

To the Justice Department and the U.S. Congress

In 1964 our Congressional representatives overwhelmingly passed a civil rights law designed to insure, once and for all, that all Americans have the right to vote. Yet in the early months of 1965, it has become apparent that attempts to take advantage of the new law have been met by unyielding and brutal reaction on the part of local southern officials (as in Selma.) In the face of this challenge to the national will, the national authority has been silent.

We believe that FBI agents stationed in Alabama should immediately begin to exercise their right and duty, under sections 3052 and 3053 of Title 18, to arrest on the spot those law enforcement officials and private citizens who are intimidating and harrasing voter registration workers and applicants. These sections permit both United States marshalls and agents of the FBI to make arrests without warrants, on the spot, for any offense against the United States committed in their presence.

Although we firmly believe that the laws necessary to bring about the goals sought by the 1964 Civil Rights Act are already on the books, we do recognize that there are serious ambiguities and loopholes in existing laws. (a tragic example of such inadequacy has been the need of the Federal government to charge the Philadelphia, Miss. murderers with "cluttering the highways.") Thus we also call upon our Congressional representatives to act to clarify existing legal codes and laws in order to prevent the flaunting of the spirit of Congressional legislation and Supreme Court rulings and to insure that long-overdue promises become realities.

It is essential that our officials know of our concerns and act immediately to prevent further violence. Please sign this today and return to Friends of SNCC, Box 83, Memorial Union. (This may be done through campus mail.)

I want to add my name to those who call for stricter enforcement of existing laws and for new congressional legislation to insure the right to vote.

Name

Department

Date

University Friends of SNCC