OATH TO NON-VIOLENCE

I, [Name], willingly participate in the programs and activities of the Atlanta Committee on Appeal for Human Rights as a volunteer, of my own free will without coercion. I will adhere to the following six basic principles of non-violence:

1. Non-violence is not a method for cowards. The method is passive physically, but strongly active spiritually. It is not passive resistance to evil, it is active non-violent resistance to evil.

2. Non-violence does not seek to defeat or humiliate the opponent, but to win his friendship. The aftermath of non-violence is the creation of the beloved community, where the aftermath of violence is tragic bitterness.

3. In non-violence the attack is directed against forces of evil rather than against the persons who happen to be doing the evil.

4. Non-violent resistance is a willingness to accept suffering without retaliation, to accept blows from the opponent without striking back. If going to jail is necessary, the non-violent resister enters it "as a bridegroom enters the bride's chambers".

5. Non-violent resistance avoids not only external physical violence but also, internal violence of spirit. At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love. The non-violent resister not only refuses to shoot his opponent but also refuses to hate him.

6. Non-violent resistance is based on the conviction that the universe is on the side of justice. Consequently, the believer in non-violence has deep faith in the future. This faith is another reason why the non-violent resister can accept suffering without retaliation.
I. Remember that each individual participant in the picketing is required to remain disciplined, peaceful, and non-violent at all times.

2. Pickets are to keep walking while on duty and are not to engage in discussions or debates with customers, store personnel or passers-by. They are not to block entrances or exits.

3. Everyone who participates in picketing pleads himself to abide by the decisions arrived at by the group. If he does not think he can abide by those decisions, he should withdraw from participation.

4. During the picketing project every participant must take orders from the project leader or picket captain. All press inquiries and other questions should be directed to him and he should be allowed to speak for the group. Should it be felt that he is not performing his duty properly, (and) objections should be voiced at a review meeting and not at the scene of picketing.

5. Direct orders from police personnel are to be obeyed. Write down all particulars of this or any other incident as soon as possible, complete with such details of time, place, persons involved, etc., as are available. Submit your account as soon as you can to the office of the Student Movement.

6. If you should feel at any time that you are losing control of yourself during picket duty, and cannot abide by the agreed upon discipline, please notify the picket captain quietly and leave the picket line.

7. Every participant should understand that while things have generally gone smoothly, this may not always be the case. Pickets may be abused verbally or physically and may be arrested. They should be prepared to accept arrest. The best way to be able to withstand verbal and physical abuse is to discipline oneself in advance for it and to keep in mind that the picketing project represents a cause greater than any individual.

8. All persons participating in the picketing must remain orderly and peaceful in acts and language. They should be as calm and relaxed as possible, knowing that they are fighting for their rights, and are within their rights. It is also important that persons participating not be inappropriately dressed. All should be clean and well-dressed and should speak and behave courteously even when exposed to great stress and strain.

OFFICE OF THE ATLANTA STUDENT MOVEMENT
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