quo, and at the same time by accepting the compromise seem to indicate something real had been offered, was beyond the principles which they had established for themselves. There was no choice but to reject the compromise.

One further word to Messrs. Evans and Novak: it is interesting that the regular Mississippi Democratic Party, which also rejected the compromise, and bolted the convention, received no criticism. Is this because their actions, based upon the current American political ethic, are more understandable than those of the Freedom Party? Perhaps then, a special effort should be made to begin to understand, before one begins to criticize.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Monsonis, Director
Washington SNCC Office

October 6, 1964

I. F. Stone
I. F. Stone's Weekly
5618 Nebraska Ave, NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Stone,

It appears that something has come out of all the fuss created here and elsewhere regarding the McComb situation. Lest the FBI get a little too self-satisfied with their accomplishments, however, it would be good if we could bring out into the open something of past FBI behavior as exemplified in some of the enclosed affidavits.

These just arrived from one of the summer volunteers, and we thought you might be interested in them.

You will note that the statement from Mrs. Dillen is not verified. We are working on that, and if it should become important we could get it quickly.

You may know that in a hearing between several Congressmen and Burke Marshall, ~~Mapakana~~ reported he had checked into the "lie detector" incident and that the FBI Agent denied the charge. It is becoming more and more clear to us that Marshall is quite angry and frustrated with the FBI, and while he defends them publicly I think even he would like to be able to get the goods on them. If things continue and we can really build a case, perhaps we can help him.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Monsonis
Director, Washington Office

Press

The Washington Post

1515 L STREET, N.W. REPUBLIC 7-1234
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

November 27, 1964

Mr. Jim Monsonis
Director
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
107 Rhode Island Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20010.

Dear Mr. Monsonis:

In regard to your letter of November 23, in which you invite me to an informal session for Monday, November 30, may I say I think it is a splendid idea.

Unfortunately, I am a member of the Washington Newspaper Guild negotiating team that is seeking agreement on a new contract with The Washington Post management -- negotiations which now are before Federal mediators. Deadline for agreement is Monday night and past experience shows that we will be in session all night Monday night in an effort to reach agreement and avoid a strike.

My attendance at your session, therefore, seems unlikely. But Miss Susanna McBee, whom you also have invited, will be there from The Post. And we have talked over ideas which may be of help to your organization's press relations and she will discuss them with you then. If I am able to attend the session, I shall.

Very truly yours,

Bob Baker
Robert E.L. Baker
Staff Reporter

5000 D.C. - Press

The Washington Post

1515 L STREET, N.W. REPUBLIC 7-1234
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

December 3, 1964

Dear Jim:

Just a note to say I'm sorry I missed your Nov. 30 meeting at the Cherins.

I had every intention of attending. But over the weekend, as our Newspaper Guild negotiations with The Post went down to the wire, I became so tied up with my chores as a shop steward for the women's department that I had time for little else.

I hope you had a good turnout and received some helpful suggestions. I'd still be happy to meet you for lunch or a beer some day -- not till after the hectic holidays -- if I can be of any use.

Best wishes,

Answered

Sue Cronk