

Student Nonviolent
Coordinating Committee
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March 12, 1963

VIOLENCE STALKS VOTER-REGISTRATION WORKERS IN MISSISSIPPI

Staff members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, working on voter registration in Leflore County, Mississippi, have been the object of a new wave of violence in the past few weeks. The town of Greenwood has been the scene of these recent efforts to terrorize student workers who have also helped to secure food for Negro sharecroppers denied Federal surplus food relief.

On February 25th and 26th, over 150 Negroes attempted to register to vote in Greenwood, Mississippi. This is the largest number of Negroes who have attempted to register in Greenwood or any Black Belt County. Hunger and violence are apparently being used to curtail voter-registration efforts.

Since February 20, 1963 :

- Four (4) Negro businesses destroyed by fire!
- SNCC Field Secretary sentenced to six months in jail!
- Student worker shot in neck when attacked by passing car!
- Second shooting injures four (4) voter-registration workers!

BUSINESS PLACES BURNED TO GROUND

FEBRUARY 20 : Four small business places, located on the same street as the Greenwood office of SNCC, were destroyed by fire early Wednesday morning, February 20

The belief that the real target was the Sncc office finds support in the call reported by Mrs. Nancy Brand, worker in that office. She received an anonymous phone call the morning of the fire from

a man who asked if she ever went to the office. When she answered "Yes", the caller said, " You won't be going there any more. That's been taken care of."

The destroyed businesses were Jackson's Garage, George's Cafe, Porter's Pressing Shop, and the Esquire Club.

SNCC WORKER ARRESTED ON WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY 22: Samuel Block, SNCC field secretary was arrested in front of his office in Greenwood, Mississippi on Friday, February 22. He was taken to an unknown jail and charged with "circulating breach of the peace." When tried on Monday, February 25, the charge was changed to "issuing statements calculated to breach the peace," and Block was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$500.00.

The judge who pronounced sentence told Mr. Block that he would reduce the fine to \$250.00 and suspend sentence if he would leave Mississippi for good. Samuel Block was born and reared in Mississippi.

STUDENT SHOT AND CRITICALLY WOUNDED

FEBRUARY 28: James Travis, 20 year old SNCC staff member, narrowly missed death when the car which he was driving was shot into by three white men, seven miles outside Greenwood on Thursday evening, February 28.

Travis was accompanied by Robert Moses, director of SNCC's statewide Mississippi registration program, and Randolph Blackwell, field director of southwide Voter Education Project. An untagged 1962 white Buick passed Travis' car on the highway to Greenville, Mississippi and fired several blasts into his car. Both front windows were demolished, seven bullets pierced the side of the car, and a bullet passed through Travis' shoulder and lodged at the back of his head, behind the spine. He was operated on the next day at University Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi.

SECOND SHOOTING INJURES FOUR

MARCH 7:

Four voter registration workers were cut by flying glass when the car in which they were sitting was fired into on Wednesday night, March 7. This was the second such shooting in Greenwood in less than ten days.

Those cut by the shattered front window of their car were Sam Block, 23, Willie Peacock, 25, Miss Peggy Marye, 19, and Miss Essie Broome, 24. The four young persons had just left a church meeting dealing with food and clothing needs of the county.

OTHER PERTINENT FACTS :

- There are 19,806 Negroes and 6,881 whites in Leflore County, Mississippi.
- Some 22,000 people were denied Federal'y supplied surplus commodities. County officials said they could not pay workers to distribute the food; yet no employees were laid off when the 22,000 were deprived of this relief.
- Samuel Block is one of the twenty young Mississippi Negroes working with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's voter-registration program.
- Block has been arrested seven times, beaten twice, and was forced to jump from a second story window last August to flee a lynch mob of white men carrying chains, ropes and iron pipes.

The STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SNCC) is an Atlanta-based student movement, with voter-registration programs going on in the hard core rural areas of Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. Staff members work for maintenance when it is available.