MEMO to: Friends of SNCC
from: Betty Garman, Northern Coordinator

Enclosed is some additional material on McComb...plus a letter that was sent to summer volunteers urging mobilization of people -- communities, etc. -- around the issue of federal protection. The situation is obviously deteriorating -- the background information contained in the letter to Burke Marshall indicates that as well as the current information contained in here.

What we need is to build massive public opinion directed at the Justice Department -- letters, telegrams, demonstrations, obtaining statements by prominent local people (which can be sent as telegrams to the President and to the Attorney General or Burke Marshall and then released to the press locally), etc. Time is short but there is no doubt that McComb will continue to face violence, will continue to be tense -- until something of the nature of the Neshoba County murders occurs -- or until federal presence is again felt in McComb.

Demands on the Justice Department should be:
1. The general request for federal protection
2. Point out that there were 16 FBI agents in McComb this summer and there are only 4 there now.
3. A request that the election campaigning not make the nation and the government forget Mississippi.

AT THE VERY LEAST the McComb story should be publicized as widely as possible. The material here could be boiled down for leaflets for distribution in your community. Each night this week (and next) query the wire services in your area for news on what is happening in McComb. This will move the Southern offices to keep up on the story as it develops. Ask newspapers to print feature stories on the situation...ask radio stations if they will use some of the enclosed material. Use the "phone-in" shows in your community to alert people about McComb -- also ask that telegrams be sent to the President and Justice Department.

Mrs. Quinn, whose house was bombed on the evening of the 20th, Mrs. Dillon, whose husband is in jail (arrested the day after their house was bombed in August) and Mrs. Bryant, whose husband was a delegate (Freedom Democratic Party) to the convention and whose home was bombed on July 25th (and whose brother-in-law's home was bombed before the summer began) will be in Washington today -- Tuesday -- for a press conference and in order to seek an interview with the President. A support demonstration is planned for Washington already.