

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bay Area Friends of the
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
5845 Chabot Court; Oakland, California
Mike Miller, Western Representative
OL 8-6626; TH 8-1516; TH 8-4312.

April 25, 1963

LEADER OF GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT TO VISIT BAY AREA, MAY 17-24.

Sam Block, shot by Southern racists and almost lynched by a mob in Ruleville, Mississippi, will visit the Bay Area to speak and raise funds for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Block is head of the Voter Registration Project in Greenwood, Mississippi. "Snick", nickname for the student committee, began its work in Greenwood late in 1962. Block and Willie Peacock, both SNCC field workers, went into the area to begin voter education and registration in the Negro community. Greenwood became internationally famous when Negro comic Dick Gregory cancelled night club engagements to participate in the vote drive.

Block is 24 years old. He is a native of Cleveland, Miss. and was educated there until he enrolled in Harris Teachers College in St. Louis. His chief interest was music. After a year, he returned to Mississippi and entered Vocational College. He was expelled for "political agitation", meaning his active interest in civil rights. The Trustees of the Negro college receive most of their funds from the racist state legislature.

After his expulsion from college, Block joined with "snick" to work full time in his native state for civil rights. In addition to his voter registration work, Block administered the distribution of food and clothing sent into Greenwood from across the country when the local county government cut off from the welfare rolls some 20,000 Negro citizens. The action came as a result of local attempts to register to vote.

Block's visit to the Bay Area is sponsored by a local "Friends of SNCC" group. Mr. Block will speak to a public meeting in San Francisco under the sponsorship of The San Francisco Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Rev. D. Manning Jackson, President. The meeting will be held on May 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the *El Bethel Baptist Church; 1320 Golden Gate Ave.*

Block will discuss the work of his organization in the Deep South and the Greenwood Freedom Movement. There will be a collection with all proceeds going to SNCC.

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NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 Raymond Street, N.W.
Atlanta 14, Georgia
Tel: 688-0331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May, 1963

SNCC FIELD SECRETARIES ARRESTED AT ALBANY CITY HALL;
COUNTY POLICE ATTACK THIRD STAFFER ON STREET

ALBANY, GEORGIA, MAY 23 -- Field secretaries for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee were arrested last night for the third straight day here protesting segregation. Another SNCC staff member was slapped by county policemen last night and charged with "driving over the center line."

Faith Holsaert, 20, and Don Harris, 22, both SNCC field secretaries who had been working in Terrell and Lee counties on voter registration, were arrested last night with Louise Carter, assistant secretary of the Albany Movement, in front of the City Hall in a prayer vigil. The three were praying for some 70-odd demonstrators who have been arrested in the past week.

Ralph Allen, 22, a SNCC field secretary in Sumter County, was driving last night from the Albany headquarters when city police stopped him and asked for his license and registration. The Dougherty County Deputy Sheriff and another county policeman drove up.

Allen reported today that city police followed him for a while, and then "the county took over." Allen said they stopped him, and told him to put his hands on top of the policecar while they searched him.

Allen said, "Am I under arrest?" He reported that when he said this, one of the county officers slapped him three times in the face. Police answered that he was under arrest and charged him with "driving over the center line."

Allen said today after being bailed out this morning that he did drive over the center line "for about a foot" while making a left turn, but that "in any case, the line was a broken one."

All but two of the eight SNCC field secretaries in the Southwest Georgia area are in City Jail, and are committed to remain until the charges are dropped.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNCC ANNOUNCES PETITION CAMPAIGN
TO FREE IMPRISONED FREEDOM WALKERS

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, MAY 24 -- Officials of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee announced today the beginning of a nation-wide petition campaign to free nine imprisoned Freedom Walkers who were arrested moments after they crossed the Alabama state line on May 3.

Nine white and Negro men from SNCC and the Congress of Racial Equality are now in Kilby State Prison, Montgomery, Alabama. Other walkers, arrested this week, are in the Etowah County Jail near Gadsden.

SNCC officials in Atlanta reported that a petition drive has already been started by the New York Friends of SNCC, 5 Beekman Street, New York City.

The nine men took up the walk of William Moore, a Baltimore postal employee slain on route 11 April 23. Moore had been making a trek from Chattanooga, Tenn. to Jackson, Miss. where he hoped to present a letter to Gov. Ross Barnett asking for human relations based on mutual respect.

The New York petition, addressed to President John F. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, reads in part:

We, the undersigned, urgently appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of all the Freedom Walkers recently arrested in Alabama. We feel that the Freedom Walkers were unjustly arrested and that steps must be taken to undo this wrong... Since the Freedom Walkers have been unfairly arrested, they have pledged to remain in jail without bond until national pressure is generated to insure the right of all citizens to walk on any road in any state in this land of the free...

SNCC officials are asking local groups and "all friends of democracy" to obtain petitions from SNCC, 6 Raymond Street, N.W., Atlanta 14, Ga., or to circulate their own, asking the Justice Department to enter the case immediately and file for immediate release of all walkers imprisoned in the state.

The Walkers could be sentenced to 18 months in state jails.

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMAN SNCC FIELD SECRETARY MOLESTED IN ALBANY JAIL

ALBANY, GEORGIA, MAY 24 --Charles Sherrod, director of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's Southwest Georgia project, reported yesterday that he had received a written statement by a woman SNCC field secretary that she had been molested in the Albany City Jail. May 21.

Faith Holsaert, a 20 year old white woman from Brooklyn, was arrested in a prayer vigil in front of the Albany City Hall to protest the arrest of some 70-odd demonstrators in the past two weeks.

Miss Holsaert said that police threatened to strip her, asked if her sister -- who has also worked for SNCC in Albany--"was as well built as I was," and "would I give them some sugar." She also said that one policeman ran his hand over her.

Miss Holsaert wrote:

Ronnie Mathis booked me. He asked me if I were white, and I said, "that's what they tell me." He started asking who wanted to search me... Then they (the police) started asking me about my sister, and finally Ronnie Mathis asked if she were as well built as I. One of them ran his hand over my breast. They threatened to strip me. There were ten officers in the office with me. Later about 4 a.m. a man who could have been Ronnie Mathis poked me in my head and asked if I were pregnant, my name, did I go with colored boys, and would I give him some sugar if he came into the cell.

Miss Holsaert was a student at Barnard College in New York City when she came to Southwest Georgia to work on SNCC's voter registration program. In February, 1963, she began to work in Terrell County, and was the first white woman to work in the area.

Student

Nonviolent

Coordinating

Committee

NEWS

ARSON CHARGES RECESSED BY COX

NEWS RELEASE
6 Raymond Street
Atlanta 14, Georgia
688-0331
June 3, 1963

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, June 1 - United States District Judge Harold Cox has recessed until late July a hearing on a Justice Department suit to halt prosecution of two Negroes by Holmes County.

The government contends arson charges against Hartman Turnbow, 58-year-old Tchula, Mississippi farmer, and Robert Moses, a field secretary from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), were "attempts to intimidate Negroes seeking to vote."

