

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER, 1963

ARKANSAS SNCC REGISTERES OVER 1300;
PINE BLUFF NEGRO RUNS FOR ALDERMAN

PINE BLUFF, ARK., OCT. 2--The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Arkansas vote drive this summer registered more than 1300 Negroes and a Pine Bluff Negro dentist has announced his candidacy for alderman, a SNCC worker here said today.

Bill Hansen, 24, head of SNCC's Arkansas Project, said that 1876 Negroes were registered in Jefferson County from early June through Oct. 1, when the books closed for the year. Hansen added that 428 Negroes were registered in neighboring Lincoln County during August and September by SNCC workers Noah Washington and James Jones.

Dr. W. L. Molette, a Pine Bluff Negro dentist, will run in the Nov. 5, city elections as an independent candidate for the Fourth Ward aldermanic post. Although Molette must be a resident of the Fourth Ward, he will have to run in an at-large or city-ward contest.

"The civil rights stimulus in the community," Hansen said, "has upped voter registration in Pine Bluff.

James Jones said that Lincoln County Sheriff Leo Connor told him that 200 more Negroes than usual had registered, in addition to the more than 400 brought in by SNCC efforts.

In Arkansas a person must pay his poll tax of one dollar every year in order to be registered. Pine Bluff is the seat of Jefferson County and Star City is the seat of Lincoln County. Both counties are nearly 50 per cent Negro in population.