

SNCC NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Friday, January 1 at 11:00 a.m. the Lowndes County Christian Movement (LCCM) will hold a press conference at "tent city" in Lowndes County, west of Lowndesboro on Route 80.

Stokely Carmichael, Lowndes County SNCC worker, said that over twenty families have been evicted because they were active in the Lowndes County, Alabama voter registration campaign. The evicted people will be living in "tent city" in tents thrown put up on seven (7) acres of land that the Lowndes County Christian Movement has bought from friends of the Movement. "The people were told to get off the land by January 1st," says Carmichael, "but they're not going to get off because they know there are no jobs in the big cities. They know if they leave, the strength of the voter registration campaign would diminish."

Tent City is being built seven miles from where Mrs. Viola Luizzo was killed and twenty miles from where John Daniels was killed. SNCC workers, Stokely Carmichael, Gloria Larry, Scotty B. Smith and Fay Belamy will stay in the tents with the evicted farmers. Tents are being used because some families are too large to move in with relatives or friends. The tents will provide more space. To date the SNCC has bought three 10 by 12 tents, (\$59 @), six 16 by 16 tents (\$69 @), one 16 by 32 tent at (\$150 @), sixth cots (\$ 4.95 @) and twelve stove heaters (\$30 @). These are bare necessities and will only help house eight families. A SNCC spokesman said electric generators are needed and other supplies which will run into the thousands of dollars.

The LCCM has grown rapidly in the past year. As recently as March, no Negro was registered. Lowndes county was one of the first nine Southern counties to be designated for a Federal examiner under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. March 17, AP reported the "Lowndes County Board of Registrars has registered a Negro voter--the first member of his race to be placed on the voter roll in that county. The three Lowndes County Board members--Chairman L.D. Conway, Carl Golson and

Adam Smith--said the newly registered Negro voter 'was properly vouched for!'. After 10 months of voter registration work by SNCC and other rights workers there are now over 2,000 Negroes registered. This rapid change is explosive for there are 5, 122 eligible Negro voters and only 1900 eligible white voters.

Mr. F. Cosby, who makes his living as a mechanic and was vice-president of the Lowndes County Christian Movement from March to August said, "I think people are being put off their land because of the voter registration drive. Whites are angry because of the Federal registrars."

John Hewlit, president of the LCCM, has been fired from a construction job and a job with Alabama Power Company because of his participation in the voter registration drive.

Mr. Cosby said "The movement has spread over 75% of the county. It effects over 12,000 people. The meetings are held in different vicinities each Sunday night. If it was in Trickett last Sunday it will be in Calhoun next Sunday. A few are afraid to come to mass meetings. Some would like to come but whites say 'don't participate in the mess.'"

An example of the type of intimidation of voters taking place in Lowndes County is given by the case of Mrs. Muffin Miles. Miles was asked to leave by Mrs. Berk, the owner. Mrs. Miles says that the landlady's statement that the land use is being changed to cattle raising is not true. She knows of another Negro family that's preparing to move onto the very land she's leaving. 6:00 Dec. 28, SNCC workers Doug and Tina Harris started to move M_r. Miles and her seven children from a four room shack to a one room shack on a cousins land. They used a trailer, a pick-up and two mule drawn wagons. While on the road they saw other families on the move. There are rumors that the same thing is happening in neighboring counties.

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