Turnbow testified his home was fire-bombed and he was fired upon by a white man about 3 a. m. on May 8.

County officials charged the farmer, active in a SNCC-sponsored vote drive, set the fire to work of sympathy for the vote campaign.

The Justice Department has asked also for an order requiring the county to accept poll tax payments from Negroes and for protection for Negroes seeking to register.

Hazel Brannon Smith, editor of the Lexington Examiner, testified she heard former Sheriff Andrew W. Smith (no relation) say Negroes would not vote while he was in office, 1956 - 1960.

Smith, now deputy sheriff under his wife, arrested Turnbow after the fire after jailing Moses for arson and for refusing to stop taking pictures of the partially-burned house when an officer requested it.

Moses, who heads the state-wide vote project, testified he allowed his trial to begin in a Justice of the Peace Court in Tchula although he had no lawyer.

Turnbow testified the deputy sheriff told him he had "outside agitators at his house stirring up all this hell."

72% of Holmes County's citizens are Negroes. However, only .5% of the voting age Negroes are registered.

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SNCC SUMMER DRIVES SET

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, June 3 - The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) said today it would expand present anti-segregation programs and voting drives in Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Georgia.

The Atlanta-based student group said Negroes would make attempts to register in large numbers in "black belt" areas and that mass anti-segregation demonstrations would occur in large and small cities.

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NEWS RELEASE

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

6 Raymond Street, NW

Atlanta 14, Georgia

688-0331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

66 YEAR OLD MINISTER RELEASED IN ATLANTA

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JUNE 3 — After the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) asked Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. to "take immediate steps" to release a 66-year-old California minister sentenced to serve 30 days on a prison farm, he was released from jail.

The SNCC office here said Allen had been asked to free the Rev. Ashton Bryant Jones, jailed here Thursday, May 30, with a Negro student from Atlanta University when the two participated in a sit-in demonstration at a segregated restaurant.

Police said Jones, who is white, and 20-year-old Carl Arnold were arrested at Lebs Restaurant, a recent target of anti-segregation demonstrations. Both were bound over to the Fulton County Criminal Court, and Jones was charged with having violated a section of the city code which makes it unlawful for a person to come to Atlanta with the express purpose of violating the law. Jones has been active in integration drives in other states, and has been jailed "at least 30 times."

Ralph Moore, Executive Secretary of the Committee On Appeal for Human Rights (COAHR)--the student group coordinating protests here--had said "massive demonstrations" would occur in downtown Atlanta unless Jones were released.

Police said Jones lay down on a courtroom floor after being sentenced and to be carried back to jail. The California minister, jailed here a week ago during another demonstration, has refused to cooperate with policemen and jailers, forcing them to carry him to his cell. During his last jail stay here, Rev. Jones complained that he was held in solitary confinement, stripped of his clothes, and "roughly handled" by jailers.

SNCC also asked members of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, who earlier this week issued a statement endorsing integration of businesses serving the public, to "take the lead by adopting non-discriminatory practices and fair employment policies in their own businesses."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPELMAN PROFESSOR FIRED

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JUNE 7— A famed history professor at Spelman College and a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's executive committee was fired here without warning on June 4.

Howard Zinn, the chairman of Spelman College's history department, received a letter Tuesday morning from President Albert Manley telling him his "services were no longer needed." Dr. Zinn, now on route to New Jersey where he will teach for the summer, told SNCC officials that he was on tenure, and that no reason was given for his dismissal. He said that college officials told him he was to vacate his apartment by June 30.

James Forman, SNCC executive committee member, wrote to President Manley urging him to reconsider Zinn's dismissal "both for the good of Spelman College and for the good of the movement for human dignity in Atlanta and in the South." Forman cited Zinn's contributions to the civil rights movement, mentioning two pamphlets he wrote for the Southern Regional Council about the Albany (Ga.) Movement.

Zinn said before he left that he was considering taking the case to the American Association of University Professors to determine whether legal regulations regarding his tenure had been violated.

Zinn had been director of the college's Non-Western program, in which several well-known speakers had come to address campus audiences about the Orient. He had also been the moderator for the Atlanta University complex' Town Meeting series, where local citizens and students debated current issues.

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

89 JAILED IN ATLANTA SIT-INS;
MOB GATHERS AT DEMONSTRATION

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JUNE 8 -- The jailing of three college students here today at a segregated restaurant brought to 89 the number of sit-in demonstrators arrested since April.

Coordinated by the Atlanta Committee on Appeal for Human Rights (COAHR), demonstrations here have been aimed at eliminating segregation in downtown eating places. Both white and Negro college and high school students, and some teachers from Atlanta's predominantly Negro colleges, have been active here.

Although Atlanta's dime store lunch counters and a few private restaurants are integrated, most downtown private restaurants still refuse service to Negroes.

Some violence from whites opposing integration has marked recent sit-ins. Yesterday a mob of 35 angry whites gathered in front of Leb's restaurant where two white demonstrators were carried out by arresting policemen. The two whites and a Negro girl arrested with them were charged with violation of Georgia's anti-trespass law, and released on \$100 bail each.

A fourth demonstrator, Willie Paul Berrien, was bound over to the Fulton County Criminal Court on \$400 bail. Berrien has been bound over four times on the same charge in recent months.

Atlanta's student leaders have been meeting in recent weeks to formulate plans for a summer drive on employment discrimination.

Student leaders have vowed to end segregation "in every form of private, city, state, county and federal employment."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANVILLE LEADERS INDICTED;
DEMONSTRATIONS TO CONTINUE

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, JUNE 8 -- A Grand Jury here has indicted three leaders of the Danville Christian Progressive Association on charges of "inciting to riot" and "encouraging a minor to commit a misdemeanor" and an Atlanta-based anti-segregation organization has asked Virginia Governor Albert Harrison and the U.S. Justice Department to investigate charges of police brutality against teen-age demonstrators.

Avon Rollins, a field secretary from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), said that one policeman pushed a 16-year-old girl down a flight of stairs in the courthouse on June 5. Rollins said another policeman clubbed a 13-year old crippled boy, and a third pushed Rev. A. I. Dunlap, pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Church over a bannister.

Dunlap, Julian E. Adams, Sr., and Rev. Lawrence Campbell, pastor of the Bible Week Church here were the three indicted by the Grand Jury and held on \$5000 bail each. Campbell said today that demonstrations, which began June 1, would resume, and that Danville Negroes "intend to be all over downtown."

Campbell, jailed three times since June 5, was released from jail to quiet a crowd of some 700 Negroes who gathered outside the jail where he was being held. Demonstrators took seats in the middle of the town square that evening, sat down in the street, and refused to move.

Campbell said that both high school students and collegians had participated in the demonstrations with local adults.

Hollins, who has been active in anti-segregation demonstrations in Knoxville, Tenn., said he would remain in Danville "until some breakthrough is realized."

