

NEWS RELEASE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
6 RAYMOND STREET N.W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA # 30314  
Phone (404) 688-0331

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ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI-- An attempt to improve this state's image in the eyes of the nation has led to the raising of over \$13,000 in order to send an all Negro College band to the Rose Bowl Parade.

Former Governor Hugh White, who acted as chairman of the fund raising drive to send the Mississippi Valley State College band to Pasadena said, "How can anyone say that Mississippi doesn't take care of its citizens both black and white".

White, who a few weeks earlier had advocated the raising of one and a half million dollars to enable a State official to go on nationwide television to "correct" the image of Mississippi said, "as far as I know, organizations such as COFO and the NAACP had made no contributions".

It is widely known that the state has suffered economically as a result of the racial violence which grew out of the Mississippi Summer Project and it is believed that White undertook the job as fund raising chairman as one method of "helping" the image of the state.

In Jackson the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) charged that the money could be better used improving the educational and teaching facilities at the school rather than using the school and its band to promote the state of Mississippi.

A worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) said here, "I won't be surprised if the entire 110 piece band asks for asylum in California rather than return to Mississippi".