

NEWS RELEASE

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, December 23 - A shot fired into the home of a white couple who have been active in the civil rights struggle here "will only intensify our efforts against segregation," a student at Tougaloo College here said.

Joan Trumpauer, a white student at predominately Negro Tougaloo Southern Christian College, reported that Betty Poole and Dorie Ladner, Negro coeds, were sitting in the front room of the campus home of Mr. & Mrs. John R. Salter when someone fired into the bedroom window of the Salter's nine-month-old baby.

No one was injured, but Miss Trumpauer said "if Dorie had been in bed, as she would have been an hour later, she certainly would have been shot."

Members of the NAACP, CORE and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) have been active in encouraging a boycott of downtown stores in Jackson. The group has sponsored picket lines and distributed leaflets asking Jackson Negroes to stay off Capital Street, this city's main business avenue.

Several incidents of harrassment lead to the December 21 shooting. On December 14, six people - four Negroes and two whites - were arrested on Capital Street while they were picketing in protest of what they said was discrimination in employment of store personnel, and segregated facilities in stores.

On December 21, Miss Ladner and Tougaloo student Charles Bracey were arrested after white bystanders downtown shouted to police that the two students were wearing picket signs under their coats. They were released on \$500 bond each.

Civil rights leaders in Mississippi have complained about a "general lack of First Amendment rights" in the state. "The right to peacefully petition for redress of grievances, through picket lines and other means, guaranteed in the United States Constitution, is lacking in Mississippi," one leader said.