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA 14, GEORGIA
688-0331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 11, 1963

KNOXVILLE HOTELS, HOSPITALS TO END JIM CROW

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, JUNE 11 - The head of a student anti - segregation group announced here that city hotels, motels and some hospitals had agreed to accept all patrons without regard to race.

Avon Rollins, head of the Knoxville Civic Improvement Committee (KCIC), said "We feel that we had accomplished a victory by demonstrations here, However, these are only a few crumbs. I can't afford to stay there, and neither can most Negroes. We are going to have to do something about jobs.

Rollins said that 10,000 white people had signed a petition here asking for an "open city" and an end to segregation in public facilities and employment.

KCIC, Americans for Liberty and Equal Racial Treatment (ALERT) and Students for Equal Treatment (SET) - anti - segregation groups leading demonstrations here have been pressing for integration since early this year.

Over 150 demonstrators have been jailed at a segregated movie theatre. The Knoxville protests have been carried out by students from Knoxville College, the University of Tennessee, and Austin High School with local adults.

Rollins, jailed Saturday, June 8 in Danville, Tennessee where he has been active in anti-segregation protests as a field secretary for the Atlanta-based Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, said the plans to return to Knoxville to carry out a drive to open every "public facility and every job in the city to Negroes."

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HOWARD JOHNSON'S SERVES NEGROES IN ATLANTA

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JUNE 9 - A Howard Johnson's restaurant here has served an interracial group over three months after Howard Johnson Sr., owner of the nationwide chain, told reporters, Atlanta would never be a first class city until all restaurants and hotels were available to Negroes and whites alike.

Five students from the Committee On Appeal For Human Rights and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) said they were first refused at the eating place by a young woman who identified herself as manager. When they declined to leave, they were served. An earlier sit-in attempt at LEB's Restaurant in downtown Atlanta was unsuccessful, members of the group said.

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ATLANTA POOLS TO INTEGRATE JUNE 12

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, June 12 - 12 Public swimming pools will integrate here today, two years after members of the Atlanta anti - segregation committee filed suit in Federal Court to desegregate all of Atlanta's publically owned facilities. Atlanta's parks desegregated last year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 11, 1965

HOSES USED ON DANVILLE NEGROES

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, June 11 - After beating Negro children, turning fire hoses on groups of anti-segregation demonstrators here, police have begun jailing parents of juveniles involved in a series of anti-segregation activities since June 1.

38 demonstrators were arrested yesterday, June 10, in a series of marches on city hall here. Fire hoses and billy clubs were used to disperse the marchers.

Also jailed yesterday was Robert Zellner, a field secretary from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Atlanta. Zellner, who was photographing the demonstrations, was jailed and charged with "inciting to riot" and felonious assault" after policemen smashed his camera. Injured in yesterday's demonstrations was SNCC staffer Dorothy Miller, who received a head injury and a gash on her leg. Zellner was held on \$5000.00 bail.

Also in jail here is Avon Rollins, another SNCC field secretary who was arrested on Saturday, June 8 when police picked him up while sitting in a parked car.

Demonstrations here have been conducted by the Danville Christian Progressive Association (DCPA).

Three of the leaders of the DCPA - Reverends A. I. Dunlap and Campbell and Mr. Julius Adams - have been indicted by a Grand Jury here on charges of contributing to the delinquency of minors and inciting to riot. Their bail has been set at \$5000.00.

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ATLANTA POOLS TO INTEGRATE JUNE 12

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, June 12 - 12 Public swimming pools will integrate
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 11, 1963

SEVEN BEATEN IN MISSISSIPPI JAIL

WINONA, MISSISSIPPI, June 11. After beatings which left one man so injured "He couldn't even lift his arms," seven voter registration workers are scheduled to go on trial today.

Six - five women and one man were jailed Sunday, June 9 at the Trailways Bus Station here when they entered the "white" waiting room. The seventh, Lawrence Guyot, a field secretary for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was arrested when he went to the Winona jail to inquire about the six women.

In jail in Winona now are: Guyot, Rosemary Freeman Fannie Lou Harman, June Johnson, Everter Simpson, James West and Ane lle Ponder. Miss Ponder, a native of Atlanta, is a field secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The others are all Mississippi natives.

The group was enroute from a conference in South Carolina to Greenwood, Mississippi the site of a voter registration drive begun by SNCC in August, 1961.

They were all charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Witnesses said that Guyot - was slapped by a state trooper when he refused to say "yes sir" and "no sir" - was turned over to a meeting of the Citizens Council and beaten "so badly he couldn't raise his arms." Two men - who refused to let their names be used - reported that the youth's eyes were swollen shut.

but
Guyot was taken to the jail in Carrolton, Mississippi, was transferred back to Winona this morning.

Other witnesses, who saw the women in the Winona jail, reported that they had been beaten also. One described Miss Hamer as having "bruises and swellings all over her body" and Miss as "being bruised all over."

In atlanta, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee filed protests with the Attorney General of the United States, the Civil Rights Commission, and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

"We feel it is the Federal Government's responsibility not only to secure the release of those seven people, but to see that those who jailed and beat them are punished," SNCC worker Julian Bond said. Bond recalled that Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy had declared earlier in the year that segregation in interstate commerce has been obliterated. "If this is so, and if the Federal Government and the Justice Department really care about protecting the rights of Negroes in the South, then we feel that they must step in to secure full constitutional rights for all men," Bond said.

NEWS RELEASE
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Atlanta 14, Georgia

ELDERLY MINISTER'S SANITY HEARING UNCERTAIN

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JUNE 12 - An elderly California minister's sanity hearing may or may not be held this week, but he is still being held without bail in the Fulton County Jail.

The Reverend Bryant Ashton Jones, 66, of California, a white man, was bound over from Atlanta municipal court last week for a sanity hearing. He was charged with creating a disturbance while participating in a sit-in demonstration at Leb's Restaurant here with a group of Negroes. Rev. Jones had earlier been sentenced to 30 days at the city prison farm after a sit-in at the same restaurant, but Municipal Judge R. E. Jones remitted the sentence after, he said, he had received assurances that Rev. Jones would cause no further disturbances.

Judge Jones ordered Rev. Jones held on a "demented" charge without bond pending a sanity hearing after the second charge was held last week. But a spokesman for the Fulton County Ordinary's office, in which sanity hearings are heard, said Monday (June 10) that they cannot schedule a hearing unless some member of the family or other "interested party" signs a petition. Meanwhile, he remains in jail.

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SNCC WORKER INTEGRATES JACKSON

GOLF COURSE

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, JUNE 6 - Two Negro men - one a field secretary for an Atlanta-based anti-segregation organization - integrated the municipal golf course here today, playing without incident.

The two, Jesse Harris, a field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Sam Jones, were admitted to the course without incident.

Chairs and tables were removed from the clubhouse while two Negro players were on the course.

Two city policemen sat in their patrol car across the street while the Negroes played.

-30-

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SNCC CHOOSES JOHN LEWIS AS CHAIRMAN

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JUNE 15 -- The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee announced today that John Lewis has been selected by acclamation to be the third chairman of SNCC.

