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N E W S L E T T E R

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VOL. 1, Nos. 14 & 15

March 22, 1963

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI -- The Leflore County Board of Supervisors voted this week to reinstitute their surplus food program for one month. The move came after protests at government agencies in Washington, a three-month campaign by SNCC to collect food and clothing for dispossessed Delta Negroes, and pressure from the Agriculture Department. SNCC officials said that their food drive would continue "until we are assured that Leflore County Negroes can survive."

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AMERICUS, GEORGIA -- Two SNCC field secretaries were questioned by Sumter County law enforcement officials for over an hour after they accompanied 15 Negroes to the registrar's office here. The two, Don Harris and John Churchville, were fingerprinted and told by Sheriff Chappell of Americus, "We're going to get you on vagrancy or loitering." Over 20 Negroes have made registration attempts in the past three weeks, the field staff reported.

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GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI -- Over 100 Negroes tried to register in one day this week here, SNCC executive secretary, James Forman, said. Forman said that over 400 Leflore County Negroes have tried to register in the past month. Greenwood has been the scene of two shootings, both aimed at SNCC workers, and several arrests.

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JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI -- SNCC field secretary Jimmy Travis, almost fatally wounded on February 28 when three white men fired into his car, vowed here to continue "fighting to bring democracy to Mississippi!"

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- Two college students, arrested here in this city's first hotel "sleep-in" were bound over on \$100 bond each this week to the Fulton County Criminal Court. The two, with two others, had tried to occupy rooms at the segregated Henry Grady Hotel here after reservations had been made for them by a white student.

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PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS -- Two restaurants and a motor hotel have integrated here after brief student anti-segregation activity. SNCC field secretary Bill Hansen said that members of the Pine Bluff Movement -- primarily students suspended from Arkansas AM&N College because they participated in sit-ins -- have integrated the Magnolia Cafe, Keese's Restaurant, and the Holiday Inn. Hansen said that the group which has been sitting-in at Woolworth's and Walgreen's Drug Stores here, would also seek to integrate the Pines Hotel and several local movie theatres.

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- At least 400 students from the six colleges of the Atlanta University Center marched from their campuses March 14 to City Hall protesting the "sleep-in" arrests of two fellow class mates. They met Mayor Ivan Allen on the steps of the City Hall, where he lauded Atlanta's "progress in race relations."

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TALLADEGA, ALABAMA -- A hearing on an injunction taken by the State against SNCC and others was completed here a week ago after it had dragged on for several months. Court officials said that a ruling on the injunction, "temporary" for a year, should come within a month.

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE -- Eight students, members of the Student Central Committee, were found guilty in criminal court here for attempting to eat at the E. & W. Cafeteria. They were sentenced to serve 90 days on workhouse gangs and fined \$50 each. Included in the group was SNCC executive committee member John Lewis. Meanwhile, ex-SNCC staffer Paul Brooks, now a student at American Baptist Theological Seminary, remains in city jail where he was placed after he attempted to get service at Cross Keys Restaurant.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Students from the University of Chicago, Howard University, Morgan State College, and other colleges, tried to sit-in at Senator James O. Eastland's office March 18 but found their way blocked by police. They then went to see Rep. William Fitts Ryan (D-N.Y.) to urge him to press for resumption of food distribution in Leflore County. After seeing Ryan, the group picketed the homes of Sen. Eastland and Sen. John Stennis. The Jackson (Miss.) Clarion Ledger reported in front-page stories, "'It was a mixed group, which made it even worse,' Stennis added."

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ACTION REQUESTS: SNCC urges protests to the national offices of chain stores whose segregation policies are being attacked by the Jackson, Miss. NAACP Youth Council. The stores are: Bakers Shoes, Bell Brothers Shoes, Bomar Shoes, Garyson's Dress Shops, H. L. Green's, J. C. Penney's, Lerner's Dress Shops, National Shirt Shops, Nora Day Shop, Owens Ltd., Parisian, Schwobilt, Shainbergs, Thom McCann Shoes, Walgreen's, and Woolworth's. The latter two stores are also under attack from the Pine Bluff Movement, Pine Bluff, Ark.

In Nashville, students have been trying to integrate Cross Keys Restaurant, a national chain, since Thanksgiving. If a branch of any of these stores is located in your town or city, urge action.

Although both the YMCA and the YWCA in Nashville now serve food to Negroes, neither will offer overnight lodging to Negroes. SNCC is calling on you to protest.

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FROM A FIELD REPORT: "I have been here two days now and believe me, I have never seen anything so demoralizing in all my life...but it is gratifying when you see people receive food and clothing and the smile that comes to their faces. What I have found most gratifying is seeing the people file out of the church and march down to the courthouse to register and vote. Actually, I think that the hunger of the people and the knowledge that it was easier to get food after one has registered is really what did it -- the registering, I mean..."

from Ruby Doris Smith in Greenwood, Mississippi

WE NEED:

Desperately -- cars, cars, cars. The Southwest Georgia staff, operating now in Albany and three counties -- Lee, Terrell, and Sumter -- have two cars to carry them distances of 35 miles back and forth. Registration in rural areas is almost impossible without sufficient transportation. In Mississippi cars are also needed. Please help.

WE NEED:

A small electric stove, even a hot plate, for the Southwest Georgia office in Albany. Joyce Barrett, newcomer from Philadelphia, was seen recently in the Madison Street house poring over a two-burner kerosene stove which belches huge clouds of black smoke, and is too small for the groups of staff and visitors, sometimes numbering 15 at a time.

WE NEED:

Two mimeograph machines, one for Greenville and one for Greenwood, Mississippi. Both are centers of activity in the State, and increased communications facilities are vital.