

February 9, 1965

COLLEGE CAMPUS ROUNDUP  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
8 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

SELMA, ALABAMA  
MARION, ALABAMA  
STUDENTS MOVE

also prohibited the three-member board from processing fewer than 100 applications each registration day and failing to provide enough personnel and facilities so at least 8 applicants can apply for registration at one time.

- From Marion, 200 local people released from Camp Selma and reported these prevailing conditions: 300 men were housed in one cell and had to stand up all night long. There were nothing in the cell but wet, concrete floors. No blankets and heat was turned off. Only one commode which didn't flush. They received only one meal consisting of one piece of bread and a few peas. Many of the women have colds from being forced to sleep on damp concrete floors during the night.

FEB.5 - Dr. King released from jail. 78 adults carrying petitions addressed to Mayor Smitherman of Selma and the County Registrars asking their names be recorded as prospective voters are arrested. Minutes after their arrest, 450 students march in protest and arrested also.

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SNCC has plans of expanding its operations into other areas of the Black Belt Counties, which will include the States .. Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas and South Carolina. It is now time and need for students participation in these States if the Negro is to Overcome.

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ma's outskirts - has failed to honor three requests from SNCC workers and Selma Negroes to place segregated establishments in the town "off limits" to airmen, even though Negro airmen complained in a federal court hearing they were discriminated against in Selma eating places and movie theatres. Only intervention with Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara by SNCC Chairman John Lewis resulted in cancelling a February 2 appearance by Alabama Governor George Wallace at Craig's Officer's Club.

Selma's Negroes are politically impotent without the vote. They cannot appeal to city or county law enforcement officials. Although the federal government has attacked intimidation and discrimination in Dallas County in two voting suits, the progress of these has been painfully slow. The government has been equally impotent while police beat and jailed Negroes, even making arrests on federal property.

The United States Department of Justice of filed two suits charging intimidation and discrimination against the county registrar (April, 1961) and Sheriff Clark and other county officials (June, 1963). The latter suit charges Sheriff Clark with illegally arresting two SNCC workers in June, 1963.

On January 15, 1965, the Justice Department filed suit against the State of Alabama and the Secretary of State, charging the state's new voter registration test (in use since September, 1964) was too difficult and discriminated against would-be Negro voters. The new test has 100 alternating variations, consisting of four questions about government, four about the U. S. Constitution, and a dictation test. Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers has admitted the test is "rugged." "Had every voter in Alabama passed this test," Flowers said, "we would have the most intelligent electorate in the nation."

In nearby Perry County, where SNCC worker George Bess has been organizing a voter drive since January, 1965, the Justice Department has been successful in obtaining a federal voting referee. Between November 3 and December 18, 1964 however, the referee registered only 2 of 61 Perry County Negroes who tried to register. The Justice Department has challenged his rulings.

But while the Department's lawyers slowly attack Alabama's restrictive voting laws and oppressive police activities through the courts, the Department has been almost paralyzed in moving against brutality witnessed by Department officials or FBI agents.

On October 8, 1963, FBI agents took notes while Sheriff Clark's men beat and arrested two SNCC workers taking food and drink to Negroes waiting in line to register to vote.

From January 18, 1965 to the present, the Selma representatives of the federal government have been able to observe from their second story office across the street from the Dallas County Courthouse nearly every arrest (over 2500 in three weeks), every instance of brutality and every attempt Selma's Negroes have made to register to vote. The federal government has chosen to stand - in Dallas County - on suits filed in 1961 and 1963, actions which are still in the courts. Federal law declares that abridging the right to vote or intimidating those who seek it is a crime, and provides that immediate arrests may be made when a violation occurs in the presence of a federal officer. To date, no such arrests have been made.

JAN. 28 - Colonel Al Lingo of the Alabama State Patrol compliments local law officers. In Mobile, civil rights lawyers ask for an injunction against Sheriff Clark, Solicitors Blanchard McLeod and Henry Reese, and County Judges Hugh Mallory and Bernard Reynolds, barring them from interfering with the voter registration drive.

JAN. 29 - Cases are removed to Federal Court. Local people are allowed to sign their own \$100 bonds.

JAN. 31 - United States District Judge Daniel Thomas accepts jurisdiction of 54 additional cases and orders them released. He amended his earlier injunction to say that while only 100 applicants per day would be given numbers, more than 100 could wait in line. Sheriff Clark had interpreted the injunction to mean that all applicants over 100 could be arrested.

FEB. 1 - 264 arrested - including Dr. King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, SNCC workers Frank Soracco and William Hall, arrested for "parading without a permit" as they march to the courthouse. 450 high school students are arrested that same day on the same charge as they march to protest the difficulties their parents have in registering to vote.

- From Marion, SNCC worker George Bess reports over 500 Negroes stand in line all day for that city's first Freedom Day. Negroes are tested 7 at a time, and 115 take the test. Two drug stores and a movie theatre integrated by testing groups, but other businesses refused service to Negroes.

FEB. 2 - SNCC Alabama Project Director John Love and SNCC workers Terry Shaw and Larry Fox are arrested in Selma for "contributing to the delinquency of minors" who participated in demonstrations of Feb. 1. 75 adults are arrested at the courthouse, as well as 60 more students. That night, Selma's Negro businessmen stage a march on the courthouse.

- In Marion, SNCC worker George Bess and 15 others were arrested at a cafe which refused to serve them. They are charged with "trespassing".

FEB. 3 - 850 arrested at the Perry County courthouse for "unlawful assembly" when students and adults marched to protest: the earlier arrests of Feb. 2, the fact that courthouse is only open on first and third Mondays of month, firing from jobs of people who attempt to register and protesting the lack of compliance with public accommodations section of Civil Rights Law.

FEB. 4 - Injunction issued banning demonstrations "in and around courthouse" in Selma.

FEB. 4 - SNCC staffer Stanley Wise arrested in Marion with 200 local people protesting yesterday's arrests. Wise was charged with "encouraging a riot" and cash bond was set at \$300. While in Sheriff's office, Wise was beaten. Local people are being held on \$100 property bond each.

- In Selma, U.S. Judge Thomas issued an injunction barring the Dallas County board of registrars from using lengthy literacy test which includes Constitution answer section. The injunction also prohibited the three-member board from processing fewer than 100 applications each registration day and failing to provide enough personnel and facilities so at least 8 applicants can apply for registration at one time.

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SNCC hopes to expand its Alabama operations into other Black Belt Counties. Early attempts at registration work in Wilcox County - where SNCC workers took the first group of Negroes to try to register in that county since Reconstruction - and other counties near Selma have laid a groundwork for future operations. ~~ALABAMA~~

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