

NEWS RELEASE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
6 RAYMOND STREET, NW  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30014

# 8  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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KKK WHIP NEGRO MAN

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI - An elderly Negro man who was stripped and beaten by hooded members of the Ku Klux Klan late Saturday night, February 15, has received further threats on his life.

Archie Curtis, 60, a Natchez undertaker, said he was lured to a deserted section of the city by an unidentified caller who told him a woman was dying of a heart attack.

Curtis was given directions to a deserted road and was told a man "with a lantern" would guide him to the stricken woman's home.

When the undertaker - who also operates an ambulance service - arrived at the road, he and his companion were ordered at pistol point to leave their car.

They were blindfolded and taken to Duck Pond Road where they were asked to show their NAACP membership cards and NAACP membership lists. They had neither. The Klan members told Curtis he was "a NAACP nigger."

Both Negroes were forced to strip and were beaten with a strap.

Robert Moses, head of Mississippi voter registration for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), protested the beatings in a telegram to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

"We demand immediate action by the Federal government to protect Negro citizens," Moses told Kennedy.

Moses said Curtis' beating was the fourth in the past ten days. A Negro was forced to strip and was soaked in motor oil before being beaten in nearby Amite County, scene of the fatal shooting of Louis Allen on February 1, Moses said. Another Negro was shot and killed in Tallatchie County by policemen on February 13.