

SNCC CONGRATULATES SENATOR WILLIAMS
ON SPEECH ABOUT AMERICUS, GEORGIA

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, October 1 - Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Executive Secretary James Forman last week congratulated New Jersey Senator Harrison Williams on his Senate chamber speech on Americus, Georgia.

In a September 27 telegram to the Senator, Forman offered SNCC's full cooperation in efforts to publicize the incarceration of Rutgers University honor graduate Donald Harris in Americus, Ga. Harris, a Negro field secretary for SNCC, is held without bond on a capital charge of "Attempting to incite insurrection." Rutgers University is in New Brunswick, N.J.

"Americus...is a story of fear and hatred," Harrison said, of mass arrests, police brutality, incredible legal proceedings and intimidation. The story is more poignant to me for it involves a 23-year-old graduate of Rutgers University...who has been imprisoned by the authorities of Americus, Ga., on a charge of attempting to incite insurrection, which could result in the death penalty.

"His crime? Making the mistake of believing that people have the right to vote in Americus," Harrison said.

Forman has urged SNCC contacts to send congratulations to Williams for his effort to publicize a situation which until the last two weeks received almost no attention from the news media. Harris was arrested Aug. 8.

SNCC Northern Coordinator Sandra Hayden said that demonstrations regarding Americus and Southwide police brutality have been held or are planned in Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, Berkely, Urbana, Ill. Detroit, Ann Arbor, New Brunswick, Trenton, N.J.