Lewis, 23, is presently chairman of the Nashville Nonviolent Movement, and is in Nashville today attending trial for his 24th civil rights arrest.

Lewis, as chairman of the Nashville Movement, was an instrumental force in the desegregation of Nashville's movie theatres, lunch counters, and many private restaurants. He is a native of Troy, Alabama where his father drives a county school bus and operates a farm.

Lewis said here today, "The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee will intensify the drive for complete equality. We will not let up -- we will not tolerate any interruptions -- until we get it. And we want it now."

The new SNCC chairman had been scheduled to go to Germany and participate in church community workshops, but cancelled his trip to assume the chairmanship. He said, "This is a real opportunity for me to be involved in the Southwide struggle."

Lewis said, "There is a great possibility of race riots and violence this summer unless the demands of the whole American Negro community, North and South, are met. We do not want violence and we do not advocate it, but we will not slow down because of the possibility. Violence represents the frustration of the Negro community and the slow pace of progress in achieving real democracy; the only way to avoid this is to show tangible proof to American Negroes that his life is getting better -- and this must be done with deeds, not promises."

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 Raymond Street, N.W.
Atlanta 14, Georgia
Tel: 688-0331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNCC WORKER PUNCHED, JAILED

SELMA, ALABAMA, JUNE 17 -- A young voter registration worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was punched and shoved by a Deputy Sheriff here today.

Bernard Lafayette, director of SNCC's vote drive in Dallas and Wilcox counties, said that 19-year-old Bossie Reese was "literally thrown" into the sheriff's office while young Reese was watching Negroes register.

Lafayette, who was beaten himself last Tuesday night here, said he had protested the incident to local F. B. I. agents.

Lafayette said that Reese was charged with "failure to obey an officer of the law" and "resisting arrest."

Since February, when Lafayette first set up the SNCC vote drive here, at least 190 Negroes have made registration attempts.

Lafayette said that the Dallas County White Citizen's Council ran a full-page ad in the Selma Times-Journal last week asking for new membership "to prevent mass Negro voter registration in Dallas County."

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ATLANTA STUDENTS CLOSE SEGREGATED AMUSEMENT PARK

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JUNE 16 -- Atlanta's Funtown Amusement Park closed down today rather than admit an integrated group of students from the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights (COAHR).

The group of 14 -- including five white youngsters from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's freedom force -- were approached by a special policeman who ordered them out.

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JUNE 17 -- A group of 14 persons were arrested this afternoon at Leb's restaurant and charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct. The group of COAHR's and SNCC's freedom force, and Eric Weinberger, who just completed a 30-day hunger fast in Kilby State Prison as a Freedom Walker.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS SERVED INJUNCTION IN GADSDEN

GADSDEN, ALABAMA, JUNE 17 -- William Porter, field secretary for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, reported today that SNCC and other groups had been served with an injunction prohibiting all anti-segregation demonstrations "except walking in ones and twos," Porter said. He said that the injunction was served personally to Marvin Robinson of the Congress of Racial Equality and Bernard Lee of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Also served were the following groups: The Gadsden Student Movement and the Gadsden Christian Citizens Committee.

Porter said that demonstrations continued today with some 800 Negroes marching to shopping centers and to the courthouse where seven demonstrators arrested last week -- were being tried. He said police manhandled at least two Negroes who came to the courthouse this morning.

DANVILLE DEMONSTRATOR CONVICTED, SENTENCED; CITY COMMISSION TO TALK TOMORROW

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, JUNE 17 --- A demonstrator arrested last week here has been sentenced to \$25 fine and 90 days in jail --- 45 of which are suspended, but the rest must be served --- for so-called "violation" of an injunction.

Avon Rollins, SNCC executive committee member who was also arrested last week, reported that Judge Aiken denied a jury trial. Attorney Len Holt of Norfolk Va. is trying each case separately for each of the 80-odd demonstrators arrested in the past two weeks. Holt also asked for a short recess to meet with witnesses and was denied the request.

SNCC workers Robert Zellner and Daniel Foss remain in jail with the rest of the demonstrators. SNCC worker Ivanhoe Donaldson reported also today that police, armed with a warrant for his arrest, "had almost broken the door down" of the home in which he had been staying in order to find him.

The City Commission is reported to be ready to give a statement at noon tomorrow regarding the desegregation demands of the Negro community.

N E W S R E L E A S E

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 Raymond Street, N.W.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

400 ARRESTED AFTER STATE TROOPERS
DISPERSE CROWD WITH TEAR GAS

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, JUNE 20 -- State and city police fired tear gas on a group of 2600 Negroes here last night as they knelt on the street in front of the city jail protesting the arrest of 400 Negroes.

Protests here have continued for two weeks, with the Negro leadership -- Benjamin Van Clark of the Savannah Youth Strategy Committee, an affiliate of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and Hosea Williams of the Chatham County Crusade for Voters -- asking for desegregation of all hotels, motels, restaurants, cabs and other public facilities.

Last weekend demonstrations were temporarily halted during negotiations between city leaders and the Negroes. Monday the protests began anew when no agreement was reached.

SNCC officials in Atlanta announced that three SNCC workers -- Frederick Tuttle, Joseph Eyer and Bruce Gordon -- were sent today to Savannah at Clark's request.

Last night 3000 Negroes left a mass meeting to march en masse to the Holiday Inn, where they knelt in prayer on the street. After the 400 were arrested, 2600 walked to the city jail and gathered there to protest the arrests.

SNCC worker Sandra Hayden reported that nobody was injured when the State police used tear gas to break up the demonstration at the city jail.

Though the city council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Restaurant Association have asked for desegregation of most public facilities, no agreement has been forthcoming. Negro leaders have pledged to continue their protests until significant gains are won.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

58 ARRESTED IN ITTA BENA,
SERVING TIME IN CITY FARM

ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI, JUNE 20 -- Robert Moses, director of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's Mississippi voter registration project, reported today that 58 Negroes were arrested June 18 in Itta Bena after whites had smoke-bombed a voter registration meeting.

Moses said that when Negroes walked out of the meeting to go to the marshal and protest the lack of police protection, 58 were arrested on charges of "breach of the peace."

Twenty-nine of the group are children between the ages of 10 and 17 and may be released from jail in their parents' custody, but the other 29 adults -- some of whom are women in their 60's -- are now serving time in the Greenwood city farm.

At their trial yesterday, the group was convicted of the charge and sentenced to 6 months in jail and \$500 fine each. Moses said that bond had been set at \$500 for each female and \$750 for each male, but that the total sum was likely to be prohibitive to win the group's release.

Moses said today, "This incident cannot be ignored by the American people. Surely the conscience of this country will not allow these Mississippi men and women, who merely wanted police protection, to remain in jail."

Two of the 58 -- William McGee and Nick Hampton -- had been working as volunteers on the SNCC vote drive, which was instituted in the Delta area last year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIRECT ACTION BEGINS IN CLARKSDALE

CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI, JUNE 21 --- Twenty-three persons have been arrested since Monday in Clarksdale, Mississippi, according to Lafayette Surney, SNCC field secretary there. Picketing to spotlight the need for a bi-racial committee has been in progress at the library, the courthouse, churches, the local Bell Telephone Co., and the newspapers.

