

January 14, 1965

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The brutal police incitement yesterday was expressly indicative of the prevalent existing, vicious, racist minded governing system that reigns tyrannically throughout the Southland. There are only two occasions when the Southern lawman arrives on the Negro scene. The first is when the Fat Cats downtown decide or suddenly realize that it is politically expedient for the "Southern Gentlemen" to be seen escorting the Negro procession or secondly; and more often the case, just simply to keep "the Niggers in their place"--to terrify them into line; to beat them back into place--as was visualized yesterday.

Yesterday's brutality cannot be accredited to a spontaneous spree of violence. Yesterday's violent beatings were as planned and accelerated as a gemini flight.

Yesterdays's brutality stems all the way back to Mr. Gwin's Little Haven; it was a direct order them the Fat Cats down at City Hall--over at the Chamber of Commerce; yesterday's brutality was the result of a hot line directly from Wallace's office; and the only reason that such atrocities can be permitted is because of the lack of a balance of political power here in Jefferson County. There are too many Negroes who have been denied their just and long overdue political expression for much too long. There are over 81,000 unregistered Negroes in Jefferson County--for over three hundred and fifty years the Negro has been less than a citizen and a man; less than a political voice, less than a human being.

It is the responsibility of Jefferson County to come out of its neat little haven and register these Negroes; it is Birmingham's responsibility; the State of Alabama's responsibility, it is the Federal Government's responsibility to register

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these Negroes. We intend to demonstrate to dramatize the need for Federal Examiners, neighborhood registration; night registration and we don't anticipate waiting five or ten or fifteen years to register our people; nor do we intend to spend thousands of dollars--and timeless hours knocking on doors, coaxing the weary and downtrodden Negro to register.

We are going to demand that Mr. Gwin get busy about doing his job; if there is to be any door knocking, Mr. Gwin is going to be right in the middle of it. We are going to demonstrate, and protest and picket and boycott until Mr. Gwin and the government gets busy; we intend to continue fighting this battle with all resources and from all angles of expression. "Be he Black or White, We ain't gonna let nobody turn us around."

RELEASED BY: Hosea L. Williams & Stoney Cooks
of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

