

SNCC / ROCK HILL - FEB, 1961

February 6, 1961

FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH

Four students were arrested today in Rock Hill, South Carolina for sitting-in at GOOD'S DRUG STORE on Main Street. They were charged with trespassing and have confirmed their intention of remaining in JAIL WITHOUT BAIL. They were identified as Diana Nash, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee; Charles Jones, Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, North Carolina; Ruby Doris Smith, Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia; Charles Sherrod, Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia. All four of the students are members of the STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE, the coordinating and administrative body for the student movement which seeks to obtain equal status for all through non-violent means. They gave the following statement as reason for their actions:

③ "THERE ARE NINE STUDENTS HERE SERVING THIRTY DAYS ON THE YORK COUNTY CHAIN GANG FOR SITTING AT LUNCH COUNTERS AND REQUESTING SERVICE. THEIR SITTING-IN SHOWS THEIR BELIEF IN THE IMMORALITY OF RACIAL SEGREGATION AND THEIR CHOICE TO SERVE THE SENTENCE SHOWS THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PART OF A SYSTEM THAT PERPETUATES INJUSTICE. SINCE WE TOO SHARE THEIR BELIEFS AND SINCE MANY TIMES DURING THE PAST YEAR, WE TOO HAVE SAT-IN AT LUNCH COUNTERS, WE FEEL THAT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN TO JOIN THEM". *

The STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE calls upon all those who share the convictions of the above students to go to Rock Hill, South Carolina and join them at the lunch counters and in jail. Only by this type of action, can we show that the nonviolent movement against segregation is not a local issue for just the individual community, but rather a united movement of all those who believe in equality. This is an opportunity for all, a second chance, to rededicate ourselves again in the spirit of sacrifice to eliminate segregation for all, wherever it exists. These students feel that injustice anywhere affecting our fellow students affects us personally and we must by joining them in this struggle, dramatize this to the entire world. For this is our chance for greatness to revitalize the whole student movement.

If students from your community are coming, please notify:

Mr. Ed King
SNCC
197½ Auburn Ave., N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia
MU 8-0331

We hope that you will also send letters, telegrams, etc., to these students, c/o Rev. C. A. Ivory, 442 South Trade Street, Rock Hill, S. C., and to Governor Ernest Hollings, State Capitol, Columbia, South Carolina and Mr. John Hardin, Mayor, Rock Hill, S. C., protesting the arrests.

FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT GO TO ROCK HILL

We know that there are many students who share the convictions of those in jail in South Carolina and hope that they will bear this witness in their own community.

- (1) Those students who are on appeal bonds, may release the bonds and return to jail.
- (2) Those who are arrested in stand-ins, sit-ins, or other activities, may go to jail and remain, rather than posting bond.