

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER, 1963

NINETEEN CONVICTED FOR JULY DEMONSTRATION,
AMERICUS STUDENTS GIVEN 30 DAYS OR \$55 FINE

AMERICUS, GEORGIA, SEPTEMBER 4--While nineteen persons were convicted here yesterday in connection with July 19 demonstrations, the local Sumter County Movement pressed economic and school boycotts to free those still in jail.

Albany attorney C.B. King, counsel for the defendants, said students, whose ages ranged from seventeen to nineteen years, were sentenced to 30 days in jail or \$55 fine each. They had been arrested in connection with demonstrations to desegregate a local movie theater.

King said the convictions would be appealed, but that there will be difficulty raising the \$110 bond for each of the defendants. The nineteen youths were tried by Judge Leseuer in Recorder's Court.

More than 120 persons are still in jail, the attorney said, some as much as seven weeks. The cumulative effect of the release bonds which have been set, he said, have proved an effective weapon against the movement.

BOYCOTTS GET COMMUNITY SUPPORT

John L. Barnum, Jr., Treasurer of the Sumter County Movement, said yesterday that a public school boycott has gotten almost 100% backing by the two thousand Negro students in Americus.

The boycott is in protest against the jailing and brutal treatment of other school children who were or are now being held in Leesburg, Dawson and Americus, a Movement leaflet stated.

Thirty-two children were arrested on the first day of the boycott while conducting a protest march around Staley Junior High.

"Our boys and girls from the first through the twelfth grades will

stay out of school until every child who is in jail is free to go to school," the leaflet stated.

Court costs, in addition to the bonds, are an important obstacle to the release of the children, Barnum said. The board of aldermen and the mayor passed an ordinance Aug. 9 requiring that each person arrested pay a fee of \$23.50, plus \$2 per day for board

The school boycott is in protest against these harassments of the local citizens.

An economic boycott has also been instituted to support the demand for release of the students. Barnum said local Negro citizens are buying only the necessities, drugs and groceries, at a single store downtown, refusing to patronize any of the others.

The boycotts will continue until some results are achieved, Barnum said.

FOUR STILL HELD ON CAPITAL CHARGE,
ATTORNEY FILES MOTIONS FOR BOND

Three Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee field workers and one Congress of Racial Equality staff member are still charged with attempt to incite insurrection, a capital offense in Georgia. Under Georgia law no bond need be set because they face a possible death sentence.

Attorney C.B. King said yesterday he has presented motions to Sumter County Judge James W. Smith "to admit them to bond." Hearings on the motions will not be held until a date is set which is "mutually agreeable" to the court, the prosecution and the defense, King said.

SNCC field workers Don Harris, Ralph Allen and John Perdew, all 21 years old, were beaten and arrested Aug. 8. during a singing demonstration in front of a Negro cafe here.

CORE field worker Zev Aloony was arrested Aug. 17 on the way to a

demonstration during which 35 others were jailed.

In addition to the capital charges, Harris, Allen and Perdew have been charged with eight peace bonds each, totaling \$40,000 each.

Also, the three SNCC workers were charged with unlawful rioting, unlawful assembly and obstruction of a lawful arrest on Aug. 8. Harris and Allen were also charged with assault and battery. The court has refused to set bond for these charges, Attorney King said, on the grounds that there was no need to do so at that time.

The SNCC staffers are expected to come to trial before the Sumter County Supreme Court during November. Unless bond is set they will be incarcerated at least until the trial. If the capital charges are dropped, they still must post \$40,000 bond each for the peace warrants. If the peace warrants are dropped, bond for the additional charges would have to be set and then posted, in order to obtain their release.

KING'S CAR SEARED WITH ACID
WHILE HE TALKED WITH JUDGE

Attorney King announced Sept. 3 that the driver's seat of his car was burned with acid while he was talking with Judge James W. Smith about the capital charges against SNCC and CORE staff members.

He said his car had been parked in front of the Sheriff's office while he was in the Sumter County Court House. King was forced to leave his car in Americus when he returned to Albany.

CHILDREN UNDER 12 RELEASED,
DESCRIBE ABOMINABLE JAIL CONDITIONS

On Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, thirteen children under 12 years of age were released in the custody of their parents from the Leesburg jail where they had been detained.

A Sumter County Movement report stated that more than 100 juveniles

are without mattresses, sheets, or covers. They must sleep in their clothes on the filthy concrete floor, the report stated.

"The only drinking water available to them," it states, "is that from a filthy shower which all of them refuse to use for baths. They hold their hands in cup-like fashion and drink the water from this shower. The toilets are stopped up and the smell is unbearable," the report indicated.

The food ration is four cold hamburgers served each morning, the report stated. That is their only meal.

Girl juveniles who were arrested are being held in a room without windows and without ventilation, although they were arrested during the summer months.

Male juveniles are also being detained in Americus, in an old abandoned newspaper building.

SNCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL
MEET TO PLOT AMERICUS ACTION

SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman said today that the executive committee will meet the weekend of Sept. 6-8 to discuss future action in the Americus situation. SNCC Chairman John Lewis sent a telegram today to Georgia Governor Carl Sanders protesting the vicious police and state trooper brutality during the arrests of more than 200 persons here. He also protested the exorbitant cumulative bonds assessed those arrested and called for an effort by the governor to get Americus officials to break their rigid segregation policies.