

NEWS RELEASE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNCC REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT TESTIMONY  
AT HOUSE HEARING ON CIVIL RIGHTS BILLS

WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 28 -- Two project directors for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee testified today before the House Judiciary Committee on the need for additional civil rights legislation.

Charles Sherrod, director of SNCC's Southwest Georgia project, and Robert Moses, director of SNCC's Mississippi voter registration program, testified along with Timothy Jenkins, a Yale law student and special representative of SNCC.

Jenkins read a 63-page document which made specific additions and deletions to a bill proposed by Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-NY) and urged stricter measures to insure voting rights for Negroes in the Deep South.

The document read, in part:

We, the seventy students who make up the staff of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the thousands that make up its base, have staked our lives on the principle that an interracial democracy can be made to work in this county, even in the fields, bayous and deltas of our deep South.

We have not spared ourselves in attempting to make that faith good. We call on the federal government to do likewise. We would have it understood that we are not calling on the county for what she might do for us, but rather to inform her of what she must be prepared to do for herself.

...We can see that the time has run out. It has run out both in terms of the patience of the Negro community, and it has run out in terms of our successful delusion that a moderate effort is enough.

Moses and Sherrod, who have worked in their areas since 1961, gave specific examples where voting rights had been denied or circumvented by officials in Mississippi and Southwest Georgia.