

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SNCC CHAIRMAN AND DICK GREGORY'S WIFE CONVICTED

SELMA, ALABAMA, October 2--Five persons were convicted in the Dallas County Court today including John Lewis, Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the wife of comedian Dick Gregory.

Lewis was found guilty of "unlawful assembly" and sentenced to 180 days and \$300 fine. Appeal bond was set at \$1,000 and a \$1,000 peace bond was lodged.

Mrs. Lilian Gregory, 25, and her husband's person aide, Wolf Lawson, were found guilty of the same charge and received the same sentence. Their bonds and fine are also the same.

Lewis was arrested Sept. 25 as he led a group of 28 students from Selma University (Negro) who walked in front of the county courthouse carrying signs with the SNCC slogan, "One Man - One Vote." Mrs. Gregory and Lawson were arrested Sept. 27 as they walked wearing signs protesting alleged intimidation of Dallas County Negroes who try to register to vote.

James Forman, Executive Secretary of SNCC, stated here, "We are attempting to influence Negroes to vote in this county. The historic records of Alabama and Mississippi show that fear of reprisal for trying to vote will be overcome only by strong encouragement of the Negro community to continue attempts."

Forman wired Attorney General Robert Kennedy yesterday, asking for an immediate temporary restraining order on Sheriff Clark and other officials "who are interfering with peaceful picketing to encourage voter registration."

Forman urged the federal government to enjoin prosecution of voter drive workers arrested so far. The telegram also protested postponement, by Federal District Judge Thomas, of a Justice Department hearing on police brutality to have been held Oct. 3.

SNCC workers first went into Dallas County in the fall of 1962. The SNCC project began February 1963.