The action began with picketing of churches Sunday. On Monday, 15 people picketed the Press-Register, the local paper. On Tuesday, 10 picketed the City Hall. On Wednesday, picketing of the City Hall continued. Two children asked for books Thursday at the city library, and when they were refused the library was picketed. Today, picketing began at Bell Telephone Company.

Three persons remain in jail. The rest are out on bond, including one 96-year-old man. Those arrested are charged with parading without a permit.

This Delta town has been the center for voter registration activities for some time. It was one of the distribution centers when surplus food distribution was stopped in Leflore county. The direct action is part of an attempt to bring racial problems into the open, and the demonstrators are asking the establishment of a biracial committee.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 OF 24 SNCC STAFF MEMBERS ARRESTED IN ALBANY, GEORGIA

ALBANY, GEORGIA, JUNE 21 -- Nineteen staffers of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee---most of whom are summer volunteers---were arrested here in three days of demonstrations and police brutality. Five remain out of jail, as arrests mount to over 100.

On Tuesday, June 18, three--Ralph Allen, Vera Giddens, and Robert Cover-- were arrested for "passing out handbills without a permit."

Wednesday, June 19; John Perdew, Peter de Lissovoy, and Philip Davis were arrested in a group of demonstrators who were marching toward the segregated Albany Theatre, and charged with "disorderly conduct."

Thursday, June 20: Ten SNCC workers were arrested. One group was canvassing in a Negro neighborhood for voter registration; the other young people were in groups trying to obtain service at four downtown restaurants. In most cases those arrested went limp and had to be carried to waiting police wagons. In jail now:

Peter Titelman, Penny Patch, Robert Blechner, Jean Wheeler, Joanne Christian, Cathy Cade, Sue Wender, Wendy Mann, Joni Rabinowitz, and Willie Ricks.

This afternoon three more--Miriam Cohen, Felicia Oldfather, and Bert Steck--- were in a crowd coming out of mass meeting and were picked out of the crowd.

Joyce Barrett, one of the few SNCC workers out of jail, said today that "an explosion seems to be brewing. There is a lot of talk of retaliation." She said a note had been smuggled out of jail describing the beatings administered to Miss Christian, a native Albanian. She said the note stated that Miss Christian was dragged into an alley by police, dropped on her back three times, after which a detective threw her into the corner of the jail and "squeezed the door on her." Then she was pulled up by her hair by a policeman wearing badge number 43, thrown down the stairs, and a desk sergeant picked her up by her hair and hit her on the neck.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE SNCC WORKERS INDICTED BY
GRAND JURY IN DANVILLE, VA.

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, JUNE 21 — Grand Jury indictments were read today for five members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and some local ministers on two felony charges.

SNCC field secretary Robert Zellner reported today that indictments for "contributing to the delinquency of minors" and "inciting to riot" — both felonies carrying \$5000 bond for each person — were cited for James Forman, executive secretary; Dorothy Miller, SNCC office worker; and three field secretaries: Zellner, Avon Rollins, and Daniel Foss.

Zellner said also that indictments were read for Len Holt, a Norfolk, Va., attorney who had been handling the Danville cases; Rev. Curtis Harris and Dr. Milton Reed of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and two local ministers, Rev. Gray and Rev. Hildreth McGhee.

Rev. Lawrence Campbell, one of the leaders of the protests here — who is also under \$5000 bond — said the three SNCC workers would probably remain in the High Street Baptist church all weekend until they had to go out for their trial on Monday, June 24. He said at 3 p.m. Atlanta time that there were "three or four" carloads of police outside the church.

Rollins was arrested June 10 in the first mass arrests in Danville, and was on the city prison farm for 3 days. Zellner and Foss were arrested June 10 and again on June 15 and spent six days in the Danville city jail.

Forman was arrested June 12 for "trespassing" when he and six other Negroes were refused admittance to a Holiday Inn here.

Almost 100 demonstrators had been arrested here in the past three weeks. On Monday, June 10, some 40 people received medical attention after police turned fire hoses on them, and clubbed them savagely.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNCC ASKS SANDERS TO PROTECT SIX IN ALBANY CHURCH

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, June 25 - The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has asked Georgia Governor Carl E. Sanders to "intervene immediately to insure safety of our workers" seeking refuge from police harrassment in an Albany, Georgia, Negro church.

The six, -- Joyce Barrett, Faith Holsaert, David Bell, and Peter Rothstein, all whites, and Joyce Ladner, Prathia Hall and Martha Prescod, all Negroes -- have been in Shiloh Baptist Church since Friday, June 22.

The six, -- plus SNCC's Southwest Georgia project director Charles Sherrod, who is still living in Albany - are all that remain of a staff of 26 in Albany. 20 SNCC staffers have been arrested this week on a variety of charges, from "passing out handbills without a permit" to "disorderly conduct" to "investigation of vagrancy."

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10 JAILED IN GREENWOOD

5 SHOT NEAR CANTON, MISS.

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI, June 25 - Ten Negroes were jailed today in front of the LeFlore County Courthouse where they were eating their lunch. The Negroes, waiting for a chance to take Mississippi's complicated voting test, had defied a decision by the county board of supervisors "designed to make it even harder for Negroes to vote." County Supervisors decided this afternoon that Negroes could not eat their lunch on the courthouse lawn and that Negroes wanting to register would be admitted to the courthouse one at a time only.

Among the 10 arrested today were SNCC workers Jimmy Pruitt, Hollis Watkins, McArthur Cotton, Will Henry Rogers, and Mary Booth.

SNCC worker Frank Smith, who has been working in LeFlore and Marshall Counties here, said five Negroes, returning to their homes from a voter registration meeting, were shot last night near Canton, Mississippi. Smith said that none of the five was seriously injured, but all required hospital treatment.

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NEWS RELEASE
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6 Raymond Street, N. W.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 1963

181 REGISTER IN PINE BLUFF

PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS, June 25, - A voter registration worker - almost killed four months ago in Mississippi for his participation in a Negro vote drive has successfully collected 181 poll taxes from Negroes here.

Jimmy Travis, a 20-year-old field secretary from the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), today took funds for 181 poll taxes to the registrar's office. In Arkansas, as in other states, potential voters must pay a poll tax before they can vote. Arkansas' poll tax is \$1.00.

Bill Hansen, who heads up SNCC's Arkansas rights drive, said that Jefferson County Sheriff Harold Norton had refused to give Travis a receipt. Poll tax receipts are usually mailed out, an authority said, but SNCC workers in Pine Bluff had been given receipts by registration officials in the past.

Hansen said an estimated 600 Negroes had "bought" poll taxes in the past three weeks.

Travis, a native of Jackson, Mississippi and a former Freedom Rider, was shot February 25 by whites who machine gunned a car he was driving. Despite one bullet lodged behind his spine and one in his shoulder, Travis recovered.

