

STUDENT NONVIOLENT  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA



JAMES FORMAN,  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman was raised in rural Marshall County, Mississippi. He will spend the summer of 1964 in that state working on the Mississippi Summer Project.

Forman was born in Chicago in 1928 and moved back there from Mississippi. He attended public and private schools there and spent one semester at Wilson Junior College before joining the United States Air Force. He was honorably discharged in September 1951.

He then entered Roosevelt University in Chicago, and was graduated with a degree in public administration in 1957. He attended Boston University on a grant from that school's African Studies Program. He studied there one year while also serving as an assistant in the Government Department. He has done postgraduate study in French and education at Middlebury College in Vermont.

In the fall of 1960, Forman took leave from his school teaching job in Chicago to organize the Fayette County (Tennessee) Relief Program and helped set up Tent City, a stop gap effort to house sharecroppers evicted because they tried to register to vote.

At that time, Forman says, he became concerned that young Negroes must return to the South.

In the fall of 1961 he joined the small staff of the infant SNCC operation, agreeing to serve as executive secretary. He has served in that post since, and has directed SNCC's growth from a 16 man, one room organization to a Southwide group with over 150 staff in seven states.

"Those of us in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee have made our choice," Forman says. "We prefer to work not for money but for the emancipation of our society. We prefer quick death from positive action rather than the slow death that one begins to feel when he learns that he is a Negro in America."