

JAN 30 1964

President Lyndon B. Johnson
Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy

Canton, Mississippi. Demand immediate investigation and intervention by federal government into police harassment and brutality against voter registration workers and local citizens. Last night police told people not to attend vr meeting in a church. City detective threatened Negroes on church steps of meeting. Said I'm going to kill a nigger tonight. George Raymond, vr worker, kicked, threatened by Constable Hervey Evans. Raymond pistol-whipped a month ago by police. In last three days 50 people have sought to register. Only 6 allowed to take test. Local citizen George Washington's life threatened yesterday. All our previous requests for federal action, registrars, protection have been to no avail. Remember Canton July 24, 1963. Price Louis shot 5 vr workers on Peace Street. Louis free now after paying \$500 fine. Over 6,000 of Canton's 9,000 population are Negro. We have pleaded with the Justice Department for protection of our lives, property and rights but without response. We cannot afford to wait much longer. We are willing to die to protect our country. We are also willing to die in Canton to obtain those rights that we, thus far, have faithfully defended on foreign soil. The Negroes shall not watch their families starve, be jailed, beaten and killed without responding to protect themselves. You have proven to us by your refusal to act that we have no other recourse but to defend ourselves with whatever means we have at our disposal.

David Dennis
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Council of Federated
Organizations