SAVANNAH YOUTH JAILED: HELD WITHOUT BAIL

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, June 25, - An Executive Committee member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is being held without bond here after his third consecutive arrest on trespassing charges. In Atlanta, the student antisegregation group asked Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to investigate the arrest of 19-year-old Benjamin Van Clark and called the incident "a basic violation of civil rights."

Van Clark was arrested yesterday as he participated in a demonstration against segregation here. He was refused bond under a city ordinance which forbids bail to anyone arrested for the same offense for the third time.

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

66-YEAR OLD MINISTER JAILED AFTER
WHITE ONLY CHURCH REFUSES MIXED GROUP

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JULY 1 - A white 66-year old minister from San Gabriel, California went to jail Sunday for the fourth time after he and a group of Negroes were refused admission to a white church.

The Reverend Bryant Ashton Jones was charged with "disturbing public worship" when he and others sought entrance to the segregated First Baptist Church on Peachtree.

The arresting officer said the complaint came from the Rev. Roy O. McLain, pastor of the church.

On June 6 Reverend Jones was detained without bond on a "demented" charge after he was arrested at a restaurant sit-in. When he was released last Friday, he had spent 22 days in the Fulton County Jail and Grady Hospital's mental ward. He was freed on \$300.00 bail.

On Tuesday, members of the Committee On Appeal For Human Rights, the student group that coordinates anti-segregation protests here, picketed the city jail and court, charging police brutality against Reverend Jones.

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CAFE WORKERS, STUDENTS MARCH

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JULY 1 - Over 300 striking cafe workers and members of an anti-segregation student group marched downtown here today protesting conditions at the Dobbs House restaurants at the Atlanta airport.

A labor dispute has been going on at the eating places since the management of Dobbs House refused to meet union demands.

A spokesman said the action was "an concrete evidence of the ties between labor and the civil rights struggle."

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NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FILES
ON BEHALF OF DANVILLE PROTESTERS

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, JULY 2 -- The Justice Department today entered a friend of the court brief on behalf of demonstrators arrested in Danville, Virginia for violations of city ordinances and city injunctions. The brief asked that the suits be tried in federal court under the jurisdiction of Judge Michie.

Meanwhile, the city of Danville filed for a temporary injunction to halt demonstrations. The injunction was filed against Rev. Lawrence Campbell, Rev. A. J. Dunlap, and Rev. L. W. Chase of the Danville Christian Progressive Association; James Forman and John Robert Zellner of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; Rev. Milton Reed and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and Len Holt.

The injunction erroneously identified Mr. Holt, a Norfolk lawyer, as a worker for CORE.

The city today also condemned Peter's Park, a park in the Negro neighborhood, where Dr. King was scheduled to speak tomorrow.

Robert Zellner, SNCC field worker in Danville, said that the protest group planned to send out test teams to test public facilities tomorrow. Test teams will also be sent to Dan River Mills, the major industry in this Southern Virginia town, to test employment discrimination.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RING OF KILLERS IN MISSISSIPPI

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JULY 3 - The Civil Rights Commission was "urgently" requested to "hold a full scale hearing on civil rights in Mississippi immediately", in a telegram sent by SNCC, following the killing of three Negroes in the last six weeks in Mississippi. The telegram said the murder of Medgar Evers, Field Secretary of the NAACP "strongly supports the theory that a ring of killers operates out of Greenwood, with an official wink from the police and other law enforcement agencies.

Robert Moses, SNCC field worker in Mississippi said three Negroes have been killed by Mississippi police. Moses said Willie J. Lovett, 20, was shot by W.O. Moore, a deputy in Holmes County. In Panola County Foster Sanders was shot by Shorty Watts, a highway patrolman, and in Tallatchie, County Sheriff Dagan shot a Negro who was sitting in his car.

The telegram charged that the commission had an obligation "to expose the full range of Mississippi's contempt for the laws of the country." "You cannot", the telegram continued, "without selling out your responsibility to Congress, the President, and the country, delay a full scale hearing by the Commission any longer." Linking Mississippi's "contempt for the laws of the country", to the present congressional fight over President Kennedy's civil rights proposals, the telegram stated: "the country cannot demand the strong legislation needed from Congress because it does not understand and cannot connect these stray facts which drift through Mississippi's Cotton Curtain." The FBI and the Federal Judiciary were also cited in the telegram as being "unable to operate" and unable to respond, to the emergencies of our times with intelligent constructive judicial action", because of the actions of the local law enforcement agencies.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANVILLE TESTS BEGIN ANEW
BOWLING ALLEY ADMITS NEGROES

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, JULY 3 - Resumed demonstrations began here yesterday as groups of Negroes tested segregated facilities at a drive-in and at movie theatres.

They were refused admission at all of the businesses they tested. Avon Rollins, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Executive Committee member said.

Rollins said demonstrators were admitted to the previously segregated Riverside Bowling Lanes this morning.

The SNCC worker said Negroes here were planning "mass applications" at Dan River Mills, the towns largest employer, and at other business establishments where Negroes are not hired on a merit basis.

Rollins said, "Danville, scene of recent racial demonstrations, would become a center for protest activity across Virginia."

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SNCC ISSUES TRESSPASS LAW STATEMENT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JULY 3 - The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), an Atlanta-based Southwide student anti-segregation organization, issued a statement today about recommendations made by a Superior Court Judge to a Grand Jury here.

The statement, issued after Fulton County Superior Court Judge Durwood T. Pye instructed a Grand Jury to indict persons - mainly civil rights demonstrators - arrested under Georgia's 1960 tresspass law, called the law "unconstitutional on its face but unconstitutional in its application."

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NEWS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

SAVANNAH YOUTH FINED \$1,500

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, July 3 -- A young anti-segregationist leader was sentenced to pay a \$1,500 fine or 2 years in jail after his third arrest on trespassing charges here.

Benjamin Van Clark, 19, chairman of the Youth Crusade, was also sentenced to 40 months probation.

Clark and five other Negroes were jailed eight days ago and have been held without bail. Chatham County Solicitor Andrew J. Ryan denied them bail because all six had been arrested three times under the anti-trespass statute passed in Georgia in 1960 after student sit-in demonstrations began sweeping the South.

Clark is a leader in protest demonstrations which have seen thousands of Negroes pressing for integration here.

WORK STARTS ON BURNED GEORGIA CHURCHES

Work on rebuilding three Southwest Georgia churches -- burned nearly a year ago after the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) used them as sites for voter registration meetings - began this week.

The three churches - Shady Grove Baptist in Lee County and Mount Olive and Mount Mary Baptist in Terrell County - are scheduled for completion in about four months.

Several fund drives were organized after arsonists destroyed the churches. An Atlanta architectural firm has donated its services in designing the churches, and Trappist monks at a monastery in Rockdale County, Georgia agreed to prepare the stained glass windows. An estimated \$75,000 was collected to rebuild the churches.

