

NEWS RELEASE

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA, 30314

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEDERAL - STATE "SHOWDOWN"  
WILL AID MISSISSIPPI VOTERS

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI--A worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) said a "showdown" with the federal government will be necessary before Mississippi will permit large numbers of Negroes to vote.

SNCC worker Robert Moses testified before the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

He charged widespread discrimination and intimidation of Negro voters in the state. The SNCC worker said the federal government must decide if it will enforce laws even to the extent of sending troops to Mississippi.

Civil Rights leaders had asked President Johnson to send troops into the state after armed riders fired into Negro homes in South Mississippi last week. A young boy was wounded in the shooting.

Only 6.2% of the voting age Negroes in Mississippi are registered voters, according to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

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DANVILLE LAW CALLED  
"LUDICROUS" IN COURT

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA--A Danville, Virginia law regulating parades was attacked as "ludicrous" and unconstitutional before the Fourth United States Court of Appeals.

Among those jailed during anti-segregation demonstrations in Danville last summer were workers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Three attorneys representing Danville Negroes arrested under the law told the court the ordinance was "constructed to prevent the movement toward racial equality." The Negroes' lawyers said the ordinance breaches the 14th Amendment by curbing free speech and free assembly.

SNCC workers have been in Danville since spring 1963 at the invitation of local leaders.

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TRESSPASS LAW  
CALLED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

ATLANTA, GEORGIA--Attorneys for eighteen Savannah Negroes argued before the Georgia Supreme Court here that the state anti-tresspass law is unconstitutional. Atlanta police are refusing to arrest sit-in demonstrators unless a restaurant owner takes out a warrant.

Atlanta Chief of Police Hebert Jenkins said restaurant owners use the law to make police "come and rescue them." He said owners in many cases have refused to prosecute after police make arrests.

Clarence Mayfield, defense attorney in the Savannah cases, told the high court the anti-tresspass law - passed in 1960 after Southwide sit-ins began - is unconstitutional and was being used to enforce discrimination.

Over twenty demonstrators have been arrested on warrants here since Atlanta police adopted the new policy.

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