

U. S. ASKED TO WITHDRAW FROM JIM
CROW MISSISSIPPI MEETING

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has asked the United States Department of Commerce to withdraw its sponsorship from a segregated Foreign Trade Seminar scheduled for Hattiesburg, Mississippi on April 8.

The student group had also asked a chorus from St. Louis' Concordia Seminary to cancel a Good Friday - March 27 - date at a segregated school, Methodist Milsaps College in Jackson.

In a letter to Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges, SNCC Chairman John Lewis said a Mr. Pyne, Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce Manager, said Negroes would not be permitted to attend the April 8 Trade Seminar. The Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce is co-sponsor of the event.

"The Seminar will be held on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi," Lewis said. "This school is segregated, and has refused admission to one qualified Negro, John Frazier, five times, the last time as recently as three weeks ago."

In his letter to Concordia Seminary Chorus Director Dr. William B. Heyne, Lewis asked him to cancel their March 27 Milsaps College date. "On February 21, the Board of Trustees of Milsaps reaffirmed a 1958 policy statement declaring 'Segregation always has been and is now the policy of Milsaps College'", the SNCC head wrote.

"We feel this position is un-Christian," Lewis said. The student anti-segregation group has successfully encouraged other artists and public figures to cancel segregated Mississippi engagements.

Those canceling included TV's "Bonanza" and "Hootenanny: USA", NASA Chief James Webb, baseball star Stan Musial, Al Hirt and pianist Gary Graffman,