

APR 5 1963  
Mr. Charles F. McDew<sup>X</sup> of Justice Dept. in case  
Chairman, Student Non-Violent  
Coordinating Committee  
197 1/2 Auburn Street, N. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. McDew:

This will acknowledge receipt of your recent telegrams to the President and the Attorney General concerning Leflore County, Mississippi. The Department of Justice is fully aware of the gravity of the present situation in Greenwood, Mississippi, and is in steady touch with developments there. The recent shootings and instances of possible arson all are under active investigation. The three persons believed responsible for the February 28 shooting of James Travis have been apprehended and charged with felonious assault under Mississippi law. The Department also filed suit on March 30, 1963 in Leflore County to obtain an injunction against local officials for their harassment and arrests of Negro registration workers.

Leflore County officials have now resumed distribution of surplus food to needy persons in that County. The Department of Agriculture is bearing all costs in connection with this distribution, which followed a determination by the Department of Justice that definite need existed in the County.

The Department of Justice is also taking steps to insure that all citizens will be accorded the right to register to vote without distinction of race in Leflore County. The registrar of voters of that County is one of six local defendants in the case of United States v. Mississippi, which was filed on August 28, 1962. In that action the Department seeks to have various Mississippi voting laws declared unconstitutional as discriminatory to Negroes.

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1963  
CENTRAL FILES

cc: Mr. Lee C. White  
Assistant Special Counsel to the President  
The White House

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

ROUTE SLIP

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The Department of Justice will continue to take prompt and vigorous action wherever voting rights of citizens are threatened.

PROMPT HANDLING IS ESSENTIAL  
PLEASE TELEPHONE  
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL COUNSEL

BURKE MARSHALL  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

FROM THE SPECIAL COUNSEL

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Priority: \_\_\_\_\_  
Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_