

SW 2a

*Present*  
*Future*

ACTION MEMO ON AMERICUS, GEORGIA

The enclosed fact sheet on Americus, Georgia is the story of four young college students in an Americus jail who are waiting for the courts to decide whether they should die for their integration activities.

It is also the story of legal terror and police brutality under the silent surveillance and acquiescence of the federal government in a city which has systematically denied its Negro citizens the right to anything except the right to walk in fear.

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Organize or participate in a demonstration to be held on your campus or in your community in early October. The demonstration should:
  - a) Protest the failure of the Justice Department to prosecute the perpetrators of absurd charges and exorbitantly high bonds in Sumter County against SNCC workers. (See the enclosed fact sheet on the basis for federal intervention.)
  - b) Protest police brutality in the South and the lack of federal action to prevent it.
2. Contact your local Congressmen and Senators urging them to pressure the Justice Department for federal prosecution the U. S. Criminal Code, Section 242, Title 18 (see fact sheet on federal intervention).

Congressmen from the home states of the three young men have asked the Justice Department to investigate. Senators Allott and Dominic and Representative Rogers of Colorado have asked on behalf of John Perdew. In New York Senator Javits and Congressman Fitz Ryan have done the same. Senator Saltonstall of Massachusetts has also entered a plea with the Department of Justice. We believe that in this length of time investigation should be conclusive, and that prosecution is now in order.
3. Conduct an emergency fund drive to attain more funds for legal help to free the young men. Send to SNCC, earmarked for the Americus insurrection cases.
4.
  - a) Send telegrams to President Kennedy, Attorney General Kennedy and the Justice Department protesting the failure of the federal government to stop police brutality in the South in reprisal for voter efforts and nonviolent demonstrations, and demanding federal prosecution.
  - b) Wire your local Congressmen asking them to pressure for federal prosecution (see fact sheet).
  - c) Send telegrams to Georgia Governor Carl Sanders asking him to use state channels to halt the denial of basic freedoms to the citizens of Americus and SNCC workers.
5. Make a personal visit or phone to your local newspaper asking for copent coverage of the Americus story, and asking for coverage of your activities in conjunction with Atlanta efforts.
6. Arrange now to have representatives from local action groups, campus affiliates of SNCC, Friends groups, and representatives from religio and human relations agencies with which you are affiliated at a hearing on police brutality to be held in Washington, D. C. The hearing, sponsored by the National Council of Churches, will be held at the end of October or beginning of November. Details will be announced.

For further information contact

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"We Shall Overcome"