

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING
COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314



WILLIAM
HANSEN

ARKANSAS
PROJECT
DIRECTOR

From 1939 when he was born until 1960, William Hansen had never been in jail. From 1960 to the present, he has been arrested 23 times in twelve different cities, and spent one third of 1961 in prison.

Severely beaten a number of times, Hansen once had his jaw broken on officials' orders while incarcerated in Albany, Georgia in 1962.

Hansen left Xavier University in Cincinnati, his home town, at the end of his junior year to work for SNCC full time. Since then he has participated in direct action and voter registration projects in areas as widely separated as Cambridge, Maryland and the Arkansas Delta.

His initial experience in civil rights organizing was in Cambridge when SNCC was first invited into that city by local rights leaders. Working with SNCC field secretary Reginald Robinson and Mrs. Gloria Richardson, who sits on SNCC's executive committee, Hansen helped mobilize the Eastern Shore of Maryland for attacks on unemployment and discriminatory public accommodations which culminated in demonstrations the summer of 1963 and spring of 1964.

When human relations groups in Arkansas appealed to SNCC for assist- in 1962, SNCC selected Hansen to head that project.

Since that time virtually all desegregation of public accommodations in Arkansas vote drives and attacks on school segregation in Little Rock, have fallen under Hansen's leadership.

Hansen is the only SNCC project director who is not Negro.

In October 1963, he married Ruth Buffington, a Negro SNCC worker in the Arkansas project.