

PRESS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENATOR SALTONSTALL ASKS J.D.
PROBE OF SNCC WORKER'S ARREST

WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPTEMBER 20 -- Massachusetts Senator Leverett Saltonstall has asked Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and the Civil Rights Commission to investigate the arrest in Americus, Georgia of a field secretary from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Saltonstall said in a letter to SNCC Chairman John Lewis he had asked Kennedy and the Civil Rights Commission head Berl I. Bernhard to investigate the arrest of Ralph Allen, a white SNCC worker from Melrose, Massachusetts.

Allen and two other SNCC workers was arrested August 8 in Americus. The three have been charged with attempting to incite insurrection, a capital offense in Georgia. A CORE worker, Zev Aleony, jailed in Americus on August 20, also face the insurrection charge. The SNCC workers have also been charged with unlawful assembly, and obstructing a lawful arrest. The three also face 8 peace warrants, filed against them by local Americus citizens.

In Atlanta, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee said three Colorado lawmakers - Senators Peter Dominick and Gordon Allot and Representative Byron Rogers - had made a similar request on behalf of SNCC worker John Perdew, who is in jail with Allen. The SNCC office said New York Senator Jacob Javits and Representative William Fitts Ryan had also asked for investigations into the arrests on behalf of Don Harris of New York, the third SNCC worker held in Americus.

SNCC Chairman John Lewis said appeals in Allen's behalf had also been made to Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy and to Representative Bradford Morse.