

June 4, 1964

To: Friends of SNCC

From: Atlanta Northern Coordination Office

Re: Hammermill, 360 Nelson, et al, the Challenge

HAMMERMILL BOYCOTT STATUS

May 11 was Hammermill's annual stockholders meeting, and we had demonstrations at the Erie plant and other plants and offices in Philadelphia, New York City, Chicago, Louisville, Washington, Hamilton, Ohio, Lockhaven, Pa., and Springfield, Mass. The result of the demonstration in Erie which stopped the plant from functioning for two hours was that deVitt agreed to meet with representatives of SCLC, NAACP and SNCC. It is important to remember that the SNCC representatives were students from Friends of SNCC groups who stated that they could not speak as SNCC.

At these negotiations deVitt promised that he would do everything in his power to see that voter registration for Negroes would be stepped up in Dallas County. A two week moratorium on pushing the boycott was called. Although SNCC did not officially endorse this, we refrained from issuing action memos out of the Atlanta office.

What has deVitt done since May 12. He said that he went to Selma and talked to the local White Citizens Council and told them that Hammermill would use its influence to secure full protection of the law for equal employment opportunity, the right to register and to vote without intimidation. deVitt said that he was told that on May 17, 200 Negroes were registered to vote...however we have not been allowed to see the same source of information that he had access to. So there has been NO tangible evidence that Hammermill is PRES-BRING Selma officials to discontinue their racist policies. In fact the Dallas County Voters League has found only 17 persons who were registered May 17 and has written deVitt to that effect.

At the Executive Committee meeting held last weekend, it was decided that we would no longer actively pursue the Hammermill boycott. There were several reasons for this decision: 1) we want to put EVERY effort into making the Challenge successful 2) the whole question of what do you do with a corporation... where do you really move. This is the first time we ever really pursued an economic boycott and would appreciate your suggestions.

So for now we will not actively pursue the boycott. However you should all make a conscious effort to not buy Alabama products or any of the Hammermill trade name papers.

360 NELSON, ET AL

We finally made the big move, yet although we are ready for new building...it is not ready for us and Northern coordination will have no office in which to actually work for the next two weeks or so. Please forgive all unanswered phone calls, unheeded letters and unfilled orders for the next few weeks.

MFDP DEPOSITIONS TO BE PRINTED

On June 2 lawyers for the MFDP and for the Mississippi congressmen met with the Clerk of the House in order to discuss how much of the evidence submitted by the MFDP as part of its case to unseat the Mississippi Congressmen should be printed and made public. The Mississippi congressmen's lawyers took their usual position, that the entire Challenge had no legal basis, and therefore no evidence at all should be printed. Lawyers for the MFDP held that the entire body of evidence should be made public, because the entire proceeding was being conducted according to federal law. The Clerk said that he was unable to decide either way, so he recessed the meeting and said he was unable to decide and would announce his decision in 48 hours.

The MFDP felt this to be a testing period...through your quick and strong support a decision was reached...Monday representatives of the FDP and the government printing office will meet to decide details of printing the depositions. Round one has been won...thank you.