NEWS RELEASE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE 6 RAYMOND STREET, N. W. ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314 # 1 <u>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</u> February 17, 1964

## NO CLUES FOUND IN NEGRO'S MURDER

LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI, February 12 - Sheriff Daniel Jones said here last week he had failed to find "a single clue" in the shotgun slaying of a Negro who had seen a white man shoot another Negro active in a voter registration drive.

"I've interviewed a lot of people but haven't come up with a thing yet" the sheriff said.

The body of Louis Allen, 44, was found early Saturday morning, February 1 by his teenage son. He was dead from three shotgun blasts, two in his head. The sheriff said several neighbors heard the shots but "thought nothing of it." He said Allen was killed as he stepped from his log truck to open a gate 150 yards from his house. The sherif: estimated the shots were fired from 30 yards away.

"I've known Allen for years" the sheriff said. "He was not involved in any civil rights activities."

Allen was a vitness in the fatal shooting of Herbert Lee, a 52year-old farmer gunned down outside a Liberty cotton gin in 1961. Lee was one of several Negroes active in a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) vote drive. Allen later admitted to SNCC workers he had been forced to lie at a coroner's jury investigating the slaying which set free E. H. Hurst, a white man, then a member of the State Legislature. SNCC has asked the United States Department of Justice to investigate the murder.

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## GREENWOOD RACE CASES SET

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI - Appeal cases of ten Negroes arrested here on April 3, 1963 will be heard sometime during the week of February 17, according to Greenwood Prosecuting Attorney Gray Evans.

Evans said the ten were part of a group of 19 jailed as they walked from the Greenwood Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) office toward the Leflore County Courthouse. There arrests came during a SNCC sponsored vote drive here. All were tried before City Judge O. L. Kimborough and sentenced to 30 days on the county farm and \$100.00 fines. Among those facing a hearing will be SNCC workers Eric Rainey, Willie McGee and Milton Hancock, the Reverend Robert Kinloch of Brooklyn, New York, and James Sanders, an associate of commedian Dick Gregory.