

Student
Nonviolent
Coordinating
Committee

NEWSLETTER

6 Raymond Street, N. W.
Atlanta 14, Georgia
688-0331

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March 1, 1963

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI -- James Travis, 20, is here in University Hospital after receiving a shoulder wound and spine injury in an attack by three whites seven miles from Greenwood February 28. Travis was driving, accompanied by Robert Moses, director of SNCC's statewide Mississippi voter registration project, and Randolph Blackwell, field director of the Voter Education Project, when an untagged white 1962 Buick passed them on the highway to Greenville and fired two blasts into the car. Both front windows were demolished; seven bullets penetrated the side of the car. Moses said about 150 Negroes had tried to register in Greenwood this week.

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PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS -- The number of students expelled from Arkansas AM & N College here has risen to 15. SNCC Chairman Charles McDew appealed to "all friends of justice" to protest the expulsions. Meanwhile, SNCC staffer William Hansen was beaten and stomped by a white youth during a sit-in while police looked on.

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA -- Circuit Judge Eugene Carter declared a mistrial -- after a 12-man all-white jury could not reach a verdict -- in "false pretenses" proceedings against Bob Zellner, SNCC field secretary February 28. The jury was out for five hours. James Forman, SNCC executive secretary, said, "There is still some justice in Montgomery!" Zellner's attorney, Charles Morgan, Jr. of Birmingham, had attempted to get a temporary order restraining the prosecution. A complaint in Federal Court against the arrest and subsequent charges is pending in Federal Court.

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SELMA, ALABAMA -- A new voter registration project -- SNCC's first program in Alabama -- was initiated three weeks ago. SNCC staffers Bernard and Colia Lafayette and Frank Holloway report that 12 Negroes have gone down to register.

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TALLADEGA, ALABAMA -- At the request of the State of Alabama, hearings on a temporary restraining order against anti-segregation demonstrators have been continued until March 13. SNCC staffer Bob Zellner is one of the parties enjoined.

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GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI -- SNCC field secretary Sam Block was arrested here for "making statements to incite breach of the peace" two days after unknown persons burned to the ground four Negro businesses located one block from SNCC's office here. Block had charged that local racists had meant to burn him out. He was held on \$1000 bond. On February 25 he was fined \$500 and sentenced to six months. The judge said he would reduce the fine to \$250 and suspend the sentence if Block would leave the state. The case is on appeal.

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LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS -- Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus called SNCC field secretary Bill Hansen a "professional agitator." Faubus told a news conference that the "white leader" had been arrested 16 times. Hansen, who worked with both Little Rock and Pine Bluff student groups, has been arrested 19 times.

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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND -- After more than 450 demonstrators had been arrested, the Northwood Movie Theatre integrated peacefully here. SNCC Chairman Charles McDew had protested the arrests to Baltimore Mayor Philip H. Goodman and had alerted groups on the East Coast to "stand by" for possible future action.

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- Howard Johnson's newly opened restaurant in Atlanta turned away groups of SNCC workers twice last weekend. SNCC chairman McDew, refused service last weekend here and at two Howard Johnson's last Thanksgiving Day, asked Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. to "urge Atlanta's restaurants and hotels to integrate peacefully."

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ACTION REQUESTS:

1. We are asking you to wire President John F. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy demanding federal protection of all SNCC workers in Mississippi, as SNCC executive secretary James Forman said, "to prevent murder in Mississippi."

2. Protest Sam Block's arrest in Greenwood, Mississippi by calling, writing or wiring officials of the Justice Department, Washington, D.C.

3. Protest the suspension of fifteen students from Arkansas AM&N College in Pine Bluff. Send your protests to Governor Orval Faubus, Senator J. W. Fulbright, and Arkansas AM&N President Dr. Lawrence A. Davis.

4. We still need a late model car for our Mississippi staff, and one for our new Alabama project. SNCC workers have to cover vast areas -- one has been traveling on mule-back -- and transportation is essential.

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FROM A FIELD REPORT: "Negroes make up 61% of the population and about 1% of the registered voters... We went to Geo's Ford, an all-Negro settlement...they know nothing of running water, gas or electricity...they were not allowed to come out, but were born, lived and died here... County officials have told the Negroes that if they (Negroes) don't repair their own school they would have to buy a bus to transport their children to another county. The repairs would run about \$3,000. These Negroes average about \$25 a week..."

from Frank Holloway in Selma, Alabama

FROM A FIELD REPORT: "Curtis Hayes has contracted pneumonia in his left lung, no doubt from sleeping on the concrete floor of the Greenville office. The staff here needs more cots, for three of them sleep on the floor every night."

from Lafayette Surney in Greenville, Mississippi

FROM A FIELD REPORT: "I've been here helping to clothe and feed the needy. Giving out food and clothes has given the voter registration drive a big push. From February 19 to February 21, twenty-two people have made attempts. The commodity roll in Washington County has been reduced by 10,000, the cotton season has been a poor one for hand pickers, there is much need, and we have little food and clothing as most goes for Leflore and Sunflower Counties."

from Charles Cobb in Greenville, Mississippi

FROM A FIELD REPORT: "...take the case of Mr. _____, who is 37 years old, his wife is 33, he has 11 children ranging from 17 down to 8 months, 7 of them are school age, not a one is attending school because they have no money, no food, no clothes and no wood to keep warm by and now they want to go register."

from Sam Block and Willie Peacock in Greenwood, Miss.

REMEMBER: If you plan to attend SNCC's Easter Conference - theme: "Emancipation Then, Freedom Now" - you must write Ruby Doris Smith in Atlanta for an application blank.

When Bob Moses got ready to transport Jimmy Travis to Jackson's University Hospital this morning by ambulance, he had no money to pay the owner of the ambulance. A Greenwood Negro, who has an account at that city's Bank Of Commerce, wrote a check for \$60, payable to SNCC's Sam Block. Sam took the check to the Bank of Commerce, and presented it for payment. A teller took the check, scratched out "Mr." before Sam's name, and told him that he would have to present some identification. He did, but the bank still refused to honor the check. The ambulance owner and driver, who also has an account there, agreed to counter-sign for Sam. The bank still refused to honor the check. The driver then agreed to drive to Jackson, and to get his money later.

FINALLY: SNCC now has 42 full-time staff members, working in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi and Arkansas. The \$10 - \$15 a week they receive is hardly enough to feed them, and will never feed and house them and provide funds to run their projects. A long summer is coming. Last summer our Southwest Georgia staff had to pick and chop cotton to get money to supplement their three times a day diet of cucumbers.

We are in the South, in the rural counties and black belt districts to stay, but we need your help.

SNCC

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