

RIGHTS DEMONSTRATORS ENJOINED
IN HATTIESBURG VOTE DRIVE

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI - A state circuit judge issued a temporary injunction here January 28 to halt picketing, demonstrations and "acts calculated to breach the peace."

The injunction, sought by the city of Hattiesburg, was signed by Judge Stanton A. Hall shortly after the arrest of nine ministers. The clergymen are working with a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

City officials claim that orderly demonstrations will be allowed as long as "restricted areas" are not involved. The ministers were arrested when they walked with signs urging Negroes to register to vote directly in front of the Forrest County Courthouse - one of the restricted areas.

The ministers replaced an earlier group of 50 who came here to support a January 22 "Freedom Day". They were charged with "breach of the peace". Another jailed January 27 was charged with "assault and battery" and "interfering with a police officer."

Four religious groups, sponsors of the clergy's participation here, were named in the injunction. They are: the United Presbyterian Commission on Religion and Race; Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity; Rabbinical Association of America; and Presbyterian Interracial Council.

The jailed ministers are from Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey and New York.

=30=

SNCC WORKER CONVICTED ON
CONTRIBUTING CHARGES

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI - A voter registration worker from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was convicted here January 31 of "contributing to the delinquency of a minor."

Lawrence Guyot, 24, refused bond after his arrest on January 27. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Guyot was sentenced to six months in jail, a \$500 fine, with five months suspended. At state insistence a \$500 peace bond was also lodged against him.

Presiding Judge William Haraldson told the court that Guyot has "willfully...taken advantage of children of his own race." The Judge referred to a January 22 "Freedom Day" here when Negro schoolchildren boycotted classes.

Guyot said in court he had "never directly tried to influence anyone to stay out of school," and that his primary interest was voter registration.

Two witnesses for the state, including the mother of the minor in question, testified Guyot had never directly encouraged children to stay out of school.

Negroes were forcibly excluded from the courtroom and made to sit in a balcony during the trial.

Guyot directs the Fifth Congressional District Vote Drive for the Council of Federated Organizations, a coalition of rights groups working in Mississippi.