

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DELTA NEGROES TO MAKE VOTE ATTEMPTS
IN AUGUST 6 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI--- A field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) said Mississippi Negroes will make attempts to vote in the Democratic primary on August 6 "even if they did not pass the vote test required of persons who wish to register to vote in the state."

Robert Moses, a SNCC worker who heads the state wide vote drive here, said the approximately 1500 LeFlore County Negroes who attempted to register here in the last five months will be urged to attempt to vote on August 6. Moses said about 100 of these are believed to be registered voters now.

Mississippi state law allows a state citizen to seek to vote "if it is his sincere belief that the methods and procedures of voter registration as they have been applied to him...have been illegal, and that he has been illegally denied registration."

Moses said the state's voter test requires prospective voters "to interpret to the satisfaction of a white registrar any one of 285 sections of the state Constitution. Even Negro college graduates have failed."

Moses said state law requires that the names of all those seeking to register appear in local newspapers, where any citizen may question the "moral character" of the applicant.

"Intimidation by local whites is prevalent in every aspect of every Negro's life in Mississippi," Moses said.

Moses said 12 nationally known civil rights leaders have been invited to come to Greenwood on August 6 to serve as poll watchers, to insure fair handling of votes at Greenwood's three Negro precincts.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: for further information, call Robert Moses
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