

The start of it all

IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE:

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
197 1/2 Auburn Avenue, N.E., Atlanta 3, Georgia - 688-0331

Albany, Georgia

- November 22, 1961

Five Students were arrested here today as they attempted to use the interstate facilities in the Trailways Bus Terminal. The five, Eddio Wilson, 19; Evelyn Toney, 20; Julian Carswell, 18; all of Albany, and Bertha Gober, 19, of Atlanta; and Blanton Hall, 24, of Athens, Georgia, were booked on charges of disorderly conduct tending to create a disturbance. Police Chief Pritchitt, present at the station for the arrests said, "We explained that their presence tended to create a disturbance and to disrupt the peace and quite of our city and we asked them because of these circumstances to leave."

When the students insisted that they were interstate passengers and that those who were disturbed had no legal right to be there, they were arrested and taken to the city jail. Bonds were set at \$100 each; three posted it and were released. Two of the students, however, 19 year old Bertha Gober, of Albany State College and Blanton Hall also enrolled at Albany, made a personal decision to remain in jail rather than post bond.

Miss Gober in making her decision to stay in jail rather than post bond said, "I hope my stay in jail dramatically presents to the community of Albany and the nation, the evil and inconvenience of segregation. We have a legal and moral right to use the facilities at the bus station as interstate passengers, and those who should be arrested are those who would violently attack us and actually disturb the peace of the city."