

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
6 Raymond St. NW
Atlanta, Georgia

April 11, 1965

To: Campus Friends of SMCC and Campus Contacts
From: Esther Haifetz, Northern Campus Coordinator
Re: Alabama State College

Background Information: Alabama State College students were very active during the Montgomery crisis. About two weeks ago they began demonstrating to protest conditions at their school, which is not accredited. As a result last week the parents of fifteen of the leaders of the Alabama State College Freedom Committee were contacted by the school administration and warned that if their children continue in their present activities they are liable to immediate suspension or expulsion. Then April 3 the parents of Raymond Jenkins, who was chairman of the ASCFC, were called by the college and told that Raymond's life was in danger because of his activities and that the college could no longer guarantee his protection. So Sunday his parents came and took him out of school.

We asked that you begin sending letters and telegrams of protest to the President and Director of Student Affairs at Alabama State. When these letters began coming into the school, the Administration took all of them and passed them on to the English Department. The students are being made to answer these telegrams in defense of the school. Their final grade will depend on the answers to these letters.

Last night the students had a meeting to draw up a list of grievances for presentation to the school administration. The meeting was to be in the campus church, but the administration called the church and informed the pastor that these students were disturbing other students on campus, and it would be best if the meeting was discontinued. The students were turned out of the church.

The list of grievances was drawn up; it includes forty specific demands. Some of these are the following: a statement from the college president on his stand on the civil rights act of 1964, adequate facilities in each department, adequate faculty and circulation of books, an integrated student body and faculty, freedom of press (the school paper is censored by the administration), immediate reinstatement of athletic scholarships taken away for civil rights participation, student and faculty participation in academic planning, faculty tenure, establishment of a chapter of the American Association of University Professors on campus, increased salaries for student workers (since 1930 students have been getting only 25¢ an hour, although the tuition has increased 100%), the right to invite speakers on the national platform, an agreement not to destroy courses in a department because the administration does not get along with the department head, etc.

Please continue supporting these students through the sending of telegrams and letters to Dr. Bronson (Director of Student Affairs) and Dr. Watkins (President), Alabama State College, Montgomery, Alabama.