

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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For Immediate Release
November 19, 1963

SNCC WEDDING STIRS
ARKANSAS OFFICIALS

PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS - The marriage of two SNCC workers here has been called "a deliberate, direct disservice to the white and colored people of our state" by the State Attorney General.

Attorney General Bruce Bennet said of the newly-weds: "... neither of these people works for a living, but are paid by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which is a trouble making organization."

The two - Mr. and Mrs. William Hansen - were married in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 12.

Hansen is white. Mrs. Hansen, the former Ruthie Buffington, is a Negro.

Interracial weddings are illegal in Arkansas.

Hansen has been in Pine Bluff since December, 1962. He helped form the Pine Bluff Movement, and involved students at Arkansas A & M in sit-in demonstrations. Mrs. Hansen, one of the students, was, with ten others suspended from school on February 18.

Violation of the state's law against mixed marriages is punishable by a fine and a one year jail sentence.

Both Hansen and his wife will remain in Pine Bluff. Both are SNCC field secretaries.