

Ga. Legislature Refuses To Seat Freedom Worker

On January 10, the Georgia House of Representatives refused to seat Julian Bond, a young Negro who was elected last year to represent an Atlanta district. Bond is a staff member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, an organization which is in the forefront of the battle for justice in the South. It was a SNCC worker, Samuel Younge, who was murdered in Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 3.

SNCC has denounced the war in Vietnam. Bond endorsed the SNCC statement. His opposition to U.S. policies in Vietnam was the reason given for refusal to seat him.

Below is the SNCC resolution. All Americans who are concerned about basic human rights in the country and in the world should read it.



JULIAN BOND — Elected by 4-1 majority but denied seat by segregationist-dominated Georgia legislature.

SNCC Statement Against Vietnam War

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee assumes its right to dissent with United States foreign policy on any issue, and states its opposition to United States involvement in the war in Vietnam on these grounds:

We believe the United States government has been deceptive in claims of concern for the freedom of the Vietnamese people, just as the government has been deceptive in claiming concern for the freedom of the colored people in such other countries as the Dominican Republic, the Congo, South Africa, Rhodesia and in the U. S. itself.

We of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, have been involved in the black people's struggle for liberation and self-determination in this country for the past five years. Our work, particularly in the South, taught us that the United States government has never guaranteed the freedom of oppressed citizens, and is not yet truly determined to end the rule of terror and oppression within its own borders.

We ourselves have often been victims of violence and confinement executed by U. S. government officials. We recall the numerous persons who have been murdered in the South because of their efforts to secure their civil and human rights, and whose murderers have been allowed to escape penalty for their crimes. The murder of Samuel Younge in Tuskegee, Ala., is no different from the murder of people in Vietnam, for both Younge and the Vietnamese sought and are seeking to secure the rights guaranteed them by law. In each case, the U. S. government bears a great part of the responsibility for these deaths.

Samuel Younge was murdered because U. S. law is not being enforced. Vietnamese are being murdered because the United States is pursuing an aggressive policy in violation of international law. The U. S. is no respecter of persons or law when such

persons or laws run counter to its needs and desires. We recall the indifference, suspicion and outright hostility with which our reports of violence have been met in the past by government officials.

We know for the most part that elections in this country, in the North as well as the South, are not free. We have seen that the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 1964 Civil Rights Act have not yet been implemented with full federal power and concern. We question the ability and even the desire of the U. S. government to guarantee free elections abroad. We maintain that our country's cry of "preserve freedom in the world" is a hypocritical mask behind which it squashed libertarian movements which are not bound and refuse to be bound by expediency of U. S. cold war policy.

We are in sympathy with and support the men in this country who are unwilling to respond to the military draft which would compel them to contribute their lives to U. S. aggression in the name of the "freedom" we find so false in this country. We recoil with horror at the inconsistency of this supposedly free society where responsibility to freedom is equated with responsibility to lend oneself to military aggression. We take note of the fact that 16 percent of the draftees from this country are Negro, called on to stifle the liberation of Vietnam, to preserve a "democracy" which does not exist for them at home.

We ask: Where is the draft for the freedom fight in the United States?

We therefore encourage these Americans who prefer to use their energy in building democratic forms within the country. We believe that work in the civil rights movement and other human relations organizations is a valid alternative to the draft. We urge all Americans to seek the alternative, knowing full well that it may cost them their lives, as painfully as in Vietnam.