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NEGRO FIRED FOR VOTING EFFORTS

SELMA, ALABAMA, JULY 5 -- A 30-year old father of seven who lost his job because of his participation in a voter registration drive here said today "I am going to keep it up because I feel that my people must become registered voters in order to become citizens of this state and country."

The Reverend Sheron Powell, who has been working in Craville, Alabama on a vote drive sponsored by the Atlanta-based Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, lost his job this week with the Cleveland Table Company in Selma. Powell said Charles White, the company manager told him in a written note "circumstances beyond our control" made his firing necessary.

Powell said he knew his participation in the vote drive "would cost a lot of suffering."

Reverend Bernard Lafayette, director of the SNCC project in Dallas and Wilcox Counties, said that "at least six other Negroes active in the vote drive have lost their jobs."

Lafayette, who has been in this area since January, 1963 said that a white Catholic priest who attended a voting meeting has been threatened.

Lafayette said Father Maurice Ouillet, pastor of Saint Elizabeth Mission and Superior Father of St. Edmond's mission here has been threatened with arrest if he attends another mass meeting. Lafayette said mass meetings are held here every Monday evening.

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBANY MOVEMENT VP ARRESTED

ALBANY, GEORGIA, JULY 7 -- Albany Movement Vice President Slater King and two Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee field secretaries were arrested here yesterday along with nine other persons at a segregated bathing spot.

The demonstrators attempted to enter Tift Park Pond in three groups, spaced one hour apart, and were arrested immediately. Mr. King's two young sons, Jonathan, 7, and Alonso, 11, were taken into custody but were released later. The rest of the demonstrators are still in prison.

The jailed SNCC field secretaries were Bert Steck, a 21 year old student at Swathmore College; and Peter Rothstein, 17, of Brandeis University.

A Negro girl, Wilma Dean Mathis, was slapped by Police while being taken into custody, according to Eddie Frazier who witnessed her arrest. Frazier was also jailed for a "traffic violation" after he allegedly drove through a red light. The twelfth person taken into custody, he had driven the interracial demonstrators to the Pond. Three on-the-scene observers said at the time that Frazier had not driven through the light.

Tift Park Pond, once a public facility, was sold recently by the City government to a private individual, the editor-publisher of the Albany Herald, a segregationist newspaper, who is operating the pond on a "white-only" basis.

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For Immediate Release

CHURCH PICKETED AFTER NEGROES ARE BARRED

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JULY 7 -- White and Negro members of the Committee On Appeal for Human Rights - the Atlanta University Center anti-segregation group - picketed Atlanta's largest church, First Baptist, for the second time today. The demonstrations followed the refusal of the church to admit Negroes.

The picketers carried signs reading: "A Segregated Church worships a Segregated God;" and "He Who Hates His Brother and Says He Loves Him Is A Liar."

One Negro student, Debbie Amis, who was refused service at First Baptist today, later attended services at St. Mark's Methodist across the street. While the demonstration was going on outside, Rev. Rpy O. McClain, the church's pastor, told his congregation in a sermon "ignorance is the mother of all prejudice."

The pickets included the Rev. Bryant Ashton Jones of Glendale, California, who was arrested there last week on charges of "demented disorderly conduct and disturbing public worship." He has also been arrested three other times in connection with other integration effort and is free on \$500 bond on the "demented" charges.

RIGHTS GROUP UNITE FOR JOB PUSH

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JULY 8 -- Atlanta's major civil rights groups have announced the reformation of the Student-Adult Laison Committee, the group which proved effective in integrating lunch counters here two years ago. Among those supporting the Committee are : The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Atlanta NAACP, Atlanta's chapter of the Souther Christain Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the Atlanta Committee For Cooperative Action. A statement from the group, which chose Atlanta pastor Rev. H.I. Bearden, as chairman, said that job opportunities for Negroes would be its major thrust.

NEWS SERVICE RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY, 1963

DANVILLE MOVEMENT STARTS BOYCOTT
AGAINST DAN RIVER MILLS AND GENERAL TIRE CO.

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, JULY 8 ** Field workers for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee said today that the Danville Movement has called for national "and international" boycotts against Dan River Mills and General Tire Products.

Avens Rollins, a SNCC field secretary who has been indicted by a grand jury here for "inciting the colored population to acts of violence and war against the white community," said 40 Negroes had picketed the main plant of the mill for fair employment practices.

The Negroes carried signs reading, "Dan River Mills supports police brutality," "Dan River Mills has federal contracts," and "Negroes want equal job opportunities." The firm, which hires 10,000 persons here, has Negroes working only in menial positions. Its public relations officer has been assisting Mayor Julian Stinson since demonstrations began here June 1.

Rollins said that the boycott against General Tire Products was instituted by the Negroes because its distributing outlet, the Stinson Tire Company, is operated by Mayor Stinson. The Mayor has been maintaining the city's firm segregationist policies.

Some 12 demonstrators, including two white field secretaries from SNCC-- Mary King, 22, and Sam Shirah, 20 -- picketed in front of the city hall today bearing American flags and protesting the police action which resulted in 40 casualties June 10.

Rollins said the Danville Movement -- a cooperative effort by SNCC and the Danville Christian Progressive Association, an affiliate of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference -- was conducting a voter registration drive in the city, and had sent field secretaries to other cities in Virginia to begin demonstrations in behalf of the Danville protest movement.

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 Raymond Street, N.W.
Atlanta 14, Georgia
Tel: 688-0331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July, 1963

FOLK ARTISTS, LOCAL CITIZENS
ATTEND SNCC FOLK FESTIVAL IN MISSISSIPPI DELTA

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI, JULY 8 -- Some 200 local citizens welcomed nationally known folk singers and visitors from Georgia and Tennessee here on July 6 in the Delta's first integrated public gathering.

Folk singers Theodore Bikel, Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger joined the Freedom Singers, a group of field secretaries of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, in freedom songs on the grounds of a farm outside Greenwood. City police, parked across highway 82, watched the proceedings.

Robert Moses, director of SNCC's Mississippi voter registration program, said that two days prior to the Festival, police had put up two "no parking" signs just a few feet from the farm on both sides of the road.

John Lewis, SNCC chairman, said in a speech to the crowd, "This is the first time in the history of the Delta that black and white are standing and singing together. We are going to work here in Mississippi until this becomes a commonplace event, and until all citizens of the state have equal rights."

Four carloads of whites and Negroes from Haywood and Fayette counties, Tenn., attended the Folk Festival. SNCC field secretaries, working in Jackson, brought a busload of persons, most of whom had been arrested in demonstrations there some weeks ago.

Dylan sang two songs he had written, one of which, "Blowin' in the Wind," is "the fastest selling single in the history of Warner Brothers Records" (N.Y. Times, July 6). Bikel told the crowd that as a refugee from Hitler, "I've been in this movement with you since the day I was born."

Earlier in the afternoon, a white worker with the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, a SNCC affiliate in Atlanta, was picked up and questioned by Greenwood city police who threatened to kill him. Julius Samstein, 24, was later released.

