

ALBANY MINISTER FACES JOB
LOSS

ALBANY, GEORGIA - A Southwest Georgia Negro minister, an active participant in the anti-segregation drive here, has been notified he is being removed from his job at the Albany Marine Corps Supply Center.

In Atlanta, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) protested the proposed dismissal and asked Marine Corps Commandant Lieutenant General Wallace M. Green Jr. and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara to "do everything in your power to insure that Reverend Well is not being fired because of his participation in the civil rights movement."

The minister, the Reverend Samuel B. Wells, a sandblaster at the Supply Center, received a letter from Supply Center Commanding General Tyler informing him "it is proposed to remove you from your present position with the federal service." The letter said removal proceedings were begun against Wells because of "conduct unbecoming a federal employee in that you committed perjury."

Wells, and eight other members of the Albany Movement, have been indicted on perjury and conspiracy charges by the federal government. Wells was convicted, and on December 23, 1963, sentenced to a year and a day in prison. His conviction has been appealed.

His indictment - and the charges against the eight other - resulted from charges by a white Albany grocer, Carl Smith, that members of the Albany Movement conspired to injure him after he served on a federal jury that refused to convict a Southwest Georgia sheriff accused of shooting a Negro. Wells was accused of perjuring himself before the grand jury that investigated Smith's charges. Wells has received a hearing before an administrative board but has not learned the hearing's results. If they rule against him, he will lose his job but may appeal to the Secretary of the Navy.

Wells, 49, was born in Lee County, Georgia. He is second vice-president of the Albany Movement, and serves as pastor of Blue Springs Baptist Church in Worth County and William Springs Baptist Church near Albany. He has been arrested "at least ten" times because of his participation in the Albany rights drive. He is married and has four children, ages 12 to 15. A veteran, he was discharged from the Army with a good conduct metal in 1947.