

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

8 1/2 Raymond Street, Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia, 30314

For Immediate Release
19 November 1963

3 SNCC WORKERS, 30 OTHERS
HELD IN HELENA, ARKANSAS

HELENA, ARKANSAS - Three field secretaries from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and 30 other anti-segregation workers are being held here after this city's first sit-in demonstrations.

SNCC worker Noah Washington is being held under \$1,500 bail on charges of "vagrancy", "disturbing the peace", and "refusing to leave a public place".

SNCC worker John Bradford and SNCC field secretary William Hansen - director of SNCC's project here - are being held under \$500 bail in "disturbing the peace" charges. Hansen was arrested while he sat in a telephone booth talking to the Atlanta SNCC office.

Bruce Jordan, SNCC field worker here, said police who arrested Hansen put him in a police car with a police dog.

Also jailed Saturday, November 16, were Curtis Grady, a member of the Pine Bluff (ark.) Movement, and Phillips County Movement Chairman, Granville Miller.

Helena is on the Mississippi River in Arkansas' Delta.

Negroes are 53.9% of the county's population, according to the 1960 Civil Rights Commission report on Voting. Only 28% of the eligible Negroes are registered voters, however.

The first arrests came after eight Negroes entered Henry's Drug Store here. Lights inside were turned out and the demonstrators were arrested. Another group unsuccessfully tried to enter Henry's but found it closed. The second arrests came at Habib's Cafeteria, when police jailed 18 demonstrators. A crowd of 300 whites and Negroes gathered outside the eating place.

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