That evening, Anna Jo Weaver, 20, another white COAHR worker, was picked up by police as she was walking from the SNCC office to the home in which she was staying. She was lectured by police that she "was breaking God's law" by associating with Negroes, and then released.

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VOTE WORKER JAI LED FOR VAGRANCY

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA, July 8 - A voter registration worker for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has been jailed for "vagrancy" for the second time in a month. In Atlanta, the SNCC office said they would ask Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to "seek immediate release of Wilson Brown, who has been held illegally in Tuscaloosa since July 2."

Brown, a student leader from Birmingham, has been working on a SNCC-sponsored vote project since March, 1963. He was jailed on June 21 on vagrancy charges but was released and must stand trial later.

In a telegram to Attorney General Kennedy, SNCC Chairman John Lewis charged "Alabama officials are deliberately holding Brown in an attempt to intimidate would be voters in Tuscaloosa."

Lewis said "the Federal Government must act to protect his rights, and the rights of Negroes all over the South who only want to be first-class citizens."

The text of the telegram follows:

We demand you seek immediate release of Wilson Brown, who has been held illegally in Tuscaloosa, Alabama since July 2. Alabama officials are deliberately holding Brown in an attempt to intimidate would-be voters in Tuscaloosa. The Federal government must act to protect his rights and the rights of Negroes all over the South who only want to be first-class citizens.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), an Atlanta-based student anti-segregation organization, conducts direct action and voter registration campaigns against segregation in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas and Virginia.

SNCC field secretaries work in hard-core areas of the South for subsistence wages, the Atlanta SNCC office said.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITIZENS SERVE WARRANT ON SAVANNAH LEADER

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, JULY 9 -- An anti-segregation leader was arrested here last night at 2 a.m. after white citizens issued special "good behavior" warrants for his detention.

Hosea Williams, director of the Chatham County Crusade For Voters, was arrested last night on a "good behavior" warrant, sworn out by a local white woman for "potential damages" to the community of Savannah. Bond was set at \$2500.

Field representatives of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who have been working with the local student movement, said that two other white persons had sworn out similar warrants against Williams, and that the bond was now at \$7500 total.

Savannah officials are reported to have said that the high bond is due to the two previous arrests Williams has incurred in the anti-segregation struggle here.

This afternoon, some 150 Negroes presented themselves at the Danish consulate here, asking Danish officials to "use diplomatic pressure to insure democracy in the United States" since the United States is "fighting for democracy abroad." After the delegation left the consulate, 23 Negroes sat down at a main intersection and were arrested on charges of "refusing to move," "unlawful assembly," and "blocking traffic."

Negroes also began this afternoon a wave of telephone calls protesting Williams' arrest to every city and county bureau with the exception of police, fire and public health offices. Each caller is saying, "I want Hosea Williams out of jail." The mayor's phone, SNCC staffers said, is already "off the hook."

SNCC staff members said today that apparently any number citizens can swear out warrants like those served on Williams, and that the Negro community cannot afford the "excessive" bail.

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUES TO RELEASE
NEGROES IMPRISONED AFTER VOTE MEETING

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI, JULY 9 -- Trial will begin July 11 here on a Justice Department suit to release 45 Negroes imprisoned after a voter registration meeting June 17 in neighboring Itta Bena. The Negroes -- who had walked to the town marshal's office to protest the smoke-bombing of their voter registration meeting -- were charged with "breach of the peace" and have been in Parchman Penitentiary since the date of their arrest.

James Forman, executive secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee -- the group which has a voter registration program in the Mississippi Delta -- said today that the Department had filed for an injunction to restrain Leflore County officials from "intimidating those seeking to register and vote" and to release those already imprisoned.

The suit, entered in the U. S. District Court (North Mississippi) seeks to enjoin John J. Frazier, Jr., the Leflore County prosecutor; H. Ed Webber, the deputy sheriff of Leflore County and the town marshal of Itta Bena, and others.

Forman said that Leo Branton, an attorney from Los Angeles, would come to Greenwood tomorrow "to survey the situation here regarding the illegal deprivation of Negroes' rights here in the Delta." Branton is active in the Los Angeles Friends of SNCC chapter.

Forman said that four whites had been apprehended today for the smoke-bombing of a Negro home on Sunday night, and were given 30-day suspended sentences. He said, "Mississippi justice is reflected in the comparison of this sentence and the 6-month terms given Negro citizens who tried to protest lack of police protection in Itta Bena."

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DEMONSTRATIONS RESUME IN CAMBRIDGE, MD.
AGAINST POSSIBLE REFERENDUM OF RIGHTS AMENDMENT

CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND, JULY 9 -- Demonstrations resumed here yesterday for the first time in two weeks immediately following the withdrawal of 400 Maryland state troopers. Officials of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee, an affiliate of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, said the direct action was being used to point up the Negro community's objections to a city charter amendment outlawing segregation in public facilities.

Reginald Robinson, a SNCC field secretary, said the Negro community favored such a law, but objected to it in the form of a charter amendment which could be repealed by a majority vote in a referendum. He said that some white persons are already circulating petitions to ask for a referendum, which can be obtained by 20% of the population within 40 days of the amendment's passage.

Whites outnumber Negroes in a 2-1 ratio in Cambridge.

Robinson said, "This should have been put into law. We object to the rights of Negroes being put up to the whims and frustrations of the white community."

Ten persons -- four of them white -- attempted to sit-in at the Dizzyland Restaurant, owned by a Mr. Fassenfeld whom Robinson said was prominent in the referendum campaign. Fassenfeld threw the demonstrators bodily out of the restaurant and onto the street.

Two of the demonstrators -- Eddie Dickerson and James Lewis -- were attacked by whites and pelted by eggs. They gave affidavits of the attack today to the F.B.I.

Later last night, some 200 Negroes marched to the courthouse and the city jail. Robinson said another march would take place tonight "and will continue to take place until we have freedom here in Cambridge."

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SIX STUDENTS ARRESTED IN GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI
GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI, JULY 9--Six Negro students were sentenced to six months in jail and \$500 fine each because they tried to enter a "white-only" park here today.

The six, all members of the Greenville Student Movement, were arrested for "breach of the peace" today at Strange Park. At their trial--immediately after the arrest took place--the six were convicted and sentenced. They are: Jacob Bayas, 16; Mike Hutchins, 16; Luretha Jefferson, 18; Ella Louise Louis, 18; Lessie Clifton, 18; and Matthew Johnson, 15.

Officials of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee wired the Attorney General of the United States to protest "the excessive sentence to penalize American students for trying to exercise their rights."

Two field secretaries of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee--Charles Cobb and Charles McLaurin were charged with "disturbing the peace" and sentenced to four months in jail.

All the students arrested have committed themselves to serve their sentences.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has five field secretaries in Jackson, Mississippi, conducting non-violent workshops in lieu of the violence which occurred there after Medgar Evers' murder. Under the leadership of director Robert Moses, some 25 young people are working on various voter registration programs in Greenwood, Itta Bena, and Lexington.