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NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIRECT ACTION BEGINS IN CLARKSDALE

CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI, JUNE 21 -- Twenty-three persons have been arrested since Monday in Clarksdale, Mississippi, according to Lafayette Surney, SNCC field secretary there. Picketing to spotlight the need for a bi-racial committee has been in progress at the library, the courthouse, churches, the local Bell Telephone Co., and the newspapers.

The action began with picketing of churches Sunday. On Monday, 15 people picketed the Press-Register, the local paper. On Tuesday, 10 picketed the City Hall. On Wednesday, picketing of the City Hall continued. Two children asked for books Thursday at the city library, and when they were refused the library was picketed. Today, picketing began at Bell Telephone Company.

Three persons remain in jail. The rest are out on bond, including one 96-year-old man. Those arrested are charged with parading without a permit.

This Delta town has been the center for voter registration activities for some time. It was one of the distribution centers when surplus food distribution was stopped in Leflore county. The direct action is part of an attempt to bring racial problems into the open, and the demonstrators are asking the establishment of